

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 14, 2007

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER *J*

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONTINUED
FEDERAL FUNDING FOR AMTRAK

ISSUE: Resolution supporting continued federal funding for AMTRAK.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council approve the proposed resolution (attached) to support continued federal funding for AMTRAK to the degree that services will continue and improve for the benefit of the citizens of the City of Alexandria and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

DISCUSSION: Passenger rail is a critical component of a modern multi-modal transportation system and needs to have financial support, unified policy development and oversight similar to that afforded to our air, highway, and mass transit modes. AMTRAK has been recognized for providing a safe and energy efficient mode of transportation within the United States as it provides intercity passenger rail travel to over 25 million Americans residing in 46 states each year.

Investment in rail passenger service in other sections of the nation have resulted in significant ridership increases and increased citizen mobility. AMTRAK provides a more fuel-efficient transportation system, thereby providing cleaner transportation alternatives to the congested I-95, I-395, and I-66 interstate corridors and helping to reduce dependence on foreign oil. The services that AMTRAK provides improve air quality in the urbanized areas of the City of Alexandria and Northern Virginia. AMTRAK's service, provided at Alexandria's Union Station, is a key part of the City's transportation network.

In the years to come, AMTRAK will continue to play a growing role in offering transportation choices other than the use of a vehicle and air travel. However, AMTRAK's federal funding levels continue to be inadequate, as well as are annually at risk for reduction. As a result, it is helpful that the City Council go on record in support of federal AMTRAK funding.

FISCAL IMPACT: The fiscal impact on AMTRAK to the City is positive as this service brings tourists and business travelers to Alexandria.

STAFF:

Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager

Richard J. Baier, P.E., Director, T&ES

Thomas H. Culpepper, P.E., Deputy Director, T&ES

James Maslanka, Division Chief of Transit, T&ES

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONTINUED FEDERAL FUNDING FOR AMTRAK

WHEREAS, congested metropolitan highways, continued financial deterioration of he airlines, and rising fuel prices are urgent reminders of the transportation infrastructure crisis that is jeopardizing America's prosperity; and

WHEREAS, intercity passenger rail infrastructure has been underfunded for far too long by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, in the context of increasingly complex, costly and limited alternatives to an impending transportation system crisis, intercity passenger rail provides the opportunity to add capacity to the nation's congested aviation and highway transportation modes; and

WHEREAS, intercity passenger rail provides a more fuel-efficient transportation option thereby providing cleaner transportation alternatives and helping reduce America's dependence on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, America needs a balanced, energy efficient, integrated transportation system, and the American people deserve multiple transportation choices; and

WHEREAS, the residents, business persons, and visitors of the City of Alexandria need a vastly improved and guaranteed passenger rail system to link the City of Alexandria to the hundreds of other cities served by rail in the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak provides alternatives to the congested I-95, I-395, and I-66 interstate corridors; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak served a record-setting 25 million passengers last year;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alexandria City Council supports continued federal funding for AMTRAK for the benefit of the citizens of the City of Alexandria and the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk shall forward copies of this resolution to Senators John Warner and James Webb and Congressman James P. Moran.

ADOPTED: _____

ATTEST:

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

Jackie M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk

23
11-19-07

TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT
for Members of Alexandria City Council
and of Other City Boards and Commissions and for
City Officers and Employees
Virginia Code § 2.2-3115(G)

1. Name: Justin Wilson
2. Member of: ☒ City Council _____ (City Office or Department)
_____ (Board or Commission)
3. Transaction: 23 Docket/Agenda Item 11/19/07 Meeting Date
_____ (Other)
4. Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction: Current employee
of Amtrak

5. I declare, in light of my above-described personal interest in the identified Transaction (check one of the following):
- a. ☐ That I am required to disqualify myself from participating in the Transaction.
- b. ☒ That, although I am not required to disqualify myself, I have nonetheless elected to disqualify myself from participating in the Transaction.
- c. ☐ That I am a member of or represent a business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction, and that I am able to participate in the Transaction fairly, objectively and in the public interest.

11/18/07
Date

[Signature]
Signature

RESOLUTION NO. 2254

SUPPORTING CONTINUED FEDERAL FUNDING FOR AMTRAK

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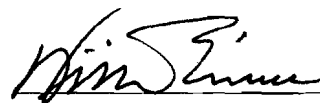
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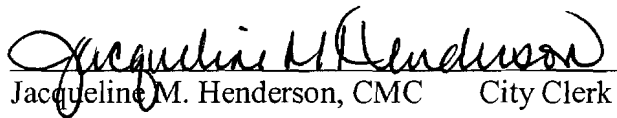
ADOPTED: November 19, 2007



WILLIAM D. EULLE

MAYOR

ATTEST:



Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk