Resolution No. 03-04/17

Urging the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission to Expedite the Immediate Removal of the Sauk City Bridge Due to Serious Public Safety Concerns

WHEREAS, the Sauk City Bridge (Bridge B-428W) on the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad

Moved/Sponsored by: Public Works Committee

1 2 3

38

4	(WSOR) near Sauk City, WI, which spans the Wisconsin River, owned by the Wisconsin		
5	Department of Transportation and the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission (WRRTC) and		
6	operated and maintained by WSOR (hereinafter "Bridge"); and,		
7			
8	WHEREAS, the Bridge was closed in 2002 with the removal of Pier 4 and Span 4, and the		
9	remaining bridge is functionally obsolete as defined in the Federal Highway Administration's		
10	federal policy guide; and,		
11			
12	WHEREAS, a study was undertaken by the WRRTC to ascertain the stability of the Bridge, and		
13	an underwater inspection was performed by Westbrook Associated Engineers on November 2,		
14	2016; and,		
15			
16	WHEREAS, the Underwater Inspection Report determined pier 1 to be in serious condition, pier		
17	2 to be in failed condition thus rendering span 2 and span 3 susceptible to collapse, pier 3 to be in		
18	poor condition and pier 5 to be in poor condition; and,		
19			
20	WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), upon reviewing the 2016		
21	Underwater Inspection Report, has officially taken the position of having "no confidence" in		
22	piers 1, 2 or 3 to hold any structure of any type; and,		
23			
24	WHEREAS, the WRRTC, due to significant safety concerns, took action to accept a plan to		
25	remove spans 1, 2 and 3 along with piers 1, 2 and 3; and,		
26			
27	WHEREAS, the WRRTC has taken action to submit an emergency application for the		
28	WisDOT's Freight Railroad Preservation Program (FRPP) grant; and,		
29			
30	WHEREAS, no further action has been taken by the WRRTC to remove the Bridge due to lack		
31	of funding; and,		
32			
33	WHEREAS, the Bridge as it currently exists poses a potential hazard to boaters and to		
34	navigation; and,		
35			
36	WHEREAS, removal of the Bridge from the river after it fails will be far more expensive and		
37	disruptive than resolving the issue now.		

1 2 3 4	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Walworth County Board of Superv hereby supports the repair and restoration of the Bridge and if that is not viable, removal Bridge.		
5 6 7 8	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Walworth County Board of Supervisors urges the WRRTC to take action to increase the 2018 annual fees paid by each member county to include local government matching funds as required for the FRPP grant.		
9 10 11 12 13	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy this Resolution to be set forth upon the minutes of this meeting, and that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Alan Sweeney, Chair of the WRRTC, to be placed on the next WRRTC agenda for discussion and possible action.		
14 15 16 17		Sulfate Bushey County Clerk	
19 20 21 22	County Board Meeting Date: April 18, 2017 Action Required: Majority Vote X 7	Swo-thirds Vote Other	
	Policy and Fiscal Note is attached. Reviewed and approved pursuant to Section 2-91 of the Walverschaffen. David A. Bretl Date County Administrator/Corporation Counsel	worth County Code of Ordinances: And 3/30/17 Nicole Andersen Date Deputy County Administrator - Finance	

If unsigned, exceptions shall be so noted by the County Administrator,

This Resolution/Ordinance was: Adopted Roll Call/U.C. (Voice Rejected/Referred/Laid Over Ayes: Noes: Absent:

Date April 18, 2017

Policy and Fiscal Note Resolution No. 03-04/17

- I. Title: Urging the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission to Expedite the Immediate Removal of the Sauk City Bridge Due to Serious Public Safety Concerns
- II. Purpose and Policy Impact Statement: The purpose of this resolution is to support the removal of the Sauk City Bridge B-428W. Piers on the bridge are either in poor condition or have already failed, and the bridge is in danger of collapsing into the Wisconsin River. The condition of the bridge poses a serious risk to public safety, the environment and navigation on the Wisconsin River.
- III. Budget and Fiscal Impact: It is currently estimated that the cost of removing the bridge will be \$990,000. Costs could potentially be higher if the bridge collapses into the Wisconsin River. While the 9 member counties that make up the WRRTC have submitted a FRPP grant application, there is no guarantee WisDOT will award a grant for removal of the bridge. If a FRPP grant is awarded, approximately \$198,000 in matching local funds will be required of the nine WRRTC member counties. If an assessment were divided equally among the WRRTC members, it would result in an expense to Walworth County of approximately \$22,000.
- IV. Referred to the following standing committees for consideration and date of referral:

Committee:

Public Works

Meeting Date:

March 20, 2017

Vote:

3-0

County Board Meeting Date: April 18, 2017

Policy and fiscal note has been reviewed and approved as an accurate statement of the probable policy and fiscal impacts associated with passage of the attached resolution.

David A. Bretl

County Administrator/Corporation Counsel

Nicole Andersen

Deputy County Administrator - Finance