

## RESOLUTION 2012-112

### RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE EXTENSION OF ILLINOIS ROUTE 53 IN LAKE COUNTY

WHEREAS, inadequate roadways are the leading threat to quality of life and the economic vitality of Lake County, and

Whereas, the Village of Vernon Hills has supported the extension of Route 53 in Lake County since the 1980's; and

WHEREAS, Lake County's antiquated, rural-based network of arterial roads and highways lacks the capacity to serve the current and future traffic demands of our growing region; and

WHEREAS, roughly one-third of Lake County's major roadways are now congested and, unless comprehensive transportation infrastructure improvements are completed, nearly two-thirds of all Lake County roads will be heavily congested by the year 2020; and

WHEREAS, although a comprehensive solution to Lake County's traffic congestion crisis must include added capacity for local roads, improvements to intersections and traffic control devices, and public transit upgrades, those steps will not be enough to solve the growing problem; and

WHEREAS, completion of the Route 53 extension into Lake County is an essential part of any comprehensive plan to meaningfully address Lake County's transportation needs, and

WHEREAS, studies conducted by the Lake County Transportation Improvement Project demonstrate that the Route 53 extension is the superior alternative in terms of transportation benefits, impacts and costs, and that the Route 53 extension will relieve regional traffic congestion by reducing the number of automobiles traveling on local and arterial roads in Lake County; and

WHEREAS, the Route 53 extension enjoys an overwhelming consensus of support from Lake County residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, at a Lake County Transportation Alliance meeting, the Route 53 extension received the support of over 70% of attendees, and

WHEREAS, a vast majority of Lake County's business organizations and municipalities also are on record as supporting the proposed Route 53 extension; and

WHEREAS, while this vital project has been delayed and debated for decades, traffic congestion in Lake County simply has continued to grow worse; and

WHEREAS, substantial, meaningful action must be undertaken, now, before it is too late to solve Lake County's transportation crisis, and

Whereas, the Illinois Route 53/120 Blue Ribbon Advisory Council held multiple meetings in 2011 and 2012 to discuss an extension of Route 53 and improvements to Route 120; and

Whereas the Illinois Route 53/120 Blue Ribbon Advisory Council has issued its resolution and summary report to the Illinois Tollway and the public supporting the extension of Route 53 and improvements to Route 120; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Vernon Hills, by and through its duly authorized President and Board of Trustees, hereby promulgate this Resolution in support of the expeditious completion of the extension of Route 53 in Lake County.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS:

A. The Village of Vernon Hills supports the extension of Illinois Route 53 in Lake County, from its present terminus northward to IL 120, eastward to 1-94; and

B. The Village of Vernon Hills supports the planning and construction of Route 120 improvements; and

C. The Village of Vernon Hills urges the Illinois Tollway, all Municipal, Township, County, State, and Federal representatives and officials to support and implement the planning and construction of Illinois Route 53 in Lake County, without any further delay; and

D. The Village of Vernon Hills urges Governor Patrick Quinn, the Illinois General Assembly, the Illinois Tollway, and the Lake County Board to begin immediately to provide funding through existing revenue or new revenue sources for the planning, engineering and construction of the extension of Route 53 and improvements to Route 120; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the text of this Resolution be placed in the official record of this Honorable Body, and that a suitable copy be delivered to the Honorable Governor Patrick Quinn, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois Tollway, Lake County, and all interested persons and local news media.

Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June 2012

Adopted by roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 5 – Schultz, Schwartz, Hebda, Koch, Marquardt

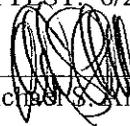
NAYS: 0 - None

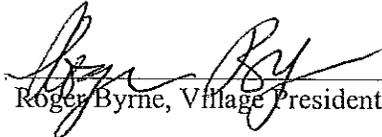
ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: 1 - Williams

PASSED: 6/19/2012

APPROVED: 6/19/2012

ATTEST: 6/20/2012

  
Michael S. Allison, Village Clerk

  
Roger Byrne, Village President

