

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RESTORATION OF AMTRAK PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE BETWEEN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA AND ORLANDO, FLORIDA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, before Hurricane Katrina, Amtrak's *Sunset Limited* passenger line served railroad travelers as the only transcontinental passenger rail service from Los Angeles passing through New Orleans and Mobile to Orlando; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Katrina damaged a portion of the rail infrastructure along the Gulf Coast as well as caused the loss of other portions of the infrastructure, including the total loss of Mobile's passenger rail terminal facility; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak suspended all service on the eastern portion of the *Sunset Limited* line from New Orleans through Mobile, Pensacola, Crestview, Chipley, Tallahassee, and Jacksonville to Orlando; and

WHEREAS, CSX, and Norfolk Southern (the freight railroad companies that own the tracks on which passenger rail service on the Gulf Coast will operate) have both committed to cooperating with Amtrak in providing this vital service along the eastern Gulf Coast and to do so in a more efficient manner than prior to Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, restoration of passenger rail service to the eastern Gulf Coast will facilitate job creation through development opportunities, enhance tourism, and reduce environmental and roadway impacts due to personal automobile use, thereby having a broad positive economic and environmental impact to the coastal states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida and more specific benefits to residents and businesses within the City of Orlando; and

WHEREAS, the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 called for Amtrak to study the potential return of passenger rail service from New Orleans to Orlando;

WHEREAS, Section 11304 of Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (or "FAST Act") of 2015 mandates the Federal Railroad Administration to convene a working group, "Group," to evaluate the restoration of intercity rail passenger services in the Gulf Coast region between New Orleans, Louisiana and Orlando, Florida and to submit findings to Congress by September 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Group has requested a resolution of support from the City of Orlando for the restoration of passenger rail service along the Gulf Coast, to be included in the Group's submittal to Congress; and

WHEREAS, the Orlando Amtrak Station continues to be a major transportation hub for

the entire Central Florida region, serving over 160,000 passengers a year; and

WHEREAS, the Orlando Amtrak Station underwent major renovation efforts in 2014/15 that restored and preserved the historic heritage of the building while improving accessibility to the station for residents and visitors and increasing connectivity with SunRail; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Orlando, Florida, that:

SECTION ONE - the City Council hereby recommends and supports the restoration of Amtrak daily passenger rail service along the suspended route between New Orleans, Louisiana and Orlando, Florida with a designated stop at the Orlando Amtrak Station in Orlando, Florida.

SECTION TWO – This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORLANDO THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2016.

ATTEST:

CITY OF ORLANDO, FLORIDA, a municipal corporation, organized and existing under the laws of State of Florida

By: _____
Amy T. Iennaco, Interim City Clerk

By: _____
Mayor / Mayor Pro Tem

Date: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
for the use and reliance of the City of Orlando,
Florida only.

_____, 2016

Chief Assistant City Attorney
Orlando, Florida