

Resolution # 7

Fighting for Infrastructure Investment

WHEREAS, shortly after our last Convention, several TWU members attended a ceremony at the White House to bear witness to President Biden signing into law an infrastructure bill that, over a five year span, has benefitted every TWU Division, investing in mass transit, AMTRAK and airline/airport improvements; and

WHEREAS, the law also provides funding for the mandatory establishment of joint labor-management Safety Committees at public transit agencies, which enables local unions to have more input into all safety-related matters. The law also prohibited the outsourcing of work covered by Amtrak's collective bargaining agreements and set aside 5% of every federal grant for zero-emission equipment and facilities for workforce training; and

WHEREAS, as that funding concludes, we anticipate future appropriation battles to be more difficult as priorities in Washington change; and

WHEREAS, the TWU will continue to fight for infrastructure investment at the federal, state, and local levels. Particularly, the TWU will play a critical role in the next surface transportation reauthorization bill that will be drafted by Congress in the coming months. One of the top priorities for the TWU in that legislation is to make sure that federal transit dollars can be spent on operational funds, such as hiring more Bus Operators to improve service and provide more good jobs. Under current law, federal transit funds are limited in what they can be devoted to, such as infrastructure projects or new equipment, and not on operations. There is bipartisan support for the TWU's position.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the delegates to the 27th Constitutional Convention urge the TWU International to provide the necessary resources into the TWU's political action apparatus, to ensure that infrastructure money continues to benefit TWU's Air, Transit, and Rail members across the country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: the TWU will fight to change the federal funding structure to allow transit dollars to be used for operations as part of the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization bill; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: the TWU will work to build support, regardless of party affiliation, for lawmakers and political candidates who support pro-transport worker infrastructure funding policies.