

Resolution No. 273-2024

By Council Member Howse-Jones, Bishop, Conwell, Gray, Griffin, Hairston, Harsh, Jones, Kazy, Kelly, Maurer, McCormack, Polensek, Santana, Slife, Spencer and Starr

FOR ADOPTION

March 4, 2024

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Urging the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to ensure that Northeast Ohio is included as part of a major overhaul of passenger rail service in the United States by including Cleveland as a stop on the Detroit-New Orleans proposed route.

WHEREAS, following an extensive Long-Distance Service study, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has released its proposal to add several new and restored long-distance routes to enhance the nation's passenger rail network, yet none of these proposed routes travel through Cleveland; and

WHEREAS, however, the newly proposed north-south route from Detroit to New Orleans is an excellent opportunity to correct this oversight; a simple re-routing would take the route from Detroit to Cleveland, then south to Columbus, and eventually all the way to New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, this re-routing would be a win-win by providing Northeast Ohioans convenient service to numerous destinations in the South and providing Amtrak with an additional market to increase ridership on the proposed route; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland is currently served by two east-west long-distance Amtrak routes: the Lake Shore Limited, and the Capitol Limited; and

WHEREAS, adding a north-south route would build up Northeast Ohio as a rail service hub and provide expanded access to the excellent services and amenities within the region; and

WHEREAS, including Cleveland would strengthen many of the FRA's goals in developing and enhancing rail service routes, including connecting intermediate markets to increase ridership and expanding access to higher education institutions, medical centers, and National Park Service lands; and

WHEREAS, Detroit-to-Cleveland and Cleveland-to-Columbus routes are critical, well-traveled corridors; including these segments as part of the Detroit-New Orleans proposed rail service could provide Amtrak with an additional market to increase ridership on the proposed route, enhance existing rail service options for Northeast Ohioans, and expand nationwide access to Cleveland's world class healthcare, cultural institutions, and park systems; and

WHEREAS, this Council urges the FRA to include Cleveland as a stop on the Detroit-New Orleans proposed route for the above reasons and for the benefit of Cleveland residents and all Northeast Ohioans; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council urges the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to ensure that Northeast Ohio is included as part of a major overhaul of passenger rail service in the United States by including Cleveland as a stop on the Detroit-New Orleans proposed route.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Grace Gallucci, Executive Director and CEO, Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA).

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

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REPORT
after second Reading

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READ FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME

READ FIRST TIME
referred to REPORTS

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME on MARCH 4, 2024

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR

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