



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY CENTER

Testimony of Lena Guerrero Reynolds
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To Chicago City Council Committee on Housing & Real Estate
In support of O2026-0025512
June 10, 2026

Hello, my name is Lena Guerrero Reynolds with the Environmental Law & Policy Center, and I'm here in support of the ordinance to purchase the intercity bus station at 630 W. Harrison st.

I've taken lots of buses over the years, but most consistently as a student at the U of I in Urbana twenty years ago. I wanted to get home to visit my folks in the city, and Greyhound was the most convenient, affordable, frequent way to get there.

My husband's family is from the Quad Cities which has nearly 400,000 people but no Amtrak. My mother-in-law lives in Chicago now and doesn't like to drive anymore as she's gotten older, but she's still very independent. How does she get back to visit? She takes Greyhound.

We're just a few of the hundreds of thousands of Chicagoans who catch intercity buses from this station to access friends, family, and education. Many people also rely on buses in more dire circumstances: seeking essential healthcare, fleeing abuse, or seeking economic opportunity. The station is down the block from the domestic violence courthouse at 555 W. Harrison, a half mile from a family planning facility, and a quick blue ride away from planned parenthood or the Illinois medical district.

For generations, Chicago has thrived because dreamers could make it here with little to their name and make something of themselves, and the bus is a prime way to do so. Over a quarter of Chicago households have no car, and more should be able to save the money they throw away on one now.

But for too long, the bus has been treated as a mode of last resort rather than the most efficient, equitable, and sustainable transportation option. Plane, train, and hell even cruise ship passengers arrive at public facilities when they reach our city, bus riders deserve that same support.

Transportation is the leading source of carbon emissions in Illinois. On average, taking the bus is just one fifth the emissions of driving. The more people take it, the more efficient it gets, and the cleaner our air, unlike driving, which gets worse as more cars create traffic.

If Chicago lost its station, it would be the largest city in the northern hemisphere without a bus terminal. Greyhound was close to moving its Midwest hub to Indiana. This isn't the bears,

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transportation isn't a game, it is a lifeline, and in a time when healthcare is criminalized at the state line it is unacceptable to imagine cutting people off from Chicago's resources.

The city is doing the right thing to purchase and renovate, to bring bus travel into the 21st century, to bring multiple bus companies together for easier transfers and choice. But we need you to get it over the finish line. Please vote yes. Thank you.

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