

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-02

Supersedes Resolution 2017-01

LAUDERDALE LAKES LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN

THE COMMISSIONERS FOR THE LAUDERDALE LAKES LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
DO HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Resolution: Urging Elected Officials to Direct the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to Complete the US Highway 12 Environmental Impact Study

WHEREAS, a four lane US Highway 12 between Whitewater and Elkhorn and bypassing around the Lauderdale Lakes area, known as the Red Line Route, was proposed and mapped in 1967, and included in the 2035 Jurisdictional Highway System Plan for Walworth County (hereinafter called "the Project");

WHEREAS, despite a dramatic increase in the population of Walworth County since the 1960s and the number of vehicles traveling on US Highway 12, the Project was never constructed; and,

WHEREAS, the absence of a four lane connection from Elkhorn to the City of Whitewater negatively impacts the economy and quality of life in Walworth County ("County"); and;

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater is the only four-year state university not served by a four lane highway; and,

WHEREAS, the Lake Management District represents the owners of 1878 properties with assessed values of \$600 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, the City of Whitewater's business/technology park has been designated as a site that is "shovel-ready" for development; however, the most important feature of attracting businesses is transportation accessibility; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Whitewater has made a substantial investment in its infrastructure to attract manufacturing and technology businesses, but that effort is hampered by an inadequate state highway system; and,

WHEREAS, as part of the 2013-2015 biennial budget, the State Legislature directed the Wisconsin Department of Transportation ("WisDOT") to "commence the preparation of an environmental impact statement, as defined in s. 13.489(1c)(b), for a proposed major highway project involving US 12 from the city of Elkhorn to the city of Whitewater;" and,

WHEREAS, in July of 2016, WisDOT decided to suspend the study citing a variety of reasons including a lack of overall need, financial constraints and overall WisDOT system needs; and,

WHEREAS, the Lauderdale Lakes Public Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Board of Commissioners ("District Board") disagrees with the WisDOT's conclusion that there is a lack of need for the Project and with WisDOT's conclusion that

its effort satisfied the statutory mandate of commencing the preparation of an environmental impact statement; and,

WHEREAS, had WisDOT invested more effort into this matter, the need for the Project would have been readily apparent; such effort should have included:

- Obtaining accurate and recent traffic counts
- Following through with WisDOT's commitment to meet with area businesses, Local government and the 1300 members of the Highway 12 Red Line Group;

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) has concluded that the Project is warranted and has included the Project in its Vision 2050 Plan as well as Walworth County's jurisdictional highway system plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lauderdale District Board of Commissioners hereby supports the completion of the Environmental Impact Study for the USH 12 Extension Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lauderdale District Board of Commissioners urges the appropriate elected officials to make the Project a priority and direct WisDOT to make a good faith effort to complete the study as originally directed in the state budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Secretary is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Governor Scott Walker, Congressman Paul Ryan, Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca, Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, Senator Minority Leader Jennifer Shilling and Secretary of Transportation Dave Ross as well as assembly members and senators representing Walworth County.

Adopted this 18th day of March, 2017

By a vote of: 7 in favor 0 against 0 abstain


Scott J Mason, Chairman

Lauderdale Lakes Lake Management District

CERTIFIED BY:  Secretary

John M. Sorenson