

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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TONY KNOBBE, Chairman  
KEN BECK, Vice-Chair  
KEN CROKEN  
BRINSON KINZER  
JOHN MAXWELL

November 14, 2019

Mayor Frank Klipsch  
Davenport City Council Members  
Davenport City Hall  
226 West Fourth Street  
Davenport, Iowa 52801

**RE: City of Davenport's proposed amendment to the City's North Urban Renewal Area Plan to allow both TIF funding to support ongoing manufacturing, industries and logistics associated with the railport and transload facility over a period of 10 years and also the reimbursement to the City's General Fund for Economic Development Staff costs and other related activities.**

Dear Mayor Klipsch and Council Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment of the North Urban Renewal Area Plan to allow the use of TIF funds to subsidize the operation of Shortline Rail & Transload Facility located in the Eastern Iowa Industrial Center in the amount of \$450,000 over a period of ten years. The Board has supported and continues to support the City's development and operation of this transload railport and trusts that this assistance is the minimum necessary to keep it in operation and viable. Scott County has been a partner with the City of Davenport, Mid-American Energy and the Quad Cities Chamber on the Greater Davenport Redevelopment Corporation's efforts to provide rail service to large industrial sites for projects that increase our tax base and provide good job opportunities. The Board has supported the City's use of TIF as an economic development incentive to get new or expanding businesses to locate in the EICC. The Board views the use of TIF funding for the operation of the Transload facility as an acceptable extension of such assistance.

In light of this proposed amendment, the Board would appreciate having a presentation of the funding and operation of the railport from your Planning Director, Bruce Berger or a member of his Economic Development staff, at one of our upcoming Tuesday morning Committee of the Whole meetings.

However, the proposed reimbursement of \$275,000 to the City's General Fund for Economic Development Staff costs and other related activities continues to be of a concern to the Board. Ever since the City first notified the County on previous occasions of use of TIF funding for economic development staff costs, the Board of Supervisors has consistently expressed its objection. The Board has never supported the use of "Internal TIFs" to fund city staff positions as stated in this plan amendment. City staff costs are a City expense. Funding these costs through the diversion of property tax revenue means that County tax payers and the other taxing entities are subsidizing what is unarguably a City expense.

Scott County would like to continue the spirit of cooperation with the City of Davenport on economic development projects and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Tony Knobbe, Chairman  
Scott County Board of Supervisors

xc: Corri Spiegel, Davenport City Administrator;  
Mahesh Sharma, Scott County Administrator