

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

1 Moved/Sponsored by: Public Works Committee

2

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

38

