

RESOLUTION

STATE OF LOUISIANA

NO. 8204

CITY OF MONROE

The following Resolution was introduced by Dawson who moved for its adoption and was seconded by Harvey.

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

WHEREAS, Congress has recently passed a major infrastructure bill, which includes some sixty-six (66) billion dollar allocation for passenger rail and Amtrak; and

WHEREAS, connecting Fort Worth, Texas and Atlanta, Georgia, with points along the Interstate 20 Corridor including the City of Monroe, Louisiana, would establish a passenger rail connection joining more than 14,000,000 residents throughout Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, and connecting these states with the East Coast and onward north to New York; and

WHEREAS, the existing Interstate 20 was constructed almost sixty years ago, and there has been no material increase in capacity, despite the population growth throughout 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; and

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 profitably over the existing railroad infrastructure would require 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 Monroe; 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; and

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 City of Monroe 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

Railways, 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 hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

This Resolution having been submitted in writing and was then submitted to a vote, the vote thereon being as follows:

AYES: *Harvey, Ezernack, Woods, Marshall + Dawson*

NAYS: *none*

ABSENT: *none*

And the Resolution was declared ADOPTED on the 8th day of March 2022.

Carolus S. Riley

Council Clerk

Cindy Marshall

Chairman, Monroe City Council