

Nevada AFL-CIO Resolution of Support for Rail Development in the State of Nevada

Whereas, the US stands poised at the precipice of a “railroad renaissance,” with the prospect of new trains, frequencies, and routes coast to coast; and

Whereas, this rail renaissance will take place in a sector of the economy that is the most unionized in the country, and has the potential to create tens of thousands of good-paying, sustainable jobs; and

Whereas, given the ongoing climate situation and ever-increasing air pollution, rail’s inherent efficiencies are crucial given that it is the cleanest form of transportation for both freight and passengers; and

Whereas, the highways and streets in both Northern and Southern Nevada have become more and more crowded, congested, deteriorated, and unsafe in recent years; and

Whereas, improved rail service will provide transportation options for all Nevadans and provide for “transportation justice” to those who cannot drive or fly; and

Whereas, Nevada's proximity to California (the world's eighth largest economy) means that a huge amount of commerce travels through the state each year, commerce that can be diverted off trucks and highways and onto rail; and

Whereas, better freight rail transportation in Nevada would capture a portion of the massive increase in truck traffic that currently serves the numerous new (and yet to be built) warehouses in both Northern and Southern Nevada; and is in alignment with the 2021 NDOT Nevada State Rail Plan Blueprint for Action; and

Whereas, more and more people in Nevada are inextricably linked to California, while travel between the two states is exponentially accelerating, which exemplifies the need for alternative transportation between California and both Northern and Southern Nevada.

Whereas, the implementation of a high-speed passenger train will provide an efficient, safe and cost-efficient mode of transportation, shifting significant volume off existing and committed highways allowing regional and local transportation officials to better accommodate the rapid growth; and

Whereas, the proposed train project by Brightline West will connect Southern Nevada and Southern California in under 3 hours at speeds in excess of 180 miles per hour, connecting to Metrolink and a planned future connection to the California High-Speed Rail project in Palmdale.

Therefore, Be it Resolved that the Nevada AFL-CIO fully supports the expansion of local and regional freight and passenger train service; and

Be it further Resolved that the Nevada AFL-CIO supports the development of “short line” rail connecting Class One railroad mainlines to Industrial Zones and communities; and

Be it further Resolved that the Nevada AFL-CIO supports the implementation of the 2021 Nevada State Rail Plan and the NDOT State Rail Blueprint for Action; and

Be it Finally Resolved that the Nevada AFL-CIO strongly encourages Nevada Congressional Delegates and the Governor’s office to pursue the development of this critical infrastructure henceforth from the 2022 Constitutional Convention.

*Submitted by Nevada AFL-CIO Vice President Mike Pilcher on behalf of the Transportation Trades Committee (TTC)
*Adopted at the Nevada State AFL-CIO 66th Constitutional Convention