

REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION NO. 65

A RESOLUTION of the Board of the Regional Transit Authority for the King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties region expressing support for Amtrak as a critical component of transportation mobility in the central Puget Sound region.

WHEREAS, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (“Amtrak”) was established by Congress in 1970 to provide and sustain a nationwide network of intercity passenger trains; and

WHEREAS, increased use of passenger trains will help to reduce America’s reliance on imported oil, contribute to our region’s economic vitality and enhance our global competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak is energy efficient and environmentally-beneficial; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak provides mobility to citizens who need trains as a travel option; and

WHEREAS, the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Master Plan calls for the development of a regional rail service, integrated with Amtrak intercity rail services; and

WHEREAS, local communities in the central Puget Sound region are developing multi-modal facilities to link Amtrak with ferries and regional transit services; and

WHEREAS, the states of Washington and Oregon have forged a federal/state partnership with Amtrak, and have invested a combined total of \$83 million in past and projected state Amtrak and Freight Mobility Enhancement projects for incremental development of high speed rail; and

WHEREAS, enhancement of Amtrak services and the development of High Speed Rail in the Cascadia Corridor can promote international tourism and reduce the need for auto trips and short-haul flights, extending the useful lives of Interstate 5, the Vancouver, B.C., Seattle-Tacoma and Portland International airports; and

WHEREAS, federal investment in Amtrak has fallen over the last decade while rising for highways and airports;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority urge President Clinton and our region's state and federal representatives as follows:

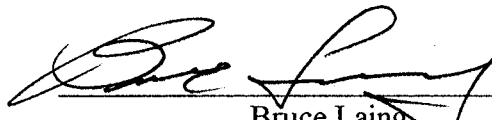
That, proposed programs of federal and state capital investment in the Northwest Rail Corridor be maintained and expanded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, constructive Amtrak/state partnerships like those developed by the states of Washington and Oregon be encouraged and supported at the federal level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, Amtrak be excused from paying fuel taxes that airlines do not pay; and that, states be given the flexibility to use Federal highway trust funds on Amtrak if they so choose; and

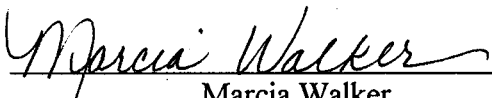
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, federal officials include a strong Amtrak system in any plans for a National Transportation System.

ADOPTED by the Board of the Regional Transit Authority for the King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties region on this 14 day of April, 1995.



Bruce Laing
Chair of the Board

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator