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LORA W. JOHNSON, CMC, LMMC
CLERK OF COUNCIL

1300 Perdido Street • Room 1E09
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

New Orleans City Council

December 17, 2021

James Clements
Canadian Pacific Railway
7550 Ogden Dale Road S. E.
Calgary, AB T2C 4X9
Canada

Dear Mr. Clements:

The New Orleans City Council adopted Resolution (R-21-458) at its meeting of December 16, 2021.

The New Orleans City Council is supporting of a passenger rail service between Louisiana's two largest cities, New Orleans and Baton Rouge, as an opportunity to expand economic and job opportunities for our citizens, bolster business recruitment and retention, strengthen workforce development via improved access to educational and training opportunities, create greater access to affordable housing options, serve as an emergency management and risk mitigation tool, decrease reliance on passenger vehicles for daily commuting to lower car emissions and congestion, and encourage tourism throughout Louisiana.

Thanking you for your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Clerk of Council's office at (504) 658-1085.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Temple", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Sharon B. Temple, LCMDC
Assistant Clerk of Council

Enclosure

RESOLUTION

NO. R-21-458

CITY HALL: December 16, 2021

BY: COUNCILMEMBERS MORENO, BROSSETT AND GISLESON PALMER

A **RESOLUTION** in support of a passenger rail service between Louisiana's two largest cities, New Orleans and Baton Rouge, as an opportunity to expand economic and job opportunities for our citizens, bolster business recruitment and retention, strengthen workforce development via improved access to educational and training opportunities, create greater access to affordable housing options, serve as an emergency management and risk mitigation tool, decrease reliance on passenger vehicles for daily commuting to lower car emissions and congestion, and encourage tourism throughout Louisiana.

WHEREAS, last week, James Clements, SVP of Strategic Planning and Technology Transformation for Canadian Pacific Railway, announced that the railway is committed to the establishment of passenger rail between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, partnering with state and local governments, passenger rail operator Amtrak, and other interested parties to restart the local passenger service as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, passenger rail service between our two cities would follow Canadian Pacific's approved control of the track, as proposed in the pending Canadian Pacific-Kansas City Southern merger application; this merger between Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern is currently (at the time of this filing) under regulatory review, although shareholders will be voting on the merger in short order with a timeline of formally merging by the fourth quarter of 2022 and would create Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) and directly connect the United States, Mexico, and Canada; and

WHEREAS, in addition to connectivity to both Mexico and Canada, the acquisition would mean that every Class I railroad that operates in the United States will have a presence within Louisiana and at the Port of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, historic expansion of passenger rail funding is contained within the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), providing \$66 billion for rail and associated programs; the IIJA will supply funding for Amtrak to further its 15-year corridor vision plan that specifically identifies passenger rail between the Baton Rouge and New Orleans metros as a service corridor; and

WHEREAS, the \$66 billion earmarked for rail improvements includes Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail grants to help fund Amtrak's inter-city goal to increase passenger traffic by 20 million by 2035; and

WHEREAS, passenger rail service has been studied extensively with overwhelming support from residents throughout Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Orleans, St. James,

and St. John Parishes; a 2019 poll conducted by The Southern Rail Commission (SRC), Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC), and Greater New Orleans, Inc. (GNO, Inc.) showed compelling support for funding and utilizing a passenger rail connecting Baton Rouge and New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, data from this poll showed that 85% of respondents consider passenger rail service between New Orleans and Baton Rouge to be an important project with 79% supporting the use of state funding to leverage federal matching dollars to bring the rail line to fruition; and

WHEREAS, the Baton Rouge and New Orleans metros have long been tied economically and are witnessing growing numbers of daily commuters, heightened by freight moving through these industry heavy regions; this intensification of rail usage will require additional investment in our rail infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, passenger rail service provides a reliable transportation alternative to passenger vehicle travel to better connect two large metros in Louisiana comprising half of the state's population; and

WHEREAS, passenger rail would serve as a catalyst for economic development by offering improved access to jobs, while also helping to serve the needs of regional and local commerce; this includes increasing employer access to a wider and more diverse labor pool while lowering commuting costs for employees; and

WHEREAS, connectivity can also serve as an evacuation strategy to safely and conveniently move large numbers of people out of the Greater New Orleans region when disasters pose a threat, including medical patients and at-risk populations with special needs that impact their ability to evacuate safely in the event of an extreme weather event; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Orleans Council wholeheartedly supports efforts to establish passenger rail service between New Orleans and Baton Rouge and stands ready to assist to bring this project to fruition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of Council transmit certified copies of this resolution to Governor John Bel Edwards; James Clements, SVP of Strategic Planning and Technology Transformation for Canadian Pacific Railway; Mayor LaToya Cantrell; Michael Hecht, President & CEO of GNO, Inc.; Adam Knapp, President & CEO of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber; Vic Lafont, President & CEO of the South Louisiana Economic Council; Monika Gerhart, Director of State Relations for the City of New Orleans; and to all Louisiana Commissioners for the Southern Rail Commission including Renee Lapyrolierie, Commissioner of Multimodal Commerce within the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development; Walt J. Leger III, Executive Vice President and General Counsel for New Orleans & Company; Mayor Adrian Perkins of Shreveport, Louisiana; John Spain, Executive Vice President of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation (BRAAF); Dr. Shawn Wilson, Chief of Staff for the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD); Roy Woodruff, Jr. Certified copies of this resolution should also be sent to members of Orleans delegation including: Representative Mack Cormier, Representative Royce Duplessis, Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman, Representative

Raymond E. Garafalo, Representative Stephanie Hilferty, Representative Jason Hughes, Representative Mandie Landry, Representative Candace N. Newell, Representative Matthew Willard, Senator Joseph Bouie, Senator Gary Carter, Senator Jimmy Harris, Senator Sharon Hewitt, and Senator Karen Carter Peterson.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF, AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Banks, Brossett, Gisleson Palmer, Glapion, Moreno, Nguyen - 6

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: Giarrusso - 1

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

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