

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE DETROIT INTERMODAL FREIGHT TERMINAL(DIFT)

Whereas, The Michigan Department of Transportation is planning construction of an intermodal freight terminal in Southwest Detroit; and

Whereas, The proposed Detroit Intermodal Freight Terminal project would be an 840-acre complex of terminals to be operated by four railroad companies for rail and truck use; and

Whereas, MDOT secured a consultant to assess the feasibility of three different "rail strategies" for development of the DIFT and, having completed that process, is proposing to build the DIFT under what is known as "Rail Strategy 3," and;

Whereas, Based on MDOT's own projections, implementation of DIFT Rail Strategy 3 would bring an additional 16,000 trucks into the surrounding neighborhoods each day even though this area is already overburdened by excess truck traffic; and

Whereas, Diesel exhaust fumes contain numerous toxic substances and have been proven to be a major health hazard particularly to children and senior citizens; and

Whereas, Southwest Detroit already has the state's highest level of "particulate matter," a substance found in diesel exhaust fumes; and

Whereas, Bringing 16,000 additional trucks into Southwest Detroit daily would generate more noise, create additional wear and tear on city streets, and pose a safety risk from truck drivers who might travel residential streets; and

Whereas, Construction of the DIFT under Rail Strategy 3 would require the displacement of people from 75 homes or apartments and the movement of 78 businesses; and

Whereas, The economic benefits of this project to Detroit residents and particularly those who reside in the surrounding neighborhoods have not been documented; and

Whereas, At numerous public hearings on this issue, including three conducted by the City of Detroit Planning Commission, resident opposition to this project was overwhelming; and

Whereas, the City Planning Commission last month voted unanimously to recommend opposition to the DIFT Rail Strategy 3; and Now Therefore Be it

Resolved, That the Detroit City Council opposes the construction of the Detroit Intermodal Freight Terminal under Rail Strategy 3 having determined that this project would do a huge disservice to the quality of life in Southwest Detroit; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Detroit City Clerk provide copies of the resolution to the director of MDOT, the director of the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments, Governor John Engler, all members of the Michigan House of Representatives and State Senate, Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, and Congressman John Conyers.