

**RESOLUTION NO. 7597**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CITY OF CUDAHY'S ADMISSION TO THE MILWAUKEE AREA-RACINE-KENOSHA PASSENGER RAIL COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, regional connectivity is critical for promoting economic growth, attracting and retaining a skilled workforce, promoting tourism, and creating a vibrant business community, and the expansion of passenger rail in the Milwaukee Area-Racine-Kenosha corridor ("MARK Rail corridor") would connect Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Chicago, and other lakeshore communities to a world-class economic region and cultural center, grow jobs, spur economic development, lift property values, increase wealth and wellbeing, and attract new residents and businesses to Southeastern Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS**, VISION 2050, the long-range land use and transportation plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, recommends developing commuter rail in the MARK Rail corridor, which would be a key element of a planned, expanded regional transit system; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation ("WisDOT") developed and adopted the Wisconsin Rail Plan 2050, which recommends a statewide intercity passenger rail system, and WisDOT is pursuing development of that system by sponsoring four projects proceeding through the Federal Railroad Administration's ("FRA") Corridor Identification and Development ("CID") Program; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past several years, many communities have worked to develop and expand passenger rail service in the MARK Rail corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of Cudahy acknowledges that there are significant opportunities for public benefit in the development, implementation, and expansion of passenger rail service in and around Southeastern Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued planning and development of passenger rail service in the MARK Rail corridor is critical to the transportation needs of The City of Cudahy and Southeastern Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS**, the MARK Passenger Rail Commission (the "Commission") has been established as a multijurisdictional body independent of any one municipality, to pursue and promote the development, expansion, and continuation of robust passenger rail service through the multiple municipalities which the rail line passes; oversee the relationship between the private and public sector; coordinate guidelines for site selection and development of stations; apply for and administer federal, state, or other grant programs and funding sources; coordinate with other jurisdictions in Wisconsin and Illinois; and coordinate with the host railroads, potential operators, the Wisconsin and Illinois Departments of Transportation, and the federal government; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission is separate from, but supported by its individual members to promote independent and coordinated decision-making that is in the best interest of the MARK Rail corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0301, “municipalities,” including political subdivisions such as The City of Cudahy, may enter into agreements for the purpose of intergovernmental cooperation, including the development and creation of commissions by contract; and

**WHEREAS**, Wis. Stat. § 66.0301 enables municipalities to cooperate and contract in a binding fashion for the receipt and furnishing of services or the joint exercise of any power or duty required or authorized by law and which contract may provide a plan for administration of the function or project, which may include but is not limited to provisions as to proration of the expenses involved, deposit and disbursement of funds appropriated, submission and approval of budgets, creation of a commission, selection and removal of commissioners, and formation and letting of contracts; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0301, the City of Milwaukee, City of Racine, and City of Kenosha entered into an intergovernmental agreement in November of 2025 (the “Intergovernmental Agreement”) to create the Commission for the purpose of advancing the public interest by pursuing and promoting the development, implementation, and provision of passenger rail service to serve the MARK Rail corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, the Intergovernmental Agreement requires that individual municipalities seeking admission to the Commission must commit to the Intergovernmental Agreement and adopt a resolution in support of the Commission’s objectives; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Cudahy wishes to participate as a Regular Member of the Commission and hereby expresses its willingness and intention to enter into the Intergovernmental Agreement, including any amendments thereto; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Common Council of the City of Cudahy acknowledges and supports the stated purposes of the Commission and commits to active and cooperative participation in the Commission’s activities and pursuit of the implementation, continuation, and expansion of passenger rail service in the MARK Rail corridor;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Common Council hereby authorizes and directs the Mayor, upon the approval of The City of Cudahy’s admission to the Commission by each of the Founding Members, to promptly execute the Intergovernmental Agreement in accordance with the terms thereof, and hereby agrees to be admitted as a Regular Member of the Commission, bound by all bylaws, rules, documents, and commitments of the Commission; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk/Treasurer shall promptly send a copy of this approved resolution to the Commission.

Adopted this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026.



Kenneth Jankowski, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:



Kelly Sobieski, Clerk/Treasurer