

SUBSTITUTE BILL NO. 17-56

RESOLUTION NO. 4666-17

A RESOLUTION BY THE SOUTH BEND COMMON COUNCIL ADDRESSING THE CITY OF SOUTH BEND REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION UTILIZING THE RIVER WEST TIF DISTRICT OF SOUTH BEND FOR THE \$25 MILLION DOLLARS TO HELP FINANCE THE RELOCATION OF THE SOUTH-SHORE LINE WITH RESPECT TO THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE ARDMORE NEIGHBORHOOD

Whereas, Ardmore is an unincorporated community in Portage Township, St. Joseph County, on the northwest side of South Bend, Indiana - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ardmore,_Indiana; and

Whereas, the re-routing of the South Shore line tracks would cause a great burden both financially and emotionally to the current residents of the Ardmore Neighborhood. The proposed plan to move the tracks would cause a relocation of many of the long term residents which would bring both the emotional and financial burdens, with various local reports expressing that an estimated 35 to 40 homes in the Ardmore Neighborhood area would have to be acquired to accommodate a re-routing of the railroad's approach to the terminal at the South Bend International Airport - <http://www.wndu.com/content/news/230-LIVESTREAM-South-Shore-reroute-media-briefing-434523923.html>; <http://www.wndu.com/content/news/South-Shore-project-moves-forward-with-local-funding-429723993.html>; and

Whereas, the residents of the Ardmore Neighborhood have a petition, which has over 300 signatures in hopes that South Shore organizers might take a look at the actual people living in those homes which could be affected by the re-routing of the South Shore line tracks - <http://www.abc57.com/news/ardmore-neighborhood-group-fights-to-save-homes-from-south-shore-rerouting>; and

Whereas, various City, County and Business Leaders say they have a prime opportunity to change the modest population growth in our area, which has grown for each of the past four years, but has trailed the State of Indiana's growth rate, by double-tracking part of the South Shore Line, which would eliminate the need for the passenger line to wait for oncoming freight trains, and realigning the South Shore's approach to South Bend International Airport - http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/local/south-bend-st-joseph-county-will-commit-millions-for-faster/article_22b2d4c1-4737-5855-b9cf-f75830484b11.htm; and

Whereas, South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg shared that the City of South Bend would tap its River West TIF district for the \$25 million dollars to help finance the double-tracking part of the South Shore Line, which would eliminate the need for the passenger line to wait for oncoming freight trains, and realigning the South Shore's approach to South Bend International Airport. The City of South Bend would try to later get the money reimbursed from federal sources - http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/politics/st-joseph-county-money-for-south-shore-double-tracking-in/article_74481930-ad94-5c0a-a221-4c6de143d806.html; http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/local/south-bend-st-joseph-county-will-commit-millions-for-faster/article_22b2d4c1-4737-5855-b9cf-f75830484b11.html; and

Whereas, South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, when asked whether reducing the trip by 10 minutes is worth \$25 million, expressed, "The answer is in the economic impact," he said. "We're talking about a game changer for economic growth. It's hard to think of something that would have a bigger potential bang for the buck than something like this," he said. "We recognize it's not a small commitment, especially for the county with some of the pressure it's under fiscally, but we also see the return on investment that could make it one of the best bets we've ever placed." - http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/local/south-bend-st-joseph-county-will-commit-millions-for-faster/article_22b2d4c1-4737-5855-b9cf-f75830484b11.html, and

Whereas, it is believed that there are ways to promote the South Shore Line plans for faster transportation service between the cities of South Bend and Chicago, which is for the betterment of the residents who live in the City of South Bend as it relates to their transportation needs and at the same time promote saving the homes in the Ardmore Neighborhood, which is in keeping with the South Bend Common Council's Mission Statement: To make certain that our City Government is always responsive to the needs of our residents & that the betterment of South Bend is always our highest priority - <http://wsbt.com/news/local/study-underway-to-help-the-south-shore-line-reroute-and-decrease-ride-time>; <https://www.southbend.in.gov/government/departments/common-council>.

Whereas, being sensitive to the residents of the Ardmore Neighborhood and to assure fair compensation and assistance as outlined in Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance And Real Property Acquisition For Federal and Federal Assisted Programs <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legregs/directives/fapg/cfr4924a.htm>;

The following actions are respectfully being requested of the South Bend Common Council to the South Bend Redevelopment Commission for its thoughtful consideration:

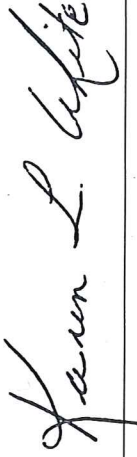
Section I. That the \$25 million dollars of tax funds from the River West TIF Fund be solely approved with the understanding of the following specifics:

- that no TIF funds for construction be committed until such time that an economic impact analysis is performed and made available to the public;
- that the decision regarding the rerouting of the South Shore Tracks includes a rerouting plan that preserves houses in the Ardmore Neighborhood area, to the maximum extent feasible, as informed by more than one firm that has expertise in the areas of architectural, engineering and surveying industry and with the public involvement with the Ardmore Neighbors who are affected by the rerouting plans;
- that if any house in the Ardmore Neighborhood is acquired in the rerouting of the South Shore Tracks, those affected will be made financially whole as outlined in the Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance And Real Property Acquisition For Federal and Federal Assisted Programs <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legregs/directives/fapg/cfr4924a.htm>
- that the City of South Bend will assure the citizens of the River West TIF district that any of the TIF funds which are used to reroute the South Shore Tracks will be reimbursed to the River West TIF district to the maximum extent possible from state and/or federal sources within a time frame not to exceed five years.

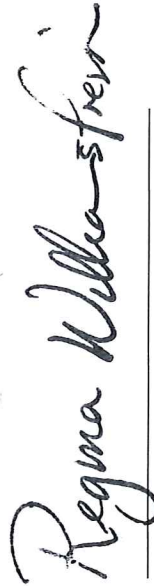
Section II. This resolution shall be enacted upon the passage of the South Bend Common Council and signed by the Mayor of South Bend, Indiana



Oliver J. Davis, 6th District
Common Council Vice President



Karen L. White, At Large



Regina Williams Preston, 2nd District



John Voorde, At Large