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**CITY COUNCIL PASSES ORDINANCE SUPPORTED BY MAYOR EMANUEL  
TO ADVANCE NEXT PHASE OF UNION STATION MASTER PLAN**

The City Council today passed an ordinance that will advance the next phase of the Union Station Master Plan by authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT), Metra, the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), and Amtrak that will allow the City to support further design work for station improvements. The City is collaborating with Amtrak, Metra, RTA and other stakeholders on near term improvements that will upgrade passenger capacity by renovating and expanding the concourse and platforms and also address service, safety, accessibility, and mobility issues at and around the station.

Passage of the ordinance comes weeks after President Obama signed into law the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill (FAST Act). The Mayor has previously heaped praise on the entire Illinois Congressional delegation for uniting to push for language in the FAST Act that expands the Railroad Rehabilitation and Infrastructure Financing (RRIF) program, which is seen as a key source of financing for the Union Station Master Plan, a long-term plan to redevelop the station and surrounding area.

"The ordinance approved today by the City Council represents an important step forward for our ambitious plan to modernize Union Station," said Mayor Emanuel. "We want to improve the experience for everyone who travels through Union Station and tap the potential that the station has to serve as an anchor for further economic development of the West Loop and surrounding neighborhoods."

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In an important step forward for the Union Station Master Plan, Amtrak recently issued a Request for Information from real estate developers asking for proposals to redevelop the Amtrak-owned station and surrounding land parcels.

Amtrak is also in the process of procuring professional services to conduct Planning, Historic Review and Preliminary Engineering work for the near term improvements to the station that are outlined in the Union Station Master Plan.

The ordinance will authorize CDOT to enter into an IGA with Amtrak that will allow use of tax increment allocation financing for the Canal/Congress Redevelopment Area to cover up to \$500,000 in professional service expenses for the Union Station preliminary engineering and design work.

The design work will improve passenger safety by determining how best to widen certain platforms and corridors that often operate at or beyond their design capacity during peak periods. It will also develop design plans for adding vertical access points from the widened platforms to the street level and creating new below-grade pedestrian connections to Metra's nearby Ogilvie Transportation Center and CTA's nearby Blue Line Clinton Station, enhancing intermodal connectivity as well as passenger convenience and safety.

Design plans will also be prepared for improving access to Union Station's historic Headhouse through the installation of an ADA-compliant elevator serving the Canal Street entrance.

A second ordinance approved today related to Union Station will improve the traffic flow in the vicinity of the train station that serves 120,000 riders each day by allowing Megabus to relocate a boarding location from nearby streets to an off-street facility on state-owned property on the west side of Clinton Street between Tilden Street and Congress Pkwy. The cost of those improvements will be fully paid for by Megabus, a provider of intercity bus service.

The Megabus project will complement the Union Station Transit Center that CDOT is constructing for the CTA just south of Union Station and improve traffic conditions and safety for pedestrians, transit users, and motorists. The ordinance allows CDOT to pass along all rights and obligations under an IDOT permit to Megabus, and will allow the company to make improvements to the space at its sole cost and expense.

Megabus is constructing the new boarding facility on land currently used as a parking lot. It is adjacent to CTA's Clinton Street Blue Line station and within a short walk of Union Station, allowing convenient access to and from public transportation.

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