

RESOLUTION # 2024-012
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BRINGING PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE BACK TO
RAPID CITY

WHEREAS, the City of Rapid City enjoyed passenger rail service for over a hundred years, beginning prior to South Dakota's statehood and ended in approximately 1960 due to increasing competition with automobiles; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Railroad Administration has identified a "Proposed Network of Preferred Routes" which contains a possible passenger rail route connecting Rapid City to Sioux Falls and Minneapolis / St. Paul, MN to the east and Cheyenne, WY and Denver, CO to the west for potential restored service in its Long-Distance Survey Study; and

WHEREAS, public comments on the proposed routes in the Long-Distance Survey Study are due on **March 8, 2024**; and

WHEREAS, in the past three years, the Pennington County Commission, the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Grant County Economic Development Corporation, and the City of Sturgis, SD have expressed a strong support for long-distance passenger rail service through South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, there are currently very little to no public transportation options connecting smaller cities and communities of western South Dakota – many in rural areas – which have been increasingly isolated; and

WHEREAS, the isolated communities in western and southwestern South Dakota include the tribal lands of the Pine Ridge Reservation and the Rosebud Reservation; and

WHEREAS, long-distance passenger rail service in western South Dakota offers the promise of connecting these smaller communities, including the tribal lands of the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservations; and

WHEREAS, passenger rail is one of the most energy efficient modes of transportation – 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

WHEREAS, in addition to the benefit of connecting extremely rural communities in our area, including tribal lands, long-distance and intercity passenger rail service offers the promise of significant positive economic impact for our community;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City of Rapid City that the City supports the return of daily passenger rail service to our community and urges the Federal Railroad Administration and our state and federal representatives to support the proposed passenger rail route through South Dakota, including Rapid City.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2024.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

BY _____
Jason Salamun, Mayor

ATTEST:

Daniel Ainslie, Finance Director

(SEAL)