

RESOLUTION NO. 1388 OF 2022

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

WHEREAS, in November of 2021, Congress passed a major bi-partisan infrastructure bill, which includes some sixty-six billion (\$66B) 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 Ruston, Louisiana, 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; 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:

- (i) 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
- (ii) 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 Ruston; 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 ("Canadian Pacific") 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 BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA:

§1. The City of Ruston, Louisiana 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.

§2. The Mayor is authorized and empowered to execute any and all documents necessary to support the development of the Passenger Rail Service and to do any and all things necessary and proper to carry out this Resolution and to fulfill its objects and purposes.

§3. This Resolution shall become effective upon final adoption and signature of the Mayor.

Said Resolution having been read and considered by a quorum of the Board of Aldermen, on motion to adopt by Alderwoman Carolyn Cage, and seconded by Alderwoman Melanie Lewis, a record vote was taken and the following result was had:

YEA: ALDERWOMAN CAROLYN CAGE
ALDERWOMAN MELANIE LEWIS
ALDERWOMAN ANGELA MAYFIELD
ALDERMAN JIM PEARCE
ALDERMAN BRUCE SIEGMUND

NAY: NONE

ABSTAINED: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

WHEREUPON, the presiding officer declared the above Resolution duly adopted in full on this the 7th day of March, 2022.

ATTEST:



JULIE K. SPEIR, CLERK



RONNY WALKER, MAYOR