

RESOLUTION 2 OF 2022

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE FROM FORT WORTH, TEXAS THROUGH THE CITY OF SHREVEPORT TO ATLANTA, GEORGIA ALONG THE I-20 CORRIDOR AND RELATED ISSUES

RESOLUTION MADE BY: TOWN OF BLANCHARD

WHEREAS, in November of 2021, Congress passed a major bi-partisan infrastructure bill, which includes some sixty-six (66) billion dollar allocation for passenger rail and Amtrak;

WHEREAS, connecting Fort Worth, Texas and Atlanta, Georgia, with points along the Interstate 20 Corridor including the City of Shreveport would establish a passenger rail connection joining more than 14 million residents throughout Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, and connecting these states with the East Coast and onward north to New York;

WHEREAS, the existing Interstate 20 was constructed almost sixty years ago, and there has been no material increase in capacity, despite the population growth through these states of two to three times during the last two generations, and there appear to be no present plans to materially expand the existing four lanes of Interstate 20 for the foreseeable future;

WHEREAS, the I-20 Corridor Council, representing many cities and councils of governments along the proposed route obtained federal funding and has completed two important studies, including

- 1) A 2015 Amtrak **feasibility study** which determined that a long-distance passenger rail connection could operate profitable over the existing railroad infrastructure would required no annual governmental subsidy, and
- 2) A 2017 **capacity study** suggested that a capital expenditure investment of less than \$80 million in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. This would represent a fraction of the cost of conventional highway construction and would enable new passenger rail service on the route without adversely affecting freight traffic along the host railroad; and

WHEREAS, the I-20 Rail Corridor service would provide an east-west connection consisting of two daily passenger trains for the regions of Dallas, Fort Worth and Atlanta and would run through the City of Shreveport, and the proposed railway service will connect surrounding regions and result in increased economic viability for cities along the railway route for tourism and increased mobility by providing an alternative means of transportation; and

WHEREAS, grassroots, multi-state coalitions including mayors, local, state and federal officials, business and economic leaders and many other stakeholders have shown great support for this opportunity along the I-20 corridor, and creating an economical and environmentally attractive addition to highway travel;

WHEREAS, the proposed acquisition of the Kansas City Southern Railway (KCS) by Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) is pending before the United States Surface Transportation Board, and Canadian

Pacific and Amtrak have announced plans to conduct a study to finalize a cooperative agreement to operate the passenger train for the I-20 Corridor along the trackage being acquired by Canadian Pacific;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Blanchard in legal session convened, hereby recognizes and supports the efforts to construct and operate a long-distance passenger rail connection along the I-20 corridor, also supports the approval of the Surface Transportation Board of the merger between Kansas City Southern and Canadian Pacific Railway, and further supports the efforts to improve on-time performance of Amtrak passenger trains with the host railroad carriers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items, or applications. and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are thereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Motion made by Lee, second by Fuller to accept Resolution 2 of 2022.

After being submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

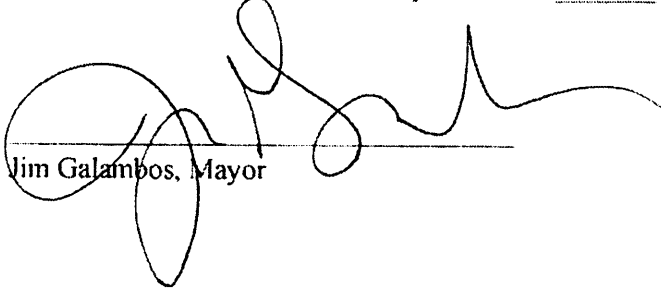
YEAS: Lee, Fuller, Guin, Presley

NAYS: None

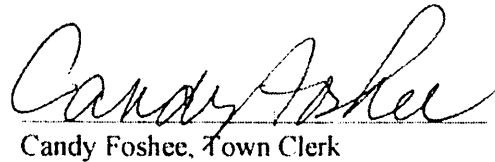
ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Whittington

And Resolution 2 of 2022 was adopted on this 8th day of March, 2022.



Jim Galambos, Mayor



Candy Foshee, Town Clerk