



RESOLUTION NO. 40376

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS

2 A RESOLUTION expressing City Council support for the implementation of the
3 safety recommendations approved by the National Transportation Safety
4 Board on May 21, 2019, as a result of the investigation of the Amtrak
5 passenger train 501 derailment near DuPont, Washington and further,
6 encourages the resumption of service as soon as enactment of safety
7 recommendations allows.

8 WHEREAS there have been a number of preventable North American
9 passenger train derailments that have resulted in significant loss of life and
10 irreparable damage, and

11 WHEREAS public safety is a primary goal and strategic priority of the City
12 of Tacoma, and

13 WHEREAS, on December 18, 2017, Amtrak passenger train 501, traveling
14 southbound on its first revenue service run on the Amtrak Cascades line using the
15 Point Defiance Bypass, derailed from a bridge near DuPont, Washington, while
16 traveling at a speed of 78 miles per hour around a 30-mile per hour curve, and

17 WHEREAS the derailment resulted in several rail cars falling into
18 Interstate 5 ("I-5") below, causing the death of three passengers, injuries to
19 57 passengers and crewmembers, and injuries to eight motorists on I-5, and

20 WHEREAS the derailment caused a two-day closure of southbound I-5,
21 which is the main north-south arterial in the area, and negatively impacted the
22 economy of the greater Pacific Northwest by obstructing interstate commerce,
23 significantly delaying the delivery of commercial goods and impacting motor
24 commuter traffic, and
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1 WHEREAS the damage caused by the derailment is estimated to total
2 \$25,800,000, and

3 WHEREAS the National Transportation Safety Board (“NTSB”) is an
4 independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating significant
5 transportation accidents in the United States, including railroad and highway
6 accidents, and

7 WHEREAS the NTSB investigated the derailment and approved findings, a
8 statement of probable cause, and safety recommendations at its Board meeting of
9 May 21, 2019, and

10 WHEREAS one of NTSB’s 53 findings included that, had a positive train
11 control system been fully installed and operational at the time of the accident, it
12 would have stopped the train prior to the curve, thus preventing the accident, and

13 WHEREAS the NTSB approved 26 safety recommendations and three
14 reapproved safety recommendations for parties essential to the safety of
15 passenger rail travel in Washington State, including the Secretary of
16 Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration, United States Department of
17 Defense Fire and Emergency Services Working Group, Washington State
18 Department Transportation, Amtrak, Oregon Department of Transportation, and
19 Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority, and

20 WHEREAS, due to the derailment accident, the use of the new Amtrak
21 Cascades station in Tacoma’s Freighthouse Square was put on hold, and
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WHEREAS the station, designed in consultation with an active Citizens Advisory Committee and City officials, is part of the \$89.1 million Point Defiance Bypass high-speed rail project which will reroute passenger train traffic through DuPont, Lakewood, and Tacoma, creating a faster and more reliable travel route, and

WHEREAS, due to the City's substantial involvement in the project, the City has an interest in the safety recommendations being enacted so the Point Defiance Bypass route can be restarted, to ensure the financial viability of that property, and

WHEREAS the City Council expresses its support for the implementation of the safety recommendations approved by the NTSB on May 21, 2019, to improve passenger rail travel and prevent future tragedies of this type from occurring, and further, encourages the resumption of service as soon as enactment of safety recommendations allows; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

That the City Council hereby expresses its support for the implementation of the safety recommendations approved by the National Transportation Safety Board on May 21, 2019, as a result of the investigation of the Amtrak passenger train 501 derailment near DuPont, Washington, as more specifically set forth in



1 the document on file in the office of the City Clerk, and further, encourages the
2 resumption of service and use of the new Amtrak Cascades Station in Tacoma's
3 Freighthouse Square as soon as enactment of safety recommendations allows.
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5 Adopted _____
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8 Mayor

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11 City Clerk

12 Approved as to form:
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15 City Attorney

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