

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

RESOLUTION NO. 87-26

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A CONNECTED STATEWIDE USE OF THE THREE
NEW MOFFAT TUNNEL PASSENGER RAIL SLOTS, WITH GRAND JUNCTION AS
THE WESTERN TERMINUS**

WHEREAS, in 2025 the State of Colorado and Union Pacific Railroad executed a 25-year renewal of the Moffat Tunnel lease and a 25-year Mountain Passenger Rail Agreement, permitting three additional daily passenger round trips through the Moffat Tunnel; and

WHEREAS, those three round trips are finite and, once allocated under a 25-year agreement, will not realistically become available again for decades; and

WHEREAS, Grand Junction is the most populous city in western Colorado, with 71,827 residents within Mesa County's population of 162,845, and serves as the commercial, medical, educational, and transportation hub of the Western Slope; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Junction Amtrak station handled 27,051 passengers in federal fiscal year 2024 with only one long-distance train in each direction each day, and seat inventory on a long-distance train is allocated across the entire route rather than to demand at any one station, such that local riders are routinely advised that trains are sold out because seats must be held for boardings farther upstream; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Department of Transportation operates approximately six daily Bustang round trips between Denver and Grand Junction, and ridership on that service increased from 31,169 in 2020 to 106,812 in 2024; and

WHEREAS, the historic Grand Junction Union Depot is being restored through public/private investment of approximately \$5.4 million, Amtrak has committed to a long-term lease and a return to the building ahead of its 2027 reopening, and Amtrak is investing approximately \$9 million in a fully ADA-compliant platform; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Department of Transportation will construct the Grand Junction Mobility Hub across the street from the Union Depot beginning in 2027, funded through a federal RAISE award, such that more than \$27 million is committed to a multimodal gateway in the heart of downtown Grand Junction; and

WHEREAS, the corridor between Denver and Grand Junction already hosts daily Amtrak service over an existing Union Pacific main line and carries the signal and train-control systems federally required for intercity passenger operation, such that the service contemplated by this Resolution is additional frequency on an existing corridor serving an existing station rather than a new intercity route; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Junction is a partner in the Grand Junction Mobility Hub, and the Grand Junction Downtown Development Authority awarded a \$500,000 grant to the Union Depot restoration in September 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted the One Grand Junction Comprehensive Plan on December 16, 2020 by Ordinance No. 4971, Plan Principle 4 of which directs the City to strengthen multimodal connections in and between its districts and identifies as a priority "accessing transportation hubs such as the Amtrak station, Bustang, and Greyhound facilities" (Goal 2, policy a.vi, p. 24); and

WHEREAS, Plan Principle 4 further directs the City to promote continued reinvestment in the Downtown, Riverfront, Rail, and University Districts and to encourage the adaptive reuse of historic structures (Goal 3, pp. 24-25), and to support Downtown Grand Junction in implementing its Plan of Development (Goal 1, policy b, p. 24); and

WHEREAS, Plan Principle 2 of the Comprehensive Plan directs the City to support the expansion of a responsible and sustainable tourism industry and to support the Grand Junction Regional Airport as a regional transportation hub (Goals 4 and 6, pp. 17-18), reflecting the City's practice of formally supporting the intercity transportation gateways upon which its economy depends; and

WHEREAS, additional passenger rail service would benefit the City's economy, its tourism and hospitality sectors, and residents who depend upon intercity travel for medical care, education, and employment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO:

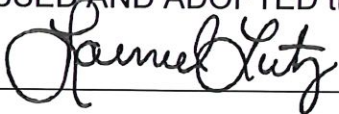
Section 1. The City Council of the City of Grand Junction supports planning the three additional Moffat Tunnel round trips as a connected statewide passenger rail system rather than as isolated additions, and specifically supports dedicating one of those slots to a route continuing west through Glenwood Springs to Grand Junction, with Grand Junction as the western terminus.

Section 2. The City Council of the City of Grand Junction urges the Governor of Colorado, the Colorado Department of Transportation, and the Transportation Commission of Colorado to evaluate and program such a route, and to preserve flexibility to develop the remaining slots as demand and operations warrant.

Section 3. The City Council directs the City Clerk to transmit certified copies of this Resolution to the Governor of Colorado; the Executive Director and Deputy Director of the Colorado Department of Transportation; the Regional Transportation Director of CDOT Region 3; the Director of the CDOT Division of Transit and Rail; each member of the Transportation Commission of Colorado; the Grand Junction legislative delegation; the chairs and members of the Senate Transportation & Energy Committee, the House Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee, and the Transportation Legislation Review Committee; and the Colorado Congressional delegation.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of September 2026.



Mayor, City of Grand Junction

ATTEST:



City Clerk

