

**SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE**  
**Municipal Offices**  
76 South Orange Ave  
Suite 302  
South Orange  
Essex County  
New Jersey 07079

www.southorange.org  
P 973.378.7715  
F 973.763.0987



## **RESOLUTION #2026-XXX**

**June 8, 2026**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND VILLAGE COUNCIL OF SOUTH ORANGE URGING THE PRESERVATION OF DIRECT EVENING SERVICE TO MOUNTAIN STATION**

**WHEREAS**, South Orange is one of New Jersey's premier transit-oriented communities and has long embraced the principle that transportation, housing, economic development, environmental sustainability, and public health are interconnected and mutually reinforcing public priorities; and

**WHEREAS**, South Orange was among the first municipalities to be designated as a Transit Village through the State's Transit Village Initiative, reflecting South Orange's longstanding commitment to leveraging public transportation investments to support walkable development, economic vitality, housing opportunity, environmental sustainability, and enhanced quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, South Orange is served by two New Jersey Transit rail stations, South Orange Station and Mountain Station, which together provide critical access to employment, education, healthcare, cultural institutions, and economic opportunities throughout New Jersey and the greater metropolitan region; and

**WHEREAS**, Mountain Station serves not only South Orange residents, but also commuters from neighboring communities who access rail service through walking, bicycling, municipal jitney service, ridesharing, and passenger drop-offs, creating an integrated regional mobility network that expands access to public transportation while reducing automobile dependency; and

**WHEREAS**, South Orange has invested significant local resources in supporting transit ridership through transit-oriented development, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, streetscape improvements, public safety enhancements, and one of New Jersey's longest-standing and most successful municipal jitney programs, advancing statewide objectives related to congestion reduction, air quality, greenhouse gas reduction, public health, transportation choice, and economic competitiveness; and



**WHEREAS**, South Orange has consistently aligned its planning and development policies with the State of New Jersey's smart growth objectives and became the first municipality in New Jersey to adopt a Housing Element and Fair Share Plan under the Fourth Round affordable housing framework, exceeding its prospective affordable housing obligation and directing substantial residential growth to transit-accessible locations consistent with equitable transit-oriented development and housing opportunity principles; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey Transit has announced a schedule modification that would combine the existing 6:19 p.m. Summit-bound train and 6:22 p.m. Dover-bound train departing New York Penn Station into a single 6:20 p.m. train while eliminating direct evening service to Mountain Station during a critical commuting period; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed schedule change would require Mountain Station riders to transfer trains at Newark Broad Street Station, lengthen commute times, reduce convenience, and may increase crowding on consolidated evening service, potentially discouraging transit use among commuters who currently rely upon direct rail access; and

**WHEREAS**, riders and transit advocates have organized a public petition and community outreach effort urging New Jersey Transit to preserve direct evening service to Mountain Station, reflecting meaningful community engagement and concern regarding the proposed service change; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Orange Mayor and Village Council believe there is value in further evaluating whether alternative service configurations may achieve New Jersey Transit's operational objectives while preserving direct service to Mountain Station and advancing the shared transportation, housing, environmental, economic development, and public health goals of both the State and local communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Village Council of South Orange, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, that they respectfully request that New Jersey Transit reconsider the proposed elimination of Mountain Station from the new 6:20 p.m. Morris & Essex Line evening service and evaluate alternatives that would preserve direct service while continuing to advance the agency's operational objectives; and



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the South Orange Mayor and Village Council support and commend the civic engagement of riders and residents who have advocated for the preservation of direct service to Mountain Station and encourage New Jersey Transit to continue working collaboratively with affected riders, local officials, and community stakeholders to assess the impacts of the proposed schedule change and identify solutions that support both system performance and rider convenience; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted to Kris Kolluri, President and Chief Executive Officer of New Jersey Transit; the New Jersey Transit Board of Directors; the Honorable Mikie Sherrill, Governor of the State of New Jersey; the 28th Legislative District Delegation, including Senator Renee Burgess, Assemblyman Chigozie Onyema, and Assemblywoman Cleopatra Tucker; and such other officials and agencies as deemed appropriate.

Council Member	Motion	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Canning						
Greenberg						
Haskins						
Jones						
Lewis-Chang						
Zollman						

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Ojetti E. Davis, Village Clerk of the Township of South Orange Village, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Village Council at a regular meeting held on Monday, June 8, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ojetti E. Davis  
Village Clerk