

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

WHEREAS, Central Mississippi has a rich passenger rail history but has been without passenger rail since 1968; 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 and the vibrant economies of Meridian and Vicksburg; and

WHEREAS, passenger rail will connect Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport to the Dallas/Fort-Worth International Airport and will connect to the Amtrak long distance *Crescent* and *City of New Orleans* connecting Mississippi to Chicago, New Orleans, Washington, DC and New York City; and

WHEREAS, Meridian will become a passenger rail hub linking the deep south with service east, west, north and south resulting in significant economic impact to its downtown that will help lift the region and capitalize on Meridian's assets; Riley Performing Arts Center, The Max, Soule Museum, proposed Railroad museum, Children's Museum and the many living and dining options Meridian offers; 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, 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, 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 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 that level of quality service in Mississippi.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS support the establishment of passenger rail, particularly the route from Atlanta to Dallas/Fort Worth through Central Mississippi, and will do our part to make passenger rail a robust asset for the city, county, surrounding region, and the State of Mississippi; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS support the Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern merger and urges the Surface Transportation Board to approve this merger in order for there to be robust and mutually beneficial freight and passenger rail service in the state of Mississippi.

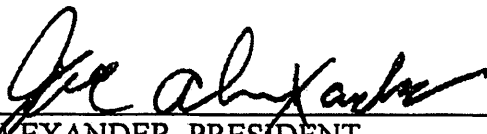
SO RESOLVED, this the 28th day of February, 2022.

Motion by Charles Moulds second by Kenneth Harris.

Yea: K. Harris, J. Alexander, C. Moulds, C. Godwin, J. Johnson

Nay: None

Absent: None

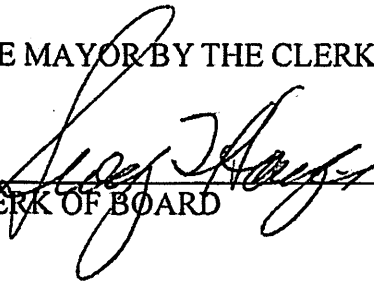


JOE ALEXANDER, PRESIDENT
NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

3/1/22
DATE

ATTESTED AND SUBMITTED TO THE MAYOR BY THE CLERK OF COUNCIL, on the 1 day of February, 2022.

Moulds



CLERK OF BOARD