

## RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE FOR CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI

- WHEREAS**, Central Mississippi has a rich tradition of passenger rail that dates back as far as 1840, when the Clinton and Vicksburg Railway established a connection that would become more prominent after the American Civil War;
- WHEREAS**, The effects of reconnecting Central Mississippi by passenger rail from Hinds County to Dallas/Fort-Worth will provide a critical transportation link connecting the state capitol here in Hinds County and the various economies of the surrounding cities of Central Mississippi;
- WHEREAS**, The establishment of passenger rail will connect Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport to Dallas/Fort-Worth International Airport and will connect to the Amtrak long distance Crescent rail line; connecting the City of New Orleans to Washington, DC and the famous Illinois Central, where City of New Orleans connects to Mississippi and north to Chicago;
- WHEREAS**, Hinds County would once again become a passenger rail hub linking the deep south with service east, west, north, and south resulting in substantial economic impact to the county and make it easier for anyone to enjoy the growing attractions that Hinds County has to offer; Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, and the Jackson Zoo; as well as enjoy the thrilling atmosphere of the SWAC championship winning Jackson State Football team lead by Pro Hall of Famer Coach Deion Sanders;
- WHEREAS**, With the recent economic boosts making waves through Jackson, MS and the greater Hinds County the establishment of the passenger rail will have a positive impact to Central Mississippi from tourism, business, healthcare, and educational connections through passenger rail as well as a multimodal connection to Dallas/Fort-Worth;
- WHEREAS**, Cooperation with host railroads to bring passenger rail will have a positive industrial impact and bring more freight connectivity to the State of Mississippi;
- WHEREAS**, The Southern Rail Commission has worked diligently and in good faith with all stakeholders, including: local, regional, state, national government partners, and advocates plus railroad freights to establish passenger rail in the region;
- WHEREAS**, James Clements, the Senior Vice President of Strategic Planning and Innovation for Canadian Pacific was in New Orleans on December 8, 2021, and committed to round trip service between Baton Rouge and New Orleans and exploring a route from Atlanta to Dallas/Fort-Worth through Central Mississippi that will improve the connections to Jackson and Mississippi across the nation via passenger rail;
- WHEREAS**, The merger between Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern would connect Central Mississippi to a comprehensive intercontinental rail network that unites North America by connecting the heartland of the United States to Mexico and Canada;

WHEREAS, Canadian Pacific has maintained an A+ rating with Amtrak on the delivery of passenger rail and has committed to the level of quality service in Mississippi;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hinds County Board of Supervisors supports the establishment of passenger rail, particularly the route from Atlanta to Dallas/Fort Worth through Central Mississippi, and will do our part to ensure that passenger rail strong asset for the cities of Hinds County, surrounding regions, and the great state of Mississippi;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Hinds County Board of Supervisors supports the Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern merger and urges the Surface Transportation Board to approve this merger for there to be robust and mutually beneficial freight and passenger rail service in the state of Mississippi.

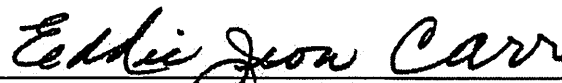
SO RESOLVED AND ORDERED, this the 28<sup>TH</sup> day of FEBRUARY 2022.

HINDS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Credell Calhoun, President

District Three



Attest: Eddie Jean Carr

Chancery Clerk