

RESOLUTION NO. R-2020-_____

A RESOLUTION supporting restoration of passenger rail service to the Yakima Valley and Eastern Washington.

WHEREAS, passenger rail service to Yakima and other Central Washington cities was discontinued in October 1981; and

WHEREAS, The City Council of the City of Yakima by Resolution No. R-99-36 urged that the State of Washington fund a feasibility study regarding passenger rail service to Eastern Washington; and

WHEREAS, the 2000 Legislature approved funding for a preliminary study of passenger rail in Eastern Washington; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 the State Department of Transportation conducted a study of the operational and physical requirements necessary to implement passenger rail service to Eastern Washington over Stampede Pass using Burlington Northern Santa Fe tracks and found that passenger rail service along the Stampede Pass route is physically and operationally feasible; and

WHEREAS, the 2001 State Department of Transportation study recommended that Washington State undertake a detailed study of the feasibility of East-West passenger rail service; and

WHEREAS, The City Council of the City of Yakima by Resolution No. R-2002-03 urged the 2002 Legislature to authorize and approve sufficient funding for a detailed east-west study of rail passenger service in Eastern Washington including service at Yakima; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Legislature approved funding to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of an east-west intercity passenger rail system considering the Stampede Pass corridor and service to Auburn, Cle Elum, Ellensburg, Yakima, Toppenish, Tri-Cities and Spokane; and

WHEREAS, such study is now being conducted and is expected to be completed and submitted to the Legislative Joint Transportation Committee by June 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS carbon reduction benefits provided by rail service are known to be significant; and

WHEREAS passenger rail service is valuable for the people and economy of Yakima particularly for the physical and economic well-being of elderly, handicapped, and disadvantaged persons; now, therefore,

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

The City Council of the City of Yakima urges the 2021 Legislature to support the social, economic, and environmental prosperity of Central Washington by authorizing funds for capital improvements necessary to restore passenger rail service to Central and Eastern Washington including service at Yakima.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this ____ day of _____, 2020.

Patricia Byers, Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk