

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATE FUNDING TO MATCH COMPETITIVE FEDERAL RAIL PROGRAMS

WHEREAS the Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), signed into law November 2021, provides for a generational investment in America's intermodal transportation needs for five years, and

WHEREAS freight and intercity passenger rail is an integral part and engine of our economy, and

WHEREAS funding programs to be administered by the Federal Railroad Administration will allow for rail improvement projects at the local, region and state level to move people and goods, and

WHEREAS these projects will include eliminating and improving dangerous at-grade highway rail crossings, improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of railroads, and

WHEREAS programs can provide funding for track rehabilitation, elimination of rail bottlenecks and repair or replacement of aging bridges in rural rail districts, and

WHEREAS the BIL can provide funding for the development of industrial rail parks and transload facilities in rural areas to promote economic growth and jobs, and

WHEREAS programs can identify and develop federal-state partnerships for intercity passenger rail to restore service to towns and cities long deprived of options for surface transportation, and

WHEREAS the State of Texas lost out on its share of over \$19 billion in the last decade because there was no state match available for competitive federal grants and those funds went to other states, and

WHEREAS Appropriated Fund 0306, the Texas Rail Relocation and Improvement Fund, approved in a constitutional amendment in 2005 but never funded, and

WHEREAS the Rail Relocation and Improvement Fund would direct the Texas Department of Transportation and their Rail Division to be involved in the planning, programming, and construction of projects to move people and goods in our state, and

WHEREAS the livelihood of our growing economy depends on a strong multi-modal transportation network that includes rail,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commissioners Court of _____ County, duly convened and acting in its capacity as the governing body of _____ County, does hereby petition the State Legislature during the 2023 session to address Texas' transportation infrastructure needs with a FAIR-SHARE-FOR-RAIL kickstart appropriation to the Rail Relocation

and Improvement Fund in an amount determined by the Texas Department of Transportation as sufficient to enable the State to compete for matching funds in federal rail grant programs.

ADOPTED THIS THE ____ DAY OF ____, 2022

Please send your letters to:

Senate Transportation Chair, The Honorable Robert Nichols – P.O. Box 12068, Austin, Texas 78711

House Transportation Chair, The Honorable Terry Canales - P.O. Box 2910, Austin, Texas 78768

Texas Department of Transportation Executive Director Marc Williams – 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Texas Transportation Commission Chairman J. Bruce Bugg, Jr. - 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Texas Transportation Commissioner Alvin New – 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Texas Transportation Commissioner Laura Ryan - 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Texas Transportation Commissioner Robert C. Vaughn - 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Your State Senator and Your State Representative