

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR RESOLUTION NO. 120368

Supporting and recognizing Amtrak and its Southwest Chief on National Train Day, May 12, 2012; and directing the City Clerk to transmit copies of this Resolution.

WHEREAS, Kansas City is the historic passenger and freight gateway to the Southwest and the Santa Fe Trail route followed by Amtrak's Southwest Chief passenger train; and

WHEREAS, Kansas City's iconic Union Station, other world class attractions, and long railroad history are a source of great civic pride; and

WHEREAS, for many rural Americans, including residents of Missouri, Kansas, Colorado and New Mexico, Amtrak and its Southwest Chief represent the only major passenger transportation link to Kansas City and the rest of the country; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Amtrak provided passenger rail travel to over 155,000 travelers boarding or detraining at Kansas City; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Chief provides a key link from Kansas City, Missouri, to communities in Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico and beyond, and a key tool for future economic growth through transportation-oriented development, more livable communities, and growing rail based tourism; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Chief links Kansas City with a burgeoning international tourist market along the historic Santa Fe Trail, attracting more international passengers and private rail charters to the line; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak trains and infrastructure carry commuters to and from work, people to medical appointments and to see friends and relatives, and visitors to Missouri and Kansas education and vacation destinations, providing a safe and reliable travel choice while reducing congestion on roads and in the skies; and

WHEREAS, passenger and freight rail is a fuel-efficient and safe form of transportation; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

Section 1. That the Council hereby supports National Train Day and Amtrak, and recognizes the contributions of railroads to the City's history and future.

Section 2. That the Council urges the current track be upgraded and maintained as part of the continuation of the celebrated and historic Southwest Chief on its current route as the City's present and future link to the West, and a key commerce and transportation provider.

Section 3. That the Council celebrates the pivotal role that a robust intercity passenger rail system can provide for better mobility for persons of all abilities.

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Section 4. That this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of the Council in testimony thereof and that copies hereof be transmitted to Amtrak, BNSF Railway, and the governors and legislatures of Missouri, Kansas, Colorado and New Mexico.
