RESOLUTION 2018-12-13-0056R

SUPPORTING RAIL PASSENGERS ASSOCIATION’S REQUEST FOR AMTRAK TO INCREASE THE FREQUENCY OF SERVICE OF THE SUNSET LIMITED TO DAILY AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

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WHEREAS, Rail Passengers Association (RPA), formerly known as National Association of Railroad Passengers (NARP), is the largest advocacy organization for rail passengers in the United States and working with state and federal delegations to create a unified voice to State and Federal delegations to request increased Amtrak frequency along the Sunset Limited from three times a week to daily service; and

WHEREAS, Sunset Limited is a part of Amtrak’s basic national train network connecting Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned five states have seen a population growth in the counties served by the Sunset Limited route of 22% between the years 2000 and 2016; and

WHEREAS, the increasing congestion on the I-10 corridor serving San Antonio needs increased safe, affordable, and reliable alternatives to automobile and air travel; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak has announced its plan to handle ticketing for the Texas Central Rail which will connect with the Sunset Limited in Houston; and

WHEREAS, a daily stop on the Sunset Limited in San Antonio will enhance connectivity with the existing daily trains such as the Amtrak Texas Eagle service from San Antonio to Chicago and transportation hubs in New Orleans, San Antonio and Los Angeles as well as to the proposed Texas Central Railway line in Dallas; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Antonio fully supports RPA’s request for Amtrak to increase the frequency of service of the Sunset Limited to daily; NOW THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of San Antonio hereby confirms its support of Rail Passengers Association’s request for Amtrak to increase the frequency of service of the Sunset Limited to daily as soon as practicable.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage by eight (8) votes or more and upon ten (10) days following its passage if approved by fewer than eight (8) votes.