

# Whereas

*Whereas,* with the advent of the railroad in the 1820s, many Americans held a vision of binding together the nation through the construction of a railroad across the nation, from Atlantic to Pacific; and

*Whereas,* the City of Portland recognizes the importance of honoring efforts that provide common benefit and promotes opportunity for all its people; and

*Whereas,* building the first major national transportation infrastructure necessitated the employment of thousands of workers, many Chinese and Irish immigrants, Mormons, Native Americans, Free Blacks, and others who joined to work together to construct the railroad; and

*Whereas,* United States industrialists recruited thousands of Chinese workers to assist in the construction of the railroad; these laborers, who made up to 80 percent of the western workforce, were paid substandard wages and faced grueling hours and extremely harsh conditions in order to lay hundreds of miles of track; and

*Whereas,* the First Transcontinental Railroad was completed on May 10, 1869 by the joining of the two tracks with a symbolic “golden spike” at Promontory, Utah; and

*Whereas,* the United States Department of Labor awarded the Chinese Railroad Workers a place on the Department’s Hall of Honor in 2014 on the 145th Anniversary of the Railroad’s completion; and

*Whereas,* the length of a journey across the United States before the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad took six months was reduced to one week after its completion, and the cost of such a trip was reduced from \$1,000 to \$150; and

*Whereas,* the impact of the Transcontinental Railroad in the 19th century has been likened to the impact of the internet in the 21st century: transforming communications, commerce, and industry; facilitating the movement of peoples across the country; and greatly increasing the global presence of the United States; and

*Whereas,* schools and leaders across the City are encouraged to observe 2019, as the 150th Anniversary of the Completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, and celebrate the tireless efforts of all of those who overcame brutal obstacles, both natural and technological, to achieve the dream of uniting the country from coast to coast;

*Now, therefore,* I, Ted Wheeler, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the “City of Roses,” do hereby proclaim the year 2019 to be

*The 150th Anniversary of the Completion of the Transcontinental Railroad*

In Portland and encourage all residents to celebrate the tireless efforts of all those who overcame brutal obstacles, both natural and technological, to achieve the dream of uniting the country from coast to coast.

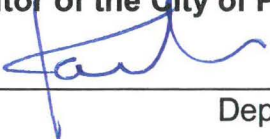
Proclaim the year 2019 to be The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Completion of the  
Transcontinental Railroad  
(Proclamation introduced by Mayor Wheeler)

NOV 20 2019

**PLACED ON FILE**

Filed NOV 12 2019

**MARY HULL CABALLERO**  
Auditor of the City of Portland

By  Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Hardesty		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		