Council Member _____ made a motion to approve the following resolution. A vote of _____ in favor.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN SUPPORTING STATE FUNDING FOR THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA PASSENGER RAIL CORRIDOR

RESOLUTION NO. R-26-46

WHEREAS, the Town of Black Mountain recognizes the importance of a safe, efficient, and connected transportation network that serves residents, businesses, and visitors throughout North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget includes $28 million as the first installment of the State's required matching funds to advance passenger rail service between Salisbury and Asheville; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Western North Carolina passenger rail corridor would connect Asheville and surrounding communities to Salisbury and North Carolina's existing passenger rail network, providing access to destinations throughout the Southeast and beyond; and

WHEREAS, this initial state investment would position North Carolina to leverage approximately $532 million in federal funding through the Federal Railroad Administration, resulting in an estimated return of four federal dollars for every one state dollar invested; and

WHEREAS, without the required state matching funds, North Carolina would be unable to access these significant federal transportation investments; and

WHEREAS, communities throughout Western North Carolina have long supported expanded passenger rail service as an important component of a multimodal transportation system that enhances mobility, economic development, workforce access, tourism, and regional connectivity; and

WHEREAS, existing passenger rail service in North Carolina has demonstrated increasing public demand while supporting downtown revitalization, economic activity, and sustainable transportation options; and

WHEREAS, Western North Carolina destinations have consistently ranked among the most requested expansion opportunities identified by NC By Train customers; and

WHEREAS, investment in the Western North Carolina passenger rail corridor represents a strategic opportunity to strengthen transportation connections, expand travel choices, support economic growth, and reinforce North Carolina's statewide passenger rail network; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council appreciates the continued leadership of the North Carolina Department of Transportation in advancing passenger rail initiatives and aligning transportation investments with the needs of communities across the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Black Mountain that:

1. The Town of Black Mountain hereby expresses its strong support for the Governor's proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 funding of $28 million to advance passenger rail service along the Western North Carolina corridor between Salisbury and Asheville.
2. The Town Council encourages the North Carolina General Assembly to approve the proposed funding and continue supporting investments necessary to expand passenger rail service throughout North Carolina.
3. The Town Council recognizes the significant transportation, economic, tourism, and regional connectivity benefits that expanded passenger rail service would provide to Western North Carolina and the State as a whole.
4. The Town Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to members of the North Carolina General Assembly representing the region, and other appropriate officials.

ADOPTED this 8th day of June, 2026.

_____
C. Michael Sobol, Mayor

_____
Archie Pertiller, Vice Mayor

_____
Alice Berry, Councilmember

_____
Larry Harris, Councilmember

_____
Doug Hay, Councilmember

_____
Ryan Stone, Councilmember

ATTEST:

_____
Wesley M. Barker, Town Clerk