

Texarkana, Texas: Resolution No. 2024-048

Texarkana, Arkansas: Resolution No. _____

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEXARKANA, TEXAS, AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF TEXARKANA, ARKANSAS, SUPPORTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 CONSOLIDATED RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS (CRISI) GRANT APPLICATION FOR UNION STATION IMPROVMENTS; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Railroad Administration Notice of Funding Opportunity for \$2.4 billion in grant funding through the CRISI grant program is open; and

WHEREAS, the Cities of Texarkana, Texas, and Texarkana, Arkansas, are applying for the CRISI grant. Texarkana’s Union Station redevelopment project sets a bold vision for future growth rail transportation within the twin cities of Texarkana, USA on the Texas and Arkansas border, a historically disadvantaged rural community. Originally established as a railroad and industrial center, Texarkana, USA has grown into a regional agriculture, retail, transportation, and wholesale service center. This phase of the project aims to acquire the site “as a capital project” and fund the preliminary engineering needed for redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, the two cities have a shared interest. The site is currently an eye-sore and one of the only remaining non-renovated union station facilities along the Amtrak Texas Eagle Route. Additionally, the only operating portion of the site is in serious need of repair to make the site more ADA friendly for passengers. This site has been around since the founding of both cities and staff realizes that its restoration is vital to a successful downtown revitalization, which is part of the cities’ comprehensive plan. This project will preserve the building’s rich history while contributing to the economic growth that has started in downtown Texarkana as well as improve passenger safety. Potential funds from the CRISI Grant program, for building acquisition and preliminary engineering, along with other potential funds from tax credits and Amtrak’s improvement funds, will allow for future redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, this project demonstrates a valuable contribution to both cities’ continuing efforts toward the redevelopment of downtown Texarkana which will improve the multimodal transportation in Texarkana, USA. Working in close coordination with Amtrak officials, the redevelopment of Union Station will include, but not be limited to, passenger station amenity improvements and ADA accessibility. These upgrades will lead to emissions reduction and public health benefits, reduced pavement maintenance costs, and other economic development gains. The station

would become a viable multi-purpose building with passenger rail, offices, and event and future business accelerator space, providing the opportunity for a multi-modal means of rail transportation along with a potential bus service route through the Texarkana Urban Transit Authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEXARKANA, TEXAS, AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF TEXARKANA, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1: The City Council of the City of Texarkana, Texas, and the Board of Directors of the City of Texarkana, Arkansas, hereby approve the support of the Texarkana CRISI Grant Application for Texarkana Union Station Redevelopment and authorize the City Managers, jointly, to partner with other entities for the acquisition of Texarkana Union Station.

SECTION 2: This Joint Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval by both Cities.

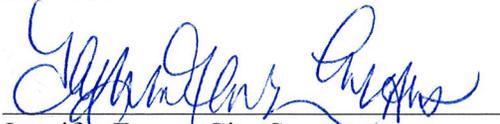
Texarkana, Texas: PASSED AND APPROVED in Regular Council Session this 22nd day of April, 2024.

Texarkana, Arkansas: PASSED AND APPROVED on this the ____ day of _____, 2024.

TEXARKANA, TEXAS


Bob Bruggeman, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Evans, City Secretary

6:28p.m.

APPROVED:


Jeffery C. Lewis, City Attorney

TEXARKANA, ARKANSAS

Allen L. Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:

Heather Soyars, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Joshua L. Potter, City Attorney