

A RESOLUTION

BY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE INTEREST OF THE ATLANTA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND ATLANTA BELTLINE, INC. IN SECURING THE NORTHEAST RAIL CORRIDOR OF THE BELTLINE AND PROTESTING ACTIONS BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND AMTRAK TO CONDEMN SAID CORRIDOR FOR HEAVY RAIL OPERATIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Development Authority and Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. recently acquired the real estate underlying an approximately 4.5-mile long segment of the Northeast rail corridor that was formerly a part of the Norfolk Southern Railway System; and

WHEREAS, said line segment remains subject to a freight easement owned by Norfolk Southern; and

WHEREAS, at the City's request, Norfolk Southern sought the abandonment of THE Northeast BeltLine Rail Corridor from the federal Surface Transportation Board (STB); and

WHEREAS, as part of the BeltLine transit planning process, the abandonment was slated to take effect on January 22; and

WHEREAS, without forewarning and after the federal comment period ended, Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Amtrak intervened to halt the abandonment process; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak also filed its intent to condemn said corridor for another use, potentially high-speed intercity rail; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta has spent three years establishing the BeltLine Redevelopment Plan, invested tens of millions of dollars to secure the Northeast BeltLine Corridor, and for more than two years has engaged thousands of citizens in numerous public meetings to plan the future of their neighborhoods along the Beltline; and

WHEREAS, GDOT and Amtrak have now taken actions to thwart and threaten the BeltLine.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The Atlanta City Council supports the interests of the Atlanta Development Authority and Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. in securing the Northeast rail corridor (a.k.a. the "Decatur Belt") for the BeltLine project and protests actions by the Georgia Department of

Transportation and Amtrak to use said corridor for intercity heavy rail operations, or for purposes otherwise contrary to the Connect Atlanta Plan and Concept 3 Plan already endorsed by this Council.

SECTION 2: The City of Atlanta Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this adopted Resolution to all members of the Georgia delegation to the United States Congress.