



Re: STB Hearing-AMTRAK expansion of Gulf Coast Service Line

Intent: Participate in the public hearing on February 15, 2022, regarding Docket No. FD 36496

Presenter: Kyle Lewis, City Councilman

Time Request: 3 minutes

Please accept this support letter from the Bay Saint Louis city council as notice of the planned AMTRAK expansion of Gulf Coast Service Line. The city of Bay Saint Louis along with the Hancock County Board of Supervisors agreed to invest \$50,000 each in making necessary ADA compliant upgrades to the historic L&N Train Depot. The council recognizes the rich historic tradition the depot has provided in our community, in fact, as Councilman Gary Knoblock puts it, "The Bay Saint Louis Depot is the pearl of our city." In recognizing the great importance the depot grounds play in our community, Bay Saint Louis has approved matching funds for the revitalization of the depot grounds.

We believe the passenger rail restoration will provide a great economic lift in our community by providing a unique opportunity for passengers to easily, safely and affordably gain access to one of the city's key corridors. The Depot grounds serve as great opportunity to display our unique traditions which currently house the Alice Moseley Folk Art and Mardi Gras Museums. In addition, the depot ground park also provides venue to art and music festivals where round. Also, located across from the depot is Depot Row which has seen tremendous revitalization used for both residential and commercial usage.

We believe the passenger rail line will be an incubator for this area in highlighting the many great offerings our beautiful city has to offer. The rail line has the ability to safely and affordably connect thousands of visitors to this once thriving area and in turn connect to other service lines along the coast. The addition of the line will be an economic driver not only for Bay Saint Louis but for the entire Gulf Coast communities which supports our expansion and goal in creating jobs in our tourism, retail and restaurant industries.

It is with great hopes the plan to restore this opportunity will continue and support the great expansion we are seeing on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Respectfully,

Kyle Lewis

Bay Saint Louis City Council