

**By Reich, Palmisano, and Bender**

**Conveying the City's concerns to the railroad companies and the Metropolitan Council regarding freight rail safety in the Southwest Light Rail Corridor and the City of Minneapolis.**

Whereas, the Minnesota legislature, in 2015 updated Minnesota laws chapter 312 which calling on the State to, "analyze preparedness and impacts to public safety from transportation of ethanol by rail"; and

Whereas, the Minnesota legislature updated Statutes 115E to include additional safety and spill response reporting for trains carrying oil and ethanol; and

Whereas, 19,000 Minneapolis residents live in the evacuation zone of a possible oil, ethanol, and other high hazardous flammable materials train explosion in the Kenilworth corridor and Downtown Minneapolis; and

Whereas, the Federal Railroad Administration has found the risks of an explosion from ethanol tankers to be similar to those of carrying crude oil; and

Whereas, the utilization of unit trains carrying eighty or more ethanol and other flammable tanker cars through the Kenilworth Corridor and downtown Minneapolis is increasing; and

Whereas, Twin City and Western Railroad has opposed public disclosure of state required spill prevention and clean-up plans; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City of Minneapolis convey via letter a request that railroad companies traveling in the Kenilworth Corridor and parts of downtown Minneapolis that are co-located with light rail:

- publicly disclose emergency response and spill prevention plans; and
- begin a process with city and local neighborhood organizations and citizens groups to address community concerns; and
- publicly disclose routing decision plans and present options for rerouting of oil, ethanol, and other high hazardous flammable trains from the Kenilworth Corridor during SWLRT construction; and
- report to the city the extent of its liability insurance for spills, fires and explosions and items covered under that insurance.

Be It Further Resolved that the City of Minneapolis convey via letter a request to the Metropolitan Council to:

- prepare a report to the Minneapolis City Council regarding rail safety measures undertaken in other communities in the United States where light rail transit is co-located with crude oil and ethanol trains; and

- ensure that the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Southwest Light Rail project include discussion of emergency response planning for an ethanol, oil, or other hazardous materials train incident; and
- discuss measures the Metropolitan Council will take to ensure that railroads operating in the corridor respond to the above mentioned requests from the City of Minneapolis of the railroads.