

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SANTA FE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 2018- 111

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**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING ONGOING SUPPORT FOR THE SOUTHWEST CHIEF PASSENGER SERVICE, PASSENGER SERVICE HISTORICALLY SUPPORTED BY SANTA FE COUNTY THROUGH RESOLUTION NO. 2012-60 (A RESOLUTION ENDORSING EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN THE AMTRAK SOUTHWEST CHIEF PASSENGER SERVICE THROUGH LAMY (SANTA FE), NEW MEXICO) AND RESOLUTION NO. 2014-105 (A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES' RESOLUTION TO MAINTAIN THE SOUTHWEST CHIEF AMTRAK SERVICE)**

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**WHEREAS**, Santa Fe County Resolutions No. 2012-60 and No. 2014-105 document Santa Fe County's prior active support and ongoing collaboration with the states of New Mexico, Colorado, and Kansas to support the continuation of the Southwest Chief passenger service; and

**WHEREAS**, these prior efforts included supporting legislation that would:

1. Allow the continuation of Amtrak's Southwest Chief along its current and historic route;
2. Create a Southwest Chief Rail Service Fund or other reasonable funding alternatives; and
3. Support efforts by the New Mexico Congressional Delegation in supporting and maintaining the Southwest Chief on its current route; and

**WHEREAS**, Amtrak's Southwest Chief serves northern New Mexico on its route between Chicago and Los Angeles on the host railroad line of Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF); and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Rail Passengers Association, the annual average Amtrak passenger traffic in New Mexico for 2011 to 2017 has been consistently high, ranging from 122,400 to 131,400; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rail Passengers Association reported that for 2017, the most recent full year of record, the total annual New Mexico passenger traffic of 122,400 was distributed as follows: Albuquerque – 74,293; Deming – 1,469; Gallup – 15,481; Lamy – 10,768; Las Vegas – 4,487; Lordsburg – 742; Raton – 15,122; and

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**WHEREAS**, Amtrak passenger traffic through the Lamy station is between 10,000 and 11,000 people per year, equating to an average of 27-30 people per day. This level of usage is significant to the potential economic activity in Lamy and surrounding areas, including Santa Fe; and

**WHEREAS**, the Report of the Annual Economic Impact of Amtrak's Southwest Chief in New Mexico, dated November 11, 2013, and filed with the New Mexico Interim Transportation Infrastructure Sub-Committee on November 12, 2013, assesses the annual visitor spending impact in the Lamy-Raton corridor at \$29.3 million in economic output, \$8.9 million in worker earnings and 368 jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, Amtrak is considering terminating this route and considering alternatives that include bus-bridges and relying on shuttling between Kansas City and Albuquerque; and

**WHEREAS**, the current Amtrak Southwest Chief service extends from Chicago to Los Angeles, and passes through Kansas City, Raton, Las Vegas, Lamy, Albuquerque and Gallup; and

**WHEREAS**, Amtrak is considering termination of this service to avoid the anticipated new cost posed by Positive Train Control (PTC) implementation and required infrastructure upgrades; and

**WHEREAS**, Amtrak anticipates a large capital cost to install PTC for this route; and

**WHEREAS**, for the 483 mile segment from Dodge City to Lamy, representing track owned by BNSF, there are no plans to install PTC, and Amtrak estimates the capital cost for this segment of PTC at \$53.3 million; and

**WHEREAS**, for the 82 mile segment from Lamy to Isleta, owned by the New Mexico Department of Transportation, NMDOT apparently plans to install PTC after 2018, and Amtrak indicates it cannot continue its operations on this segment if a Mainline Track Exclusion Area (MTEA) is not granted by the end of 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Senate FY2019 Transportation Appropriations bill includes language supporting approximately \$50 million in capital funding for safety improvements and maintenance, but the House version of the bill does not; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners of Santa Fe County reaffirms its two prior resolutions, and calls upon the Governor of the State of New Mexico, members of the legislature of the State of New Mexico, and the congressional delegation of the State of New Mexico, to strongly endorse continuation of Amtrak's current Southwest Chief route through northern New Mexico.

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PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2018.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SANTA FE COUNTY

*Anna Hansen*  
Anna Hansen, Chair



ATTEST:

*Geraldine Salazar*  
Geraldine Salazar, Santa Fe County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

*R. Bruce Frederick*  
R. Bruce Frederick, County Attorney

SEC CLERK RECORDED 10/10/2018

COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss  
BCC RESOLUTIONS  
PAGES: 3  
I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 10TH Day Of October, 2018 at 11:32:48 AM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1869741  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County



Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Geraldine Salazar  
Deputy County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

*Estrella Martinez*