

# RESOLUTIONS OF THE CITY OF HELENA, MONTANA

## RESOLUTION NO. 20399

### A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE THROUGH THE CITY OF HELENA, CONNECTING TO OTHER POPULATION CENTERS IN MONTANA

**WHEREAS**, AMTRAK'S Empire Builder is the number one long-distance passenger train in the United States, and is greatly needed for the citizens of Montana's Hi-Line who do not have a good choice of public transportation in our large rural state; and

**WHEREAS**, AMTRAK discontinued service along its southern Hiawatha route in 1979, leaving only the Empire Builder to provide passenger rail service to Montana for the past 37 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Montanans living along the abandoned Hiawatha route must, as a consequence, drive for three to five hours to get to the nearest train station; and

**WHEREAS**, transportation to and from the major population centers of southern Montana would be greatly enhanced by passenger rail service; and

**WHEREAS**, improved passenger rail service connecting the major population centers of southern Montana to each other and perhaps beyond would constitute a boon to tourism and the economy of the region; and

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**WHEREAS**, we are facing a critical problem with climate change and need to greatly reduce our emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere; and

**WHEREAS**, it appears to be in the best interests of the City of Helena and the inhabitants thereof that passenger rail service be re-established through the City of Helena.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSISON OF THE CITY OF HELENA, MONTANA:**

**Section 1.** The Helena City Commission supports any effort - be it AMTRAK, government-sponsored, or private - to re-establish passenger rail service along the present BNSF/Montana Rail Link route connecting Helena with its sister cities across southern Montana.

**Section 2.** The Helena City Commission further supports a cooperative relationship between freight rail operations and passenger rail operations.

**PASSED AND EFFECTIVE BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HELENA, MONTANA, THIS 11th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2017.**

**ATTEST:**

          /S/ JAMES E. SMITH            
**MAYOR**

          /S/ KATYA GROVER            
**DEPUTY CLERK OF THE COMMISSION**