

# THE BARABOO AREA

600 W. Chestnut St., P.O. Box 442, Baraboo, WI 53913  
1-800-Baraboo (608)356-8333 Fax:(608)356-8422



# CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Email Location: [chamber@baraboo.com](mailto:chamber@baraboo.com)  
Web Page: <http://www.baraboo.com>

## Baraboo Area Chamber of Commerce

Resolution 07-21-2008

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Baraboo Area Chamber of Commerce recognizes the positive economic impact that the "Merrimac" Rail Line passing across the Wisconsin River at Merrimac and continuing into Baraboo has for a number of businesses in the Baraboo area and the Board of Directors of the Baraboo Area Chamber of Commerce strongly supports maintaining the Merrimac Rail Line to allow continued use by Baraboo area businesses; and

WHEREAS, the *Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020* prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and *The Economic Impact of Bicycling in Wisconsin* prepared by the Governor's Bicycling Coordinating Council and the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation have identified the specific values of bicycle tourism to economic development; and

WHEREAS, Travel Green Wisconsin, a Wisconsin Environmental Initiative in partnership with the State of Wisconsin Department of Tourism, and Thrive, the Madison Region Economic Development Enterprise, have clearly identified the values of all forms of tourism to the economic development of our communities; and

WHEREAS, the "Sauk Prairie" Rail Line from Mazomanie across the Wisconsin River at Sauk City and through the Villages of Prairie du Sac and Sauk City and the Town of Prairie du Sac to Highways Z and 78 has been out of service since 1997; and

WHEREAS, a critical span of the Sauk City railroad bridge has been removed; and

WHEREAS, sufficient repairs and replacements for the Sauk Prairie Rail Line cannot be made with significant public expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Prairie du Sac, Village of Prairie du Sac and Village of Sauk City have determined that a bike trail from Mazomanie through the said municipalities and the future extension of the trail north from Highway Z and 78 through the Badger Army Ammunition Plant to Devils Lake State Park is critical and necessary to their long term economic interests;

WHEREAS, future extension of the trail north from Highway Z and 78 through the Badger Army Ammunition Plant to Devil's Lake State Park requires that any rail easement to be granted through Badger Army Ammunition Plant not be permanent and should be dependent on the economic viability of the existing United Coop fertilizer plant; and

WHEREAS, Devil's Lake State Park draws an estimated 1.2 million visitors to the Baraboo area each year and as such is an integral part of the Baraboo area's economy; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Baraboo Area Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission permit recreational and scenic activities on the Sauk Prairie Rail Line through the Town of Prairie du Sac, Village of Prairie du Sac, and Village of Sauk City by allowing the Sauk Prairie Rail Line to be banked for the purpose of Rails to Trails; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Baraboo Area Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests that the Sauk County Board of Supervisors endorse and pursue the banking of the Sauk Prairie Rail Line for the purpose of Rails to Trails; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon pass of this resolution a true and accurate copy of this resolution shall be provided to all Sauk County Board of Supervisors and State and Congressional representatives elected to represent the County of Sauk, Wisconsin.

Passed and adopted by the Baraboo Area Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2008.

By: 

Name: Jeff Maurer

Title: President, Baraboo Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

ATTEST:

By: 

Name: Gene Dalhoff

Title: Executive Director, Baraboo Area Chamber of Commerce