



# Grand Junction

State of Colorado

## PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** *ridership on Amtrak reaches historic high levels each year and is on track in 2013 for its best ridership year ever, further demonstrating the increased demand for passenger rail services; and*
- WHEREAS,** *in 2012, Amtrak provided statewide passenger rail travel to 205,942 travelers boarding or detraining at Colorado stations including 31,999 in Grand Junction; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Amtrak annually provides passenger rail travel to over 30 million Americans residing in 46 states; and*
- WHEREAS,** *for many rural Americans, including residents of southeastern and western Colorado, Amtrak represents the a major passenger transportation alternative, linking Grand Junction with Denver and the rest of the country; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Grand Junction serves as a gateway community to Colorado; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Grand Junction hosts Amtrak's premier California Zephyr passenger train, a tool for economic growth that creates transportation-oriented development, a more livable community, and brings tourists to our city and state; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Amtrak trains and infrastructure carry commuters to and from work, people to medical appointments and to see friends and relatives, and visitors to Colorado vacation destinations, providing a safe and reliable travel choice while reducing congestion on roads and in the skies; and*
- WHEREAS,** *passenger rail is the most fuel-efficient form of motorized ground transportation, thereby providing cleaner transportation alternatives and contributing towards America's energy security. When combined with all modes of transportation, passenger railroads emit only 0.2 percent of the travel industry's total greenhouse gases, and one freight train can move a ton of freight 457 miles on one gallon of fuel; and*
- WHEREAS,** *on May 10, 1869, the "golden spike" was driven into the final tie at Promontory Summit, Utah, to join the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific Railroads, ceremonially completing the first transcontinental railroad and, therefore, connecting both coasts of the United States.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Pitts, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of Grand Junction, do hereby proclaim May 11, 2013 as**

### **"NATIONAL TRAIN DAY"**

*in the City of Grand Junction, and encourage the community to embrace Amtrak's invitation to Discover the Rail Way<sup>SM</sup> and to recognize and celebrate the pivotal role that a robust intercity passenger rail system can provide for better mobility for persons of all abilities.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official Seal of the City of Grand Junction this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2013.*

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Mayor

