

**RESOLUTION OF THE
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
FOR THE JACKSON URBANIZED AREA**

WHEREAS, the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (CMPDD) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), responsible for coordinating the Federally mandated Transportation Planning Process for the Jackson Urbanized Area; and

WHEREAS, the MPO considers it necessary and vital for intermodal transportation alternatives to be enhanced that support a multimodal transportation approach in the region; and

WHEREAS, reconnecting central Mississippi by passenger rail from Meridian to Dallas/Fort-Worth will provide a critical transportation link connecting the state capitol in Jackson to other vibrant east/west economies along the I-20 corridor; and

WHEREAS, reconnecting passenger rail will connect Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport to the Dallas/Fort-Worth International Airport; and

WHEREAS, Jackson as a passenger rail hub would link service east, west, north, and south resulting in significant economic impact to central Mississippi that will help the region capitalize on central Mississippi's assets; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of passenger rail will have positive economic impacts to central Mississippi from tourism, business, healthcare, and educational connections through passenger rail as well as a multimodal connection to Dallas/Fort-Worth; and

WHEREAS, the cooperation with host railroads to bring passenger rail will have positive industrial impacts and bring more freight connectivity; and

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 freight railroads to establish passenger rail in the region; and

WHEREAS, recently Canadian Pacific committed to round trip service between Baton Rouge and New Orleans and exploring a possible future route from Meridian to Dallas/Fort Worth through central Mississippi that will improve connections to Jackson and Mississippi across the nation via passenger rail; and

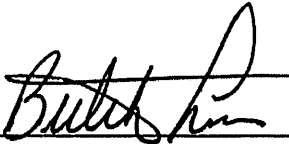
WHEREAS, the merger between Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern would connect central Mississippi to a comprehensive intercontinental rail network that unites North America by connecting the heartland of the United States to Mexico and Canada; and

WHEREAS, Canadian Pacific has maintained an A+ rating with Amtrak on the delivery

of passenger rail and has committed to continuing that level of quality service in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Jackson Urbanized Area hereby supports the establishment of passenger rail, particularly the route from Meridian to Dallas/Fort-Worth through central Mississippi along the I-20 corridor.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION OF THE CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT ON FEBRUARY 9, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Butch Lee", is written over a horizontal line.

Butch Lee, Chairperson
Metropolitan Planning Policy Committee
Jackson Metropolitan Planning Organization