

RESOLUTION 15-011

**MOBILE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (MATS)
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
Mobile Metropolitan Planning Organization
Support of the Restoration of Passenger Rail to the Gulf Coast**

WHEREAS, the Mobile Metro Planning Organization (MPO) is the organization designated by the Governor of Alabama as being responsible, together with the State of Alabama, for carrying out the continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for the Mobile MPO Planning Area; and,

WHEREAS, the nation's passenger rail system connects people and regional economies throughout this country and represents one unified, integrated transportation system; and,

WHEREAS, the Railroad Reform, Enhancement, and Efficiency Act (S. 1626) passed the Senate Commerce Committee on June 25, 2015 that would ensure adequate fiscal scrutiny is provided for each of Amtrak's lines of service, while not bifurcating or placing prioritization on the Northeast Corridor (NEC) at the expense of the rest of the national system; and,

WHEREAS, the Mobile MPO recommends and supports the restoration of dependable, daily passenger rail service along the suspended route between New Orleans, Louisiana and Orlando, Florida as previously stated in Resolution adopted by the Mobile MPO on August 12, 2009; and,

WHEREAS, the Senate bill creates a Gulf Coast Rail Service Working Group to evaluate the restoration of service between New Orleans, Louisiana and Orlando, Florida; and,

WHEREAS, we are committed to working with the USDOT to ensure the successor to the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act authorizes adequate funding for the one, unified, national passenger rail system;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that after review and evaluation, the MATS Metropolitan Planning Organization in session this 19th day of August, 2015, does hereby encourage the approach used in the Railroad Reform, Enhancement, and Efficiency Act (S.1626) included in future House-Senate negotiation.

ATTEST:



Chairman, ICC



Chairman, MPO