

RESOLUTION #2011-21 OF DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

REQUESTING SUPPORT FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND THE GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF DURHAM AS A STOP ON THE AMTRAK DOWNEASTER ROUTE

WHEREAS, since the return of passenger rail service to Durham on December 14, 2001, the date of its inaugural run, the Amtrak Downeaster has provided an important service to Durham by allowing citizens to use the train as an alternative means of transportation in place of the private automobile as well as bringing visitors to the community and thereby enhancing its economic sustainability; and

WHEREAS, passenger rail service in general, and Amtrak's Downeaster service in particular, encourages economic development at a rate which is higher than other modes of transportation; and

WHEREAS, a modern national passenger train system is an essential element of a truly balanced transportation plan, relieving congestion on our highways and in the air, lowering pollution levels, and increasing travel safety; and

WHEREAS, modes of transportation systems may require governmental financial support; and

WHEREAS, some proposals now before Congress would substantially reduce funding for Amtrak generally and eliminate all funding for State-supported Amtrak service, including the Downeaster; and

WHEREAS, the Downeaster can only operate with continued federal financial support, not only of that service, but of Amtrak's national passenger rail system; and

WHEREAS, continued federal funding of Amtrak at levels which are at least as high as those currently in place is essential to ensure the continued existence of the Downeaster service and to protect investments which have been made, and continue to be made, in that service;

WHEREAS, Durham strongly supports the efforts of Trainriders Northeast and others to ensure continued support of passenger rail systems throughout the

United States and opposes a decrease in federal funding support for Amtrak or efforts by some in Congress to offer amendments that might adversely impact Amtrak and ultimately Amtrak's Downeaster service.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Durham Town Council, the governing body of the Town of Durham, New Hampshire does hereby adopt Resolution #2011-21 requesting support from the Congressional delegation and the Governor of New Hampshire for the continuation of Durham as a stop on the Downeaster route and, if reasonably possible, expansion of passenger rail service to this municipality and surrounding regions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Durham, New Hampshire by a majority vote of the Durham Town Council on this 7th day of November, 2011 with Eight (8) affirmative votes, Zero (0) negative votes, and Zero (0) abstentions.

Diana Carroll, Chair
Durham Town Council

ATTEST:

Lorrie Pitt, Town Clerk-Tax Collector