(passed 7-0)
Boas-absent
Ruff absent

RESOLUTION 05-14

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE CSX RAIL CORRIDOR ACQUISITION AND TRAIL PROJECT

WHEREAS, for many years CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSX) and its predecessors provided train service to Bloomington via the rail corridor through downtown; and

WHEREAS, the rail corridor through Bloomington crosses 13 streets at grade, impacts pedestrian and traffic safety, and impedes development of east-west street connections in the southwest portion of Bloomington; and

WHEREAS, CSX decided to cease its rail operations in Bloomington and wishes to sell its interest in the rail corridor through downtown Bloomington; and

WHEREAS, CSX is willing to sell to the City its interest in the rail corridor subject to an agreement whereby the rail corridor will be "railbanked" so that it is not abandoned, remains within the national rail system, and may be repurchased by a rail service provider in the future from the City for re-use as a rail line; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to acquire the rail corridor for development as a linear park and bicycle and pedestrian trail through Bloomington that will link to the City's original rail-trail and the Clear Creek Trail to the south, will provide connection points to neighborhoods along its route, and will create an alternative transportation route into the downtown and a recreational trail to serve all persons in the area; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the City acquired a section of rail corridor from Country Club Drive to Rogers Street owned by The Indiana Rail Road Company (INRR) immediately west of the CSX rail corridor, for development of a trail spur to the Indiana Enterprise Center, the former Thomson Consumer Electronics site; and

WHEREAS, the City has entered into a funding agreement with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) under which INDOT agrees to provide the City with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds in an amount not to exceed $5,400,000 for acquisition of the Switchyard and rail corridor and construction of the first phase of the trail, which grant requires a 20% match of local funds in an amount not to exceed $1,350,000, so that the total project cost is not to exceed $6,750,000; and

WHEREAS, the City also considered purchasing CSX's McDoel Switchyard, which lies just east of the rail corridor between Country Club Drive and Grimes Lane, but the INDOT funds are not sufficient to buy both the switchyard and rail corridor and construct the first phase of the trail; and

WHEREAS, the Redevelopment Commission will be the City commission that acquires the rail corridor, and it has made expenditures from the Thomson Walnut Winslow TIF fund for the surveys, title insurance, appraisals, and similar project-related expenses, and purchased the INRR corridor using TIF funds, which expenditures will count towards the 20% match in local funds required by the INDOT grant; and

WHEREAS, the City also obtained a grant of approximately $48,000 from the Indiana Development Finance Authority (IDFA) to conduct environmental evaluation of the corridor, and retained Bruce Carter Associates, environmental consultants, to conduct Phase I, Phase II, and post-Phase II testing to determine the nature and extent of environmental contamination in the rail corridor; and

WHEREAS, a revised appraisal must be completed and approved by INDOT before the City is authorized to make an offer to purchase the corridor; and

WHEREAS, the City retained Ratio Architects to develop a conceptual master plan for the rail corridor showing future development possibilities and recommendations for the trail and linear park; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition and redevelopment of the rail corridor into a trail and linear park will significantly enhance Bloomington by providing an attractive amenity and increasing opportunities for economic development, downtown revitalization, tourism, recreation, traffic mitigation and improved safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

The Common Council hereby expresses its support for the Redevelopment Commission's acquisition of the rail corridor from CSX its redevelopment as a linear park and bicycle and pedestrian trail.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 3d day of August, 2005.

ANDY RUFF, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

REGINA MOORE, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this 5th day of August, 2005.

MARK KRUZAN, Mayor
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This resolution supports the Redevelopment Commission's purchase of the CSX rail corridor for redevelopment as a linear park and bicycle/pedestrian trail.

Signed copies to:
legal (5)
Controller
Econ dev (2)
Redev. Commission
CA/CA (3)
clerk
file