

RESOLUTION R2019-028

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SHAKOPEE SUPPORTING THE REPEAL OF HOUSE FILE 2851 ENABLING THE STATE OF MINNESOTA AND THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL TO STUDY ALL COMMUTER RAIL LINE OPTIONS INCLUDING EVALUATION OF THE MERITS OF THE LIGHT RAIL CORRIDOR COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE DAN PATCH LINE.

WHEREAS, the City of Shakopee its 2040 Envision Shakopee Comprehensive Plan and its yearly strategic Workplan encourages the development of infrastructure to serve the current and future needs of the community including increased river crossing capacity; and

WHEREAS, transportation and transit are essential elements of our infrastructure system; and

WHEREAS, the light rail transit corridor known as the Dan Patch Line was under evaluation when the Legislature adopted a prohibition against further inquiry; and

WHEREAS, the Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency (SCALE) believes the Dan Patch Line deserves further analysis; and

WHEREAS, the only way such analysis can take place is with the revocation of previous legislation prohibiting evaluation of the Dan Patch Line; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Shakopee, Prior Lake and Savage, the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) and Scott County are partners in the Transit Review Board, which studies and plans for multijurisdictional transit programs, services and facilities to serve their respective populations; and

WHEREAS, by statute, House File 2851, the Minnesota legislature-imposed restrictions on the Metropolitan Council and other regional agencies regarding any consideration of the Dan Patch corridor/rail line for public transit, but the restrictions do not apply to local government entities, such as the cities of Shakopee, Prior Lake and Savage, and the MVTA; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the cities of Shakopee, Prior Lake and Savage and the MVTA jointly retained and shared in the cost of a consultant to undertake an initial study of the viability of the Dan Patch line as a corridor in which to expand transit services currently provided; and

WHEREAS, the "Key Findings" identified by this study support the need, viability and broad support of the Dan Patch Line as an additional multi-modal transit corridor acutely needed in the Scott County area; and

WHEREAS, it is important to the vitality of all the cities of Scott County, and the region to have a well-functioning transportation system; and

WHEREAS, a majority of Scott County residents work outside of the County, and a significant number of employees travel to Scott County businesses for work; and

WHEREAS, these residents and businesses depend on Scott County's river crossings to get to and from work; and

WHEREAS, Scott County's river crossings are currently over capacity and will continue to be over capacity in the year 2040 despite significant investments in the State and County transportation system; and

WHEREAS, a transportation system that negatively impacts residents', businesses', and employees' ability to travel for work or move freight hinders economic growth and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the City of Shakopee feels it is important for the State of Minnesota, the Metropolitan Council, or a regional trail authority to be able to study all options to address this important issue; and

WHEREAS the Minnesota Statewide Rail Plan designated the Twin Cities to Albert Lea passenger rail corridor, which would use the Dan Patch river crossing, as a Phase I priority corridor; and

WHEREAS, it is counterproductive to regional growth and a regional transit system to allow "upstream" transit corridor municipalities to legislate stoppage of "downstream" transit corridor municipalities from leveraging known transit corridor assets, a violation of local decision-making authority.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Shakopee supports the repeal of House File 2851 which prohibits the State of Minnesota, the Metropolitan Council, the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, and regional rail authorities from spending funds or studying the viability of the Dan Patch commuter rail line, and further supports the State and the Metropolitan Council to include the Dan Patch commuter rail line, motor vehicle crossing, and shared use in future transportation development guides and the regional transit master plans.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHAKOPEE THIS 19TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2019.

WILLIAM P. MARS
MAYOR

ATTEST:

LORI HENSEN
CITY CLERK