

RESOLUTION NO. 021-21R

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AMTRAK'S PROPOSED EXPANSION OF PASSENGER RAIL SERVICES IN OHIO AND FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS NEEDED TO AUTHORIZE AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE EXPANSION; AND DECLARING THAT THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE IMMEDIATE EFFECT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 14 OF THE CITY CHARTER.

WHEREAS, Amtrak will be submitting to Congress a proposal to fund the Amtrak Connects US expansion plan which consists of new routes and service to Sandusky and includes three (3) new daytime train routes passing through Sandusky that will connect to Cleveland and Detroit, with possible extensions to Buffalo, Pittsburgh, and Chicago, and a train corridor that will run between Cleveland and Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, Ohio, because it has only three Amtrak routes -- two confined mostly to the northern edge of the state -- has only 32 passenger trains crossing the state per week; it has far fewer intercity or regional passenger rail services than any of its neighboring states, except Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Ohio is the nation's seventh-most populous state, but is only the 27th highest Amtrak ridership state and has the lowest ratio of Amtrak riders per resident of the top-10 most populous states, according to Amtrak; and

WHEREAS, among the top-10 most populous states near Ohio, Amtrak riders per 1,000 residents are 42 in Michigan, 186 in Illinois, 258 in Pennsylvania and 322 in New York compared to just 6 Amtrak riders per 1,000 residents in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Ohio is the most populous state in the nation without any ongoing passenger rail development or operating program because it does not have funds budgeted for passenger rail development in the currently proposed Ohio Department of Transportation biennial budget; and

WHEREAS, according to the Ohio Department of Transportation, because of its legacy industrial status, has the fifth-most railroad industrial supplier employment in the nation; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Amtrak reports that it spent \$40 million on goods and services purchased from Ohio railroad industry suppliers, mostly for the provision and improvement of passenger rail services outside of Ohio; meanwhile Amtrak in 2019 spent \$667 million on goods and services from suppliers in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia for an average of \$111 million for each of those six states; and

WHEREAS, at the end of 2019 Amtrak employed 32 people in Kentucky and West Virginia, 196 people in Michigan, 747 in Indiana, 1,284 in Illinois, 1,578 in New York and 2,700 in Pennsylvania but only 52 people earning wages of \$5.4 million in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the employment multiplier for transportation sector jobs is 3.76 according to the Economic Policy Institute, meaning that for every Amtrak job added another 2.76 jobs are created among suppliers and in communities where employees live and work; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak proposes to increase the number of passenger trains in Ohio by 572 percent from 32 trains per week to 215 trains per week and the number of stations by 214 percent from seven existing to potentially 22 stations by 2035 suggests an approximate corollary increase in employment in Ohio from 52 to 300 permanent Amtrak jobs and 828 induced permanent jobs; and

WHEREAS, in Michigan, a Grand Valley University study found that the 22 Michigan communities with Amtrak stations enjoyed \$62 million annually in traveler cost savings and local business benefits in 2009 – and that was before Amtrak ridership grew 60 percent in Michigan as a result of \$800 million worth of state-backed improvements to infrastructure and trains producing 110 mph speeds and better on-time performance; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak proposes to increase the number of weekly train arrivals and departures at Cincinnati from six to 104 trains per week, at Cleveland from 28 to 154 weekly, at Columbus and Dayton from zero to 42 per week, , and at Sandusky from 28 to 70 weekly; and

WHEREAS, safe, fast, modern, convenient passenger rail service offers time-savings and productivity benefits as business travelers can work and meet en route and all travelers can eat, drink or relax aboard an all-weather transportation mode, making Ohio a more attractive place to live and work, and to visit for business or pleasure; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2019 U.S. Department of Energy Data Book, travel by Amtrak train is 47 percent more energy efficient than traveling by car and 33 percent more energy efficient than domestic air travel. And pollution emissions have a directly correlation to energy efficiency, thus the more energy-efficient a travel mode is, the less pollution it emits; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent on the Ohio Congressional delegation to support a renewal of the five-year federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization in 2021 that includes Amtrak's proposed Corridors Development Program authorized at \$25 billion for capital improvements and \$300 million for operations over five years; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that the Ohio Congressional delegation provide in the upcoming Transportation and Housing Urban Development appropriations bill \$5 billion for capital improvements and \$60 million for operations to fund Amtrak's Corridor Development Program; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution should be passed as an emergency measure under suspension of the rules in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter to allow the Resolution of Support to be sent to elected officials, Amtrak, and advocacy organizations in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, in that it is deemed necessary in order to provide for the immediate preservation of the public peace, property, health, and safety of the City of Sandusky, Ohio, and its citizens, and to provide for the efficient daily operation of the Municipal Departments of the City of Sandusky, Ohio, the City Commission of the City of Sandusky, Ohio, finds that an emergency exists regarding the aforesaid, and that it is advisable that this **Resolution** be declared an emergency measure which will take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter upon its adoption; and NOW, THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SANDUSKY, OHIO, THAT:

Section 1. This City Commission supports Amtrak's proposed expansion of passenger rail services in Ohio.

Section 2. This City Commission urges the Congressional delegation from Ohio to support a renewal of the five-year federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization and otherwise authorize and appropriate funds to support the Amtrak expansion in Ohio.

Section 3. The City Commission Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to Senators Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman, Representative Marcy Kaptur, Derrick James, Amtrak Senior Government Affairs Officer, and Stu Nicholson, Executive Director, All Aboard Ohio.

Section 4. If any section, phrase, sentence, or portion of this Resolution is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

Section 5. This City Commission finds and determines that all formal actions of this City Commission concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this City Commission and that all deliberations of this City Commission and of any of its committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

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Section 6. That for the reasons set forth in the preamble hereto, this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure which shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter after its adoption and due authentication by the President and the Clerk of the City Commission of the City of Sandusky, Ohio.



RICHARD R. BRADY
PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COMMISSION



ATTEST: _____
MCKENZIE E. SPRIGGS
CLERK OF THE CITY COMMISSION

Passed: April 26, 2021