

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-19

"A RESOLUTION PETITIONING TENNESSEE'S STATE AND NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO SPONSOR A GRANT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A MODEL 21ST CENTURY STEEL INTERSTATE RAIL SYSTEM ALONG THE INTERSTATE 81/INTERSTATE 40 CORRIDOR."

WHEREAS, a Steel Interstate Rail System would reduce our dependence on imported fuel, enhancing national security while building corridor capacity, and, enhance safety and environmental quality; and,

WHEREAS, the Steel Interstate demonstrates greater transportation productivity compared to an equivalent investment in interstate highway expansion, and, when electrified, offers the opportunity to deploy domestic, renewable energy resources; and,

WHEREAS, Steel Interstate technology offers positive advantages relating to cost, safety, and economic growth, decreased fuel consumption and reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improved air quality and public health, while offering far more transportation capacity for fewer dollars than asphalt-based investments; and,

WHEREAS, governing bodies throughout Virginia and Tennessee have previously voted support for improved rail service as opposed to massive widening of I-81; and

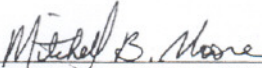
WHEREAS, no passenger rail and only limited public bus service exists in this Corridor south of Staunton, Virginia, or north of Atlanta/Birmingham, despite efforts by dozens of local governing bodies and private groups in Tennessee to restore passenger rail service; and,

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 is a perfect fit in all of these areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Athens, Tennessee, meeting in regular session this 21st day of April 2009, urgently petitions our Congressional delegation to work in concert with representatives of other I-81/I-40 Corridor states to sponsor and secure passage of a Federal transportation demonstration grant to assemble the I-81/I-40 Corridor from Memphis to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, via Knoxville, Tennessee, and designated as the pilot segment of the 21st Century Steel Interstate System.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Athens City Council that this resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage, the welfare of the Municipality requiring it.

ON MOTION BY Vice Mayor Perkinson, **SECONDED BY** Council Member Davis, said Resolution was approved by roll call vote.


MITCHELL B. MOORE, City Manager


R. HAL BUTTRAM, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


H. CHRIS TREWE, City Attorney