

Resolution 7-1

WHEREAS, the Sangamon County Board desires to show its support for the Springfield Rail Community Benefits Statement; and

WHEREAS, such an agreement will be beneficial to the residents of Sangamon County by addressing critical issues such as employment, job training, relocation assistance, small business development, public safety and noise abatement, along the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Street and 19<sup>th</sup> Street rail corridors in Springfield; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the members of the Sangamon County Board in session this 9<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2011, that the Chairman of the Sangamon County Board is authorized to sign the Springfield Rail Community Benefits Statement.

Respectfully Submitted,



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**FILED**

AUG 01 2011

  
Sangamon County Clerk



Faith Coalition for the Common Good



## Springfield Rail Community Benefits Statement

**Background:** Beginning in October 2009, leaders from the Faith Coalition for the Common Good (FCCG) have met with public decision makers and stakeholders regarding the proposed Springfield "high-speed" railroad project. FCCG leaders have also brought to light the concerns of families who live along the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Street, and 19<sup>th</sup> Street railroad tracks.

FCCG is a member of Gamaliel of Illinois, joining United Congregations of Metro East St. Louis, Quad Cities Interfaith, and Gamaliel of Metro Chicago in statewide initiatives which ensure jobs for low income people and minorities, equitable distribution of resources and civil rights for all people who live and work in Illinois. FCCG is an affiliate of the National Gamaliel Foundation and the Transportation Equity Network (TEN).

Over the last 20 years, Gamaliel and TEN, have advocated for federal and state policy reforms. In August 2005, President Bush signed the Safe Accountable Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act-A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), the \$286 billion federal appropriation bill for highways and public transit. With the support of Representative Jerry Costello (D-IL), Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) and Senator Kit Bond (R-MO), Gamaliel and TEN were able to get an amendment into SAFETEA-LU. The amendment states "on all highway projects, 30% of the jobs should be filled by local community members."

Gamaliel, TEN, and Faith Coalition for the Common Good seek to take this victory to the next level, using this amendment and a federal USDOT regulation that says states should use 1/2 of 1% OR MORE of the federal highway funds they receive to promote workforce development and job training. We believe that this regulation should be extended to apply to high-speed rail projects as well. In a letter to all state governors, Transportation Sec. Ray LaHood lifts up the "Missouri Model" that used the 1/2 of 1% regulation and encourages its use on ARRA-funded projects, which would include the IL High Speed Rail Project.

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### Faith Coalition for the Common Good Platform

#### **Relocation Assistance:**

We believe adequate relocation assistance should be provided for all homeowners, renters and small business owners who become targeted for relocation. Affordable housing needs to be made available within a reasonable time for all those who must relocate.

#### **Local Jobs:**

We strongly recommend that thirty percent of the construction jobs created by AARA-funded projects should be filled by local low income people, minorities, and women. This expectation is consistent with current SAFETEA-LU language.

#### **Training Money:**

Consistent with USDOT's position to promote workforce development, we support directing one percent of the project budget toward job training and support programs.

#### **Green Space:**

We believe that all development plans for the station, railways and their surroundings should include and promote green space.

#### **Small Business:**

We recommend that the rail plan include ways to support and encourage the facilitation of the development of local business owners.

#### **Safety/Noise:**

We believe that noise abatement must be a priority.

**Faith Coalition for the Common Good Platform (cont.)**

**Planning/Monitoring Committee:**

We believe that the successful implementation of any private/public partnership such as the AARA-funded High-Speed Rail project should include input from the affected communities. Presently, representatives from faith groups, community organizations, unions, business owners and others affected by the construction of a high speed rail station would be ideal to serve on a committee to hold public meetings to report back on the rail plan every six months.

We would like this committee to be involved not only in gathering feedback, but also in providing input in the formulation of request for proposals developed by IDOT and other entities for construction, training, and other-related plans for the project. We know that such a request is consistent with language currently included in federal appropriation requests (USDOT/HUD) that expects input from community stakeholders" to comment on the project."

Faith Coalition for the Common Good

Springfield Rail Community Benefits Statement  
Name and Signature Addendum

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
President, Faith Coalition for the Common Good – Rev. T. Ray McJunkins

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Illinois Department of Transportation – Gary Hannig

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, City of Springfield, Illinois – J. Michael Houston

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Sangamon County Board – Andy Van Meter

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Senator, (D-IL), Richard J. Durbin

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Congressman, 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District – Aaron Schock

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vice-President Public Affairs, Northern Region, Union Pacific Railroad, Joe Bateman