

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2021

EXPRESSING the support of the Mayor and the City Council of Cincinnati for Amtrak's proposed expansion of passenger rail services in Ohio and **ENCOURAGING** the Congressional actions needed to authorize and appropriate funds to the expansion.

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

WHEREAS, Ohio, the nation's seventh-most populous state, 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, the number of Amtrak riders per 1,000 residents is 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 as it has no funds budgeted for passenger rail development in the currently proposed Ohio Department of Transportation biennial budget -- making it the sixth such biennial budget in a row with no funding for passenger rail planning, development, or operations; and

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

WHEREAS, Amtrak reports that it spent \$40 million in 2019 on goods and services purchased from Ohio railroad industry suppliers, mostly for the provision and improvement of passenger rail services outside of Ohio, and meanwhile in 2019, Amtrak 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 a total of 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 total 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%, from 32 trains per week to 215 trains per week, and the number of stations by 214%, from seven existing to potentially 22 stations by 2035, which 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 in state-backed improvements to infrastructure and trains operating at 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 per week, at Columbus and Dayton from zero to 42 per week, and at Toledo from 28 to 70 per week; and

WHEREAS, safe, fast, modern, convenient passenger rail service offers time-savings and productivity benefits as business travelers can work and meet enroute, and all travelers can eat, drink, or relax onboard an all-weather transportation mode, making Ohio a more attractive place to live, 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% more energy efficient than traveling by car and 33% more energy efficient than domestic air travel, and because pollution emissions have a direct correlation to energy efficiency, the more energy-efficient a travel mode is, the less pollution it emits; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and City Council express support for the 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 further encourage Ohio Senators Sherrod Brown and Robert Portman and Representatives Steve Chabot and Brad Wenstrup also to support the renewal of the Surface Transportation Reauthorization.

Section 2. That the Mayor and City Council further urge Ohio Senators Brown and Portman and Representatives Chabot and Wenstrup to 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.

Section 3. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council by the Clerk of Council and that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Washington D.C. offices of Senator Sherrod Brown, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Senator Robert Portman, 448 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Representative Steve Chabot, 2408 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Representative Brad Wenstrup, 2419 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and that copies shall also be delivered by the Clerk of Council to Mr. Derrick James, Senior Government Affairs Officer, Amtrak, at 500 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60661 and by email at jamesde@Amtrak.com, and to Mr. Stu Nicholson, Executive Director, All Aboard Ohio, at 3136 Kingsdale Center, Upper Arlington, OH 43221 and by email at stu.nicholson@allaboardohio.org.

Passed: _____, 2021

John Cranley, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Seelbach