
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 772 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY METZGAR, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA, EVANKOVICH, FLECK,
GABLER, GROVE, HELM, MILLARD, RAPP, SCHMOTZER, STERN, WATERS
AND BEAR, JUNE 13, 2012

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, JUNE 13, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the United States Secretary of Transportation to
2 issue a TIGER grant for the construction of the Rockwood
3 Station project and urging the Pennsylvania Congressional
4 Delegation to support the project.

5 WHEREAS, The Rockwood Passenger Rail Station is a multimodal
6 project to design and construct a new Amtrak passenger stop in
7 Rockwood Borough, Somerset County, Pennsylvania; and

8 WHEREAS, Amtrak's Capitol Limited operates on the CSX rail
9 line, but does not currently stop at Rockwood, with the nearest
10 stops in Cumberland, 48.6 miles east of Rockwood, and
11 Connellsville, 42.9 miles west of Rockwood; and

12 WHEREAS, Rockwood is located at a crossroad in Somerset
13 County, with valuable access to the Great Allegheny Passage
14 trail stretching from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C.; and

15 WHEREAS, The project will include a new station platform and
16 canopy, bicycle facilities, parking lot with designated shuttle
17 pick-up, creation of priority bicycle corridors in the station
18 area, upgrade and installation of new signals and complete

1 necessary track work to facilitate a new rail stop in Rockwood;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The Rockwood Station project will establish a
4 leading national example of rail and bicycle integration and
5 fill a substantial public transportation void with one of
6 Pennsylvania's premier natural regions, the Laurel Highlands;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Rockwood's passenger rail history ended in 1971 when
9 the B&O Railroad ceased to use the old station located just
10 across the bridge at the south end of Market Street; and

11 WHEREAS, With the potential for a passenger rail stop,
12 Rockwood could once again emerge as a rail destination; and

13 WHEREAS, The Rockwood Station on the Amtrak Capitol Limited
14 line is more than a historical link to past prosperity; it is
15 poised to become a gateway to a new future; and

16 WHEREAS, The Rockwood Station project will make this vision a
17 reality; and

18 WHEREAS, The new station site is located in downtown
19 Rockwood, along existing CSX right-of-way between Chestnut and
20 Bridge Streets; and

21 WHEREAS, The site for the station, located at the Rockwood
22 Mill Shoppes and Opera House at 450 Main Street, is ideal for
23 connections to existing community development; and

24 WHEREAS, Rockwood boasts several bed and breakfasts, a
25 campground and a hostel, all within close proximity to the new
26 station, to accommodate active travelers that will be attracted
27 to the area by the new station; and

28 WHEREAS, The Rockwood Station project will complete design
29 and construction of a new, intermodal transportation hub in
30 downtown Rockwood, which is fully accessible in accordance with

1 the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to benefit Somerset
2 County and the entire Laurel Highlands region; and

3 WHEREAS, According to Amtrak's standard ridership model,
4 using a fiscal year 2009 baseline, it is anticipated that at
5 least 2,540 trips will be taken each year from the Rockwood
6 Station at opening; and

7 WHEREAS, This number only accounts for the increase in
8 mobility of Somerset County residents and does not include trips
9 generated by the Great Allegheny Passage and other prominent
10 attractions in the Laurel Highlands region; and

11 WHEREAS, According to a study completed by VisitPA, in 2009,
12 2.6 million overnight trips were taken to the Laurel Highlands
13 region of Pennsylvania, and during the same period, 4.7 million
14 day trips were taken; and

15 WHEREAS, Analyzing only the existing visitors to the Laurel
16 Highlands region, at least 4.3 million people could potentially
17 benefit from the Rockwood Station for their traveling needs; and

18 WHEREAS, This potential, combined with the vast improvement
19 to the mobility of residents of Somerset County, creates the
20 foundation for a project that will profoundly impact the lives
21 of millions; and

22 WHEREAS, The Somerset County Planning Commission, the
23 Somerset County Rails-to-Trails Association, the Community
24 Foundation for the Alleghenies, the Laurel Highlands Visitors
25 Bureau and Amtrak have jointly submitted a request for \$3.9
26 million in grants from the United States Department of
27 Transportation's TIGER Grant Program for 2012 in an effort to
28 complete the financing for the station project; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
30 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the United States

1 Secretary of Transportation to issue a TIGER grant to the
2 Somerset County applicants for the construction of the Rockwood
3 Station project; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
5 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Pennsylvania Congressional
6 Delegation to take action to support the project as well; and be
7 it further

8 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
9 United States Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood, and to
10 each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.