

Date: March 7, 2020

Current Meeting: March 12, 2020

Board Meeting: March 12, 2020

BOARD MEMORANDUM TO: Citilink Fort Wayne Public Transportation Corporation Board of Directors

THROUGH: General Manager/CEO, Maurice Pearl

FROM: Board Member, Howard Traxmor

SUBJECT: Resolution to Declare a Climate Emergency

Policy-Related Action: Yes

Government Code Applies: Copied to Counsel

Resolution ACTION ITEM RECOMMENDATION: Adopt a resolution declaring a climate emergency.

BACKGROUND: Human activities, particularly the use of fossil fuels, have accelerated the generation of greenhouse gases (GHG) beyond natural levels. Indiana ranked 8th in the nation in Total Carbon Dioxide gas emissions in 2017 spewing 176 million metric tons into the atmosphere. The transportation sector was the largest contributor of GHG, accounting for about 30% of total emissions. Catastrophic effects of climate change have been seen in the U.S. and around the world, from record-breaking temperatures to devastating fires in California, the Amazon, Australia and even in the Arctic. Recognizing the urgency to act now, over 1,300 local governments in 25 countries have declared a climate emergency, including the Chesterton, Indiana.

DISCUSSION: By formally declaring a climate emergency, CITILINK joins with local governments to demand immediate action to halt, reverse, restore mitigate, and prepare for the consequences of climate change. This resolution builds on CITILINK's existing commitment and progress to reduce GHG emissions which contribute to climate change. It also directs CITILINK to take the following actions:

- Evaluate administrative procedures to incorporate the consideration of climate change impacts for all relevant proposed policies, programs, or actions approved by the Board of Directors.
- Identify specific metrics, including objectives and targets, to prioritize opportunities to reduce GHG emissions and develop a Climate Action Plan to guide its climate emergency response.
- Support legislative efforts to avert climate change by federal, state, regional, and local entities, and join with stakeholders to reduce GHG emissions in the transportation sector. The resolution is included as Attachment A.

ALTERNATIVES: The Board of Directors could choose not to adopt the resolution.

FISCAL IMPACT: There are no fiscal implications associated with adopting this resolution.

Prepared by: Howard Traxmor based on the work of Lani Lee Ho, Environmental Planner III Memo No. 7266, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority