BOROUGH OF NARBERTH MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA RESOLUTION NO. 2025-11

A RESOLUTION OF NARBERTH BOROUGH COUNCIL, NARBERTH BOROUGH, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH PERMANENT, DEDICATED, SUSTAINABLE FUNDING SUFFICIENT TO RESTORE SERVICE FOR THE ENTIRE SEPTA NETWORK, INCLUDING THE PAOLI/THORNDALE LINE – AND, ULTIMATELY, TO EXPAND SERVICE AND ACHIEVE A FREQUENT, SAFE, RELIABLE SYSTEM FOR ALL RIDERS.

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA)'s ability to operate safe, frequent, reliable transit service is an invaluable, irreplaceable, and foundational service for the Narberth community, for Narberth's local economy, and for the ability of Narberth residents to move around southeastern Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Narberth Station, a station on the Paoli/Thorndale regional rail line, sits at the very heart of the Borough, was critical to Narberth's growth and development in the early 20th Century as a community with a mix of residential and commercial uses, and was important to Narberth's incorporation as a Borough; and

WHEREAS, SEPTA transports Narberth residents as they commute to work, visit friends and family, travel to shops and restaurants, and meet their day-to-day transportation needs – while also helping sustain our local businesses by bringing people into downtown Narberth; and

WHEREAS, funding for SEPTA and other transit agencies in Pennsylvania has stagnated while costs have escalated, a situation that threatens to impose service cuts of up to 45 percent and fare increases of over 20 percent on SEPTA riders; and

WHEREAS, these cuts would be devastating to the Narberth community, eliminating every SEPTA route serving the Borough, shuttering a station first opened 155 years ago, and fundamentally altering the everyday lives of countless Narberth residents, workers, and business owners; and

WHEREAS, the Narberth Borough Council envisions a different future for SEPTA, in which local, regional, and state policymakers work together to address SEPTA's immediate funding crisis, avert an impending transit disaster, and ultimately rebuild a stronger, more comfortable, more reliable system, with 15-minute frequencies and regular, all-day service; and

WHEREAS, the Narberth Borough Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 2024-15 on August 15, 2024, in support of establishing permanent and recurring funding for SEPTA sufficient to provide safe, clean, comfortable, frequent, and reliable service for the entire SEPTA network, including the Paoli/Thorndale regional rail line; and

WHEREAS, every Narberth Borough Council Member signed a letter to the Governor on November 13, 2024, supporting reallocating federal highway funding as a short-term strategy to avoid immediate service cuts to the SEPTA network; and

WHEREAS, the Borough is currently in the process of exploring transit-oriented land use policies to support and strengthen SEPTA and protect the long-term viability of SEPTA service for Narberth residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Narberth Borough Council believes it is vital that the Pennsylvania Governor and the General Assembly budget for transit, and is committed to working together with our local, regional, and state partners to deliver transit solutions that serve our residents and businesses and improve our quality of life; NOW, THEREFORE,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of Narberth Borough, the Borough hereby supports efforts to establish permanent, dedicated, sustainable funding sufficient to restore service for the entire SEPTA network, including the Paoli/Thorndale line – and, ultimately, to expand service and achieve a frequent, safe, reliable system for all riders.

RESOLVED AND APPROVED this 17th day of April, 2025.

ATTEST:

Narberth Borough Council

Maggie Dobbs, Borough Secretary

Frederic Bush, Council President