



Resolution in Support of Expanding Amtrak Rail Service to Michigan's Upper Peninsula

WHEREAS, the City of Marquette recognizes the importance of accessible, reliable, and efficient transportation infrastructure in promoting regional connectivity and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of Amtrak's passenger rail service into Michigan's Upper Peninsula would provide a transformative opportunity to strengthen the connection of the two peninsulas of Michigan with interstate mobility, equitable opportunity for critical services, and provide safe travel options for residents, visitors, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, increased transportation access has been shown to stimulate economic development by attracting tourism, supporting local commerce, enabling workforce mobility, and enhancing the quality of life for community members; and

WHEREAS, Marquette, as a regional hub and destination city, is uniquely positioned to serve as a strategic gateway for enhanced rail connectivity, linking the Upper Peninsula to larger metropolitan areas and fostering a more resilient and diversified economy; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak's expansion into underserved regions such as the Upper Peninsula aligns with national goals to invest in infrastructure, reduce carbon emissions, and promote sustainable transportation alternatives; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's Upper Peninsula already possesses significant rail infrastructure, including active freight rail lines and established easements under the ownership of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), which present a practical and cost-effective foundation for passenger rail expansion; and

WHEREAS, establishing rail connections between Michigan's Upper Peninsula and existing Amtrak routes in Wisconsin would not only link critical economic corridors, but also strengthen the broader Midwest economy by facilitating the movement of people, goods, and services across state lines;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Marquette formally supports and advocates for the expansion of Amtrak rail service to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, including but not limited to potential routes and station placements that serve Marquette and surrounding communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Marquette urges state and federal transportation agencies, regional stakeholders, and elected officials to prioritize funding, planning, and partnerships that make this vital transportation investment a reality;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Amtrak leadership, and Michigan's congressional delegation to demonstrate the City of Marquette's strong support for expanding rail service into the Upper Peninsula.

Duly adopted by the Marquette City Commission on this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Jessica Hanley, Mayor

Certified to be a true copy on this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk