

Member introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY PETITIONING THE  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD TO REQUIRE AN ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT ON CONSTRUCTION OF RAILROAD CONNECTOR  
TRACK IN CRYSTAL, MINNESOTA**

WHEREAS, Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway Company and Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway each own track that intersects in the city of Crystal, Minnesota and have commenced a project to construct connector track at the site of the intersection; and

WHEREAS, the connector track would be built on land not currently owned by either railroad and which is home to several active businesses; and

WHEREAS, such railroad connector track allows alternative routing of long trains carrying heavy freight, including volatile oil products, currently transported on another route through the Twin Cities metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, the resulting re-routing due to new railroad connector track would provide a new transportation route for long trains carrying heavy freight, including volatile oil products, which poses numerous potentially negative safety and environmental effects in the cities of Crystal, Robbinsdale, Golden Valley, and Minneapolis; and

WHEREAS, such effects include potential blockage in the city of Crystal of multiple adjacent at-grade rail crossings by a single train, which can result in not only reduced response capabilities of emergency first responders such as firefighters and police due to long diversion of route but also increased roadway congestion impacting the community in general; and

WHEREAS, such effects also includes passage of freight trains directly adjacent to environmentally sensitive areas and prized park land in Golden Valley; and

WHEREAS, such freight traffic will introduce considerable noise, vibration and safety impacts to residences and businesses located adjacent to and near the track; and

WHEREAS, such effects also include a dramatic increase in the volume, frequency and length of freight trains on a little-used route; and

WHEREAS, such rail traffic will negatively impact sensitive park land, open space; and

WHEREAS, the Surface Transportation Board in the United States Department of Transportation is authorized under federal law to provide regulatory oversight of freight railroads;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Golden Valley, that it urges the Surface Transportation Board to order the BNSF Railway Company and the Canadian Pacific Railway to complete an Environmental Impact Statement prior to acquiring land, completing final design, or commencing construction of the railroad connector track.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk for the City of Golden Valley is directed to prepare copies of this Resolution and transmit them to the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board, Minnesota's Senators and Representatives in the United States Congress, and the City of Golden Valley's Senators and Representatives in the Minnesota Legislature.

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Shepard M. Harris, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Kristine A. Luedke, City Clerk

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by Member and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: and the following voted against the same: whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted, signed by the Mayor and his signature attested by the City Clerk.