

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA
SUPPORTING A MODEL 21ST CENTURY RAIL “STEEL INTERSTATE” SERVICE
IN THE I-81 CORRIDORS TO DEMONSTRATE FAST RAIL FREIGHT AND
PASSENGER SERVICE TO THE NATION**

WHEREAS, Europe approaches numerous 21st Century “Steel Interstate” rail service concepts, no rail service in the United States offers this promise, exposing our nation to greater risk from petroleum depletion, cost increases, supply interruptions and economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, Steel Interstate rail provides reduced dependence on imported fuel, builds modal redundancy, enhances national security, and—when electrified—offers the U.S. opportunity to employ domestic renewable energy sources and efficiency to drive transportation; and

WHEREAS, Steel Interstate rail demonstrates vastly greater transportation through productivity over equivalent investment in costly interstate highway expansion; and

WHEREAS, Steel Interstate technology offers positive advantages for communities, the Commonwealth, other I-81 states, and the United States relating to cost, safety, economic growth, tourism development, decreased fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, improved air quality and public health, varied freight and passenger service options, reduced financing and carbon cap and trade risk exposure; and


WHEREAS, forty-nine (49) Virginia and four (4) Tennessee governing bodies have previously voted support for improved rail service over massive widening of I-81; and

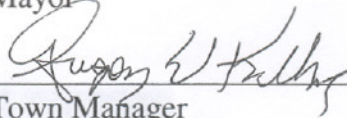
WHEREAS, no passenger rail and limited public bus service exists in this Corridor south of Staunton/Clifton Forge, west of Lynchburg/Danville, or north of Atlanta/Birmingham, despite efforts by dozens of local governing bodies and private groups in the Commonwealth to restore passenger rail service through the Trans Dominion Express; and

WHEREAS, Congress is considering investments in transportation, energy efficiency, fuel conservation, renewable energy, greenhouse gas abatement, and infrastructure as fiscal stimulus for the nation, and the Steel Interstate offers outstanding opportunity in all these areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia that the Council urgently petitions federal legislators to work in concert with representatives of other I-81 Corridor states to sponsor and secure passage of a federal transportation demonstration grant to assemble in the I-81 Corridor between Knoxville, Tennessee and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the pilot segment of 21st Century rail, the North American Steel Interstate System.

TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA

By: 
Mayor

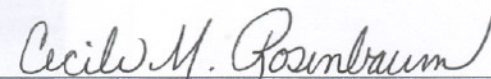
By: 
Town Manager

The undersigned clerk of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia (the "Town"), hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Council held on March 2, 2009. I hereby further certify that such meeting was a regularly scheduled meeting and that, during the consideration of the foregoing resolution, a quorum was present. I further certify that the minutes of such meeting reflect the attendance of the members and the voting on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

MEMBERS	ATTENDANCE	VOTE
Edward B. Morgan, Mayor	yes	aye
Dr. French H. Moore, Jr.	No	-
Lois H. Humphreys	yes	aye
Cathy Lowe	yes	aye
Jason N. Berry	yes	aye

WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of the Town of Abingdon as of March 2, 2009.

(SEAL)


Clerk, Town of Abingdon