

CITY OF BOSTON

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HIGH-SPEED EAST-WEST RAIL BETWEEN BOSTON AND SPRINGFIELD

WHEREAS: Boston's thriving economy and growing population are both indicators of the City's success and also factors exacerbating the City's housing prices and traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS: Springfield and the Western Massachusetts region face opposite challenges, including declining population, employment, and housing demand; and

WHEREAS: The median rent in Hampden County in Western Massachusetts is \$821, while the median rent in Suffolk County has reached \$1,298; and

WHEREAS: Improved regional transit is an ideal yet under-explored element of the solution to Boston's housing cost and congestion challenges, because allowing easier public transit from areas outside of Boston into the region's economic center would take pressure off of the Boston housing market and commuters off of Boston's roads; and

WHEREAS: East-West rail could also form a key part of Boston and the Commonwealth's carbon reduction goals; and

WHEREAS: Massachusetts recently began the "East-West Passenger Rail Study" to investigate high-speed train improvements between Boston and Springfield, an initiative championed by State Senator Eric Lesser; and

WHEREAS: The Boston City Council has discussed other important regional transit improvements, such as the North-South Rail Link, but has not explored the benefits of making Boston, "the Hub of the Universe," also a hub for East-West Rail; **THEREFORE, BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the members of the Boston City Council, in meeting assembled, hereby proclaim their support for high-speed East-West passenger rail between Boston and Springfield, and urge the positive resolution of the East-West Passenger Rail Study and further state action to improve regional transit between Boston and Western Massachusetts.