

RES 17-067

Wilmington, Delaware
September 21, 2017

#4412

Sponsor:

Council
President
Shabazz

WHEREAS, the Northeast Corridor is home to vibrant cities, including Wilmington, that contain attractions and opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, however, aging infrastructure and growing populations have led to challenges related to effectively providing transportation to and from major cities in the Northeast Corridor, and Wilmington is no exception; and

WHEREAS, Delawareans and Wilmingtonians, including members of the Wilmington City Council, have long advocated for the inclusion of additional transportation options for the City and the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, the City Council applauds the Federal Railroad Administration for its decision to aid in addressing this problem by including in its proposed Rail Investment Plan for the Northeast Corridor the addition of a train station just north of Chester, Pennsylvania, and to offer direct train access from Delaware stations to this line to allow access to the Philadelphia International Airport; and

WHEREAS, this proposal would create faster, more timely and frequent passenger transit through the Northeast Corridor, providing a remedy for long commutes and encouraging the public to utilize this resource; and

WHEREAS, enhanced public transportation infrastructure in this region would benefit the City of Wilmington through expanded and efficient transportation that would not only positively impact residents, but encourage visitors that would in turn help improve the economic growth of the City; and

WHEREAS, the creation of passenger rail tracks that provide residents and visitors of Delaware direct access to and from the Philadelphia Airport will also encourage the use of public transportation, thereby reducing the environmental impact of commuting by private vehicle and expanding transit options for those who do not have a car; and

WHEREAS, the encouraged use of this efficient mode of transportation will also aid in reducing the amount of traffic congestion endured during peak commuting hours, and could provide another transportation option for low-income residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that the Council supports the decision of the Federal Railroad Administration to include in its proposed Rail Investment Plan for the Northeast Corridor the creation of a direct-to-airport train for Delawareans and those utilizing public transportation in the Northeast Corridor, and encourages swift action at the federal level to move this proposal forward and to adopt final plans for its implementation. The Council stands at the ready to continue to support and advocate for this vital transit infrastructure expansion.

Passed by City Council,
September 21, 2017

Attest: Maribel Seizer
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 21st
day of September, 2017.

Elizabeth B. Powers
Senior Assistant City Solicitor

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution supports the decision of the Federal Railroad Administration to include in its proposed Rail Investment Plan for the Northeast Corridor the creation of a direct-to-airport train from a new station in Chester to the Philadelphia International Airport, with service added to that line from Wilmington. This proposal would provide efficient and affordable public transportation options for Delawareans and enhance connectivity in the region.