

RESOLUTION 2-A-09

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A GRANT FOR A MODEL RAIL SERVICE IN THE  
INTERSTATE 81 CORRIDOR

WHEREAS, Europe offers numerous "Steel Interstate" rail service concepts, but no such rail service exists in the United States, thereby exposing our nation to greater risk from petroleum depletion, cost increases, and supply interruptions;

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

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

WHEREAS, Steel Interstate technology offers 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 costs and carbon cap-and-trade risk exposure;

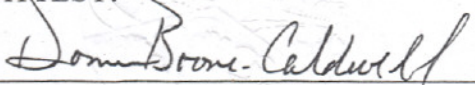
WHEREAS, forty-nine Virginia and four Tennessee governing bodies have already voted their support for improved rail service over massive widening of I-81;

WHEREAS, no passenger rail and only limited bus service exists in the 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 now 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.

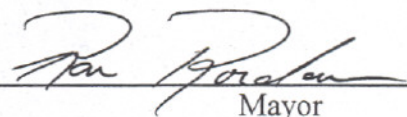
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Town of Blacksburg supports and petitions Virginia's Senators and House Representatives to work in concert with representatives of other I-81 Corridor states to sponsor and secure passage of a Federal grant to assemble in that corridor between Knoxville, Tennessee and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the pilot segment of 21st-Century rail, the Steel Interstate System.

ATTEST:

  
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Donna Boone-Caldwell

Town Clerk

Date of Adoption: February 10, 2009

  
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Mayor