RESOLUTION

Whereas,

The Union League Club of Chicago (ULC), through its Public Affairs Committee, has long recognized the critical role that rail infrastructure plays in the economy of the state of Illinois and in sustaining Chicago's role as the transportation hub of the Midwest; and

Whereas,

As part of the ULC's advocacy of a robust transportation network for the Chicago region, the Club has strongly supported the public-private partnership among the State of Illinois, City of Chicago and the nation's freight railroads known as the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) program; and

Whereas,

Funding of transportation infrastructure is a priority for the state of Illinois, with CREATE having been designated to receive $300 million from the Illinois Jobs Now capital development program, as well as $100 million in federal stimulus funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in the form of a TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant, as well as $133 million in ARRA funding for a critical rail/rail flyover near 63rd and State Streets in the Englewood community on the south side of Chicago; and

Whereas,

As a result of previous state and federal support, the 71-project CREATE program now has 40 rail, viaduct and grade separation projects either under construction, finished or in final review, the completion of which will support an estimated 1,087 jobs for the state of Illinois by 2012; and whereas meeting the future needs of Illinois' transportation infrastructure and continuing to maintain and modernize that infrastructure will require another $700 million in overall funding for CREATE project needs for the next five years, which will provide the infrastructure foundation of other transportation initiatives, such as a Midwestern high-speed rail network; therefore

Be it resolved,

That to promote the economic interests of the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois, the Union League Club of Chicago hereby reaffirms its support for the CREATE program as a critical initiative for freight and passenger rail commerce and urges Governor Patrick Quinn to continue to work with the Illinois General Assembly, the Illinois Congressional delegation, federal officials and regional rail transportation leaders to support CREATE projects and to ensure that all CREATE funding in the Illinois Jobs Now capital development program is provided as designated;

Be it further resolved,

That a suitable copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Quinn, to the leaders of the Illinois General Assembly, and to other civic organizations concerned with this matter.

Adopted July 27, 2010 by the Board of Directors.

James J. Gatski
President

Guy N. Maras
Secretary