

**Western North Carolina Rail Committee, Inc.  
PO Drawer 700  
Marion, NC 28752**

Dear Western NC Rail Community:

Attached you will find a resolution drafted by the Western North Carolina Rail Committee, Inc. for you to consider for your local government's adoption. We invite you to draft a local resolution that supports re-establishing a passenger rail connection between Asheville and Salisbury and urge you to do this as quickly as possible.

By way of background you should know that the Western North Carolina Rail Committee, Inc was reconstituted and incorporate in 2017 after functioning for nearly 20 years as the Western North Carolina Rail Corridor Committee, originally a Task Force of the Asheville Chamber of Commerce. The newly reorganized WNC Rail Committee, Inc. has three foci: (1) to Improve and expand freight rail service in WNC; (2) to increase the number of tourist and excursion trains in the region (such as the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad and the Craggy Mountain Line); and (3) re-establish a passenger rail connection to Western North Carolina beginning with AMTRAK Thruway Bus Service between Asheville and Salisbury as a first-step toward launching a dedicated train to serve the communities along this route.

The urgency of this request is related to the willingness of AMTRAK to launch its Thruway Bus Service along this route and the cooperation of the NC Department of Transportation Rail Division to manage the contract for this service. An allocation to operate this service is being considered by the North Carolina Legislature and we need letters of support from communities, organizations and agencies along the route. Since the budget process in the Legislature must be completed by June, we need action immediately as we make our case for re-establishing a passenger rail connection to Western North Carolina.

The last passenger train to operate between Asheville and Salisbury departed in 1975 and the time has come to restore a rail connection for our region. Please consider adopting a form of the draft resolution below and submit it to Freddie Killough @ [freddiek@frontier.com](mailto:freddiek@frontier.com), or PO Drawer 700, Marion, NC 28752

Sincerely,

Ray Rapp, Chair  
Steve Little, Vice-Chair  
Freddie Killough, Secretary-Treasurer



***Western North Carolina Rail Committee Inc is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation with focus on rail freight, rail excursions and passenger rail access in Western North Carolina.***