



A resolution submitted by the City of Detroit, MI



**SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED PASSENGER RAIL LINK BETWEEN TORONTO AND CHICAGO BY
CONNECTING DETROIT, MI AND WINDSOR, ON**

May 2024

WHEREAS efficient passenger and commuter rail links foster economic growth, strengthen ties across communities and across borders and promote environmental sustainability.

AND WHEREAS connecting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin by rail will contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, offer an alternative mode of transport to tourists and business travelers and promote further integration in our \$6-trillion regional economy.

AND WHEREAS Amtrak and Canadian Pacific Kansas City announced an agreement to allow passenger trains to once again pass through the Detroit River tunnel owned by the company.

AND WHEREAS Via Rail and Amtrak are in discussions to link their train lines across the Canada-U.S. border to revive passenger service between Toronto and Chicago through Amtrak's existing *Wolverine* service connecting Chicago and Detroit and Via Rail's existing Windsor-to-Toronto service.

AND WHEREAS annual ridership is projected to be 66,500 additional passengers yearly on a once-daily round trip between Toronto and Chicago.

AND WHEREAS Amtrak last served Windsor from New York and Buffalo with its *Niagara Rainbow* service, which continued through to Detroit until the end of 1979.

AND WHEREAS this renewed rail link would service 21 other communities between Chicago and Toronto.

AND WHEREAS Amtrak proposes to begin service on this new rail connection as soon as 2027.

AND WHEREAS Via Rail and Transport Canada have not committed to financing this project at this time.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative expresses its support for the proposed passenger rail link between Amtrak and Via Rail connecting Detroit and Windsor
- The Cities Initiative calls on Amtrak and Via Rail to identify pathways to finance the project to restore binational rail service between Chicago and Toronto, through the Detroit-Windsor connection, as soon as 2027

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution will be distributed to: Roger Harris, President, Amtrak; Mario Péroquin, President, Via Rail; Pete Buttigieg, Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation; Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Transport, Government of Canada; Bradley Wieferich, Director, Michigan Department of Transportation and Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, Province of Ontario.