

1 State of Arkansas  
2 87th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2009

HR 1025

4  
5 By: Representative Carroll  
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## 8 HOUSE RESOLUTION

9 RECOMMENDING THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
10 TRANSPORTATION AND ALL TRANSPORTATION  
11 STAKEHOLDERS WORK TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR AN  
12 INTERSTATE LIGHT RAIL THAT CONNECTS ARKANSAS TO  
13 TEXAS, OKLAHOMA, AND MISSOURI FOR THE SAFE AND  
14 EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION OF PERSONS IN THE  
15 TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY AND TO ENSURE THAT ARKANSAS  
16 IS IN THE POSITION TO RECEIVE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR  
17 INTERSTATE LIGHT RAIL PROJECTS.

### 18 Subtitle

19 TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR AN INTERSTATE  
20 LIGHT RAIL THAT CONNECTS ARKANSAS TO  
21 TEXAS, OKLAHOMA, AND MISSOURI.  
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25 WHEREAS, the United States is experiencing a resurgence in the  
26 construction and use of light rail because it:

27 (1) Can be integrated effectively and seamlessly into urban  
28 settings;

29 (2) Is flexible and can be adapted over time to meet growing  
30 needs;

31 (3) Is cost-effective because it does not need to operate on an  
32 exclusive right-of-way;

33 (4) Reduces motor vehicle congestion during peak usage times,  
34 which results in time and fuel savings for users;

35 (5) Is environmentally friendly and reduces pollution;

36 (6) Reduces injuries caused by motor vehicle accidents; and



1 (7) Spurs economic growth in construction and engineering and  
2 attracts new industry and business; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation has been successful  
5 in the construction and use of the Georgia Rail Passenger Program, which  
6 contains seven (7) commuter rail lines, seven (7) lines of intercity rail  
7 service, and the Multi-Modal Passenger Terminal; and

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9 WHEREAS, Alaska has its own intrastate railroad network that is  
10 mandated to be self-sustaining and that is a good example for Arkansas  
11 because Alaska is a less densely populated and more rural state; and

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13 WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides stewardship  
14 of combined formula and discretionary programs totaling more than ten billion  
15 dollars (\$10,000,000,000) to support a variety of locally planned,  
16 constructed, and operated public transportation systems throughout the United  
17 States including light rail projects; and

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19 WHEREAS, Arkansas is in Region VI of the Federal Transit  
20 Administration, and Region VI manages more than eight hundred thirty (830)  
21 active grants with one hundred twenty-six (126) grantees totaling nearly four  
22 billion five hundred million dollars (\$4,500,000,000) in federal funds; and

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24 WHEREAS, it is unclear if Arkansas has received any of these federal  
25 funds; and

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27 WHEREAS, the University of Arkansas Community Design Center has  
28 knowledge and expertise in light rail and mass transit that could be used to  
29 develop an interstate light rail plan; and

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31 WHEREAS, other stakeholders in the transportation area have valuable  
32 experience and information on this issue,

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34 NOW THEREFORE,

35 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
36 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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**THAT** the General Assembly recommends that the House Committee on Public Transportation and all stakeholders in the transportation area work to develop a plan for an interstate light rail that connects Arkansas to Texas, Oklahoma, and Missouri for the safe and efficient transportation of persons in the twenty-first century and to ensure that Arkansas is in the position to receive federal funding for interstate light rail projects.