



Department of Communications

401 Broadway • Suite 211 • Gary, Indiana 46402-1236

Phone 219.881.1314 • Fax 219.881.1337

Email ldburns@ci.gary.in.us

Karen Freeman-Wilson
Mayor

LaLosa Dent Burns
Director of Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 30, 2018

GARY'S PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP AN INTERMODAL HUB GAINS SUPPORT FROM INDIANA LAWYERS

Gary, Indiana-The City of Gary gained nearly unanimous support today when the Indiana General Assembly's Interim Study Committee on Commerce and Economic Development voted to approve the city's proposal to develop an intermodal hub at Buffington Harbor.

In an 8-1 vote the General Assembly approved a recommendation to accept the report of the study committee that found significant development opportunities exist in and along the Buffington Harbor area of the City of Gary. The Committee determined that there was merit in the continued pursuit of the area's highest and best use as an intermodal hub, and the necessary move of the Majestic Star Casino to an alternative location within the city to ensure that the development can achieve its full potential. The Committee's findings were consistent with the city's proposal to develop a port and intermodal hub along the city's lakefront near the Majestic Star Casinos and Hotel. Gary's development proposal incorporates a relocation of the city's two casinos from the Buffington Harbor location to a site on I-94. This move is vital to the development proposal and also requires legislators' approval.

In September, Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson hosted the Indiana Interim Study Committee on Commerce and Economic Development at the Gary/Chicago International Airport. The Committee, chaired by Representative Robert Morris, convened to explore economic development opportunities in Gary in accordance with Senate Resolution 24. The committee toured the proposed development site and focus areas during the September convening.

A second meeting of the Interim Study Committee was conducted on October 15, 2018. John Vickerman of Vickerman and Associates, a national port expert and Bill Alsup with Union Gaming, a gaming expert are both familiar with Gary's development plans and presented data to the committee that supported the city's plans.

Mayor Freeman-Wilson said, “This development is a great opportunity for industrial development in the Buffington Harbor area because of the proximity of water, rail, highways and air. It will also be an opportunity to forge more working relationships between the public and private sectors. We have seen significant growth and increased revenue at the airport through both public and private investments and see similar opportunities in Buffington Harbor.”

Today’s report indicate legislators were very engaged in the discussion of Gary’s development proposal and acknowledged the importance of development in Gary and the benefit for local residents and the entire state of Indiana. Mayor Freeman-Wilson added, “This is a good day for Gary and thanked Senator Eddie Melton, Chairman Morris and all of the members of the Study Committee for their time and input as well as their support to advance the work around Buffington Harbor.

Senate Resolution 24 was authored by Senator Melton and passed during the 2018 session of the Indiana General Assembly. The resolution requested the legislative council to assign an Interim Study Commission to explore underutilized economic resources of Gary and look at economic development opportunities with a focus on the Gary/Chicago International Airport, Buffington Harbor and the Lakefront corridor. Senate Resolution 24 was co-authored by Senator Ed Charbonneau and Senator Lonnie Randolph.