
BRISTOL URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Bluff City, Tennessee • Bristol, Tennessee • Bristol, Virginia • Sullivan County, Tennessee • Washington County, Virginia

March 24, 2009

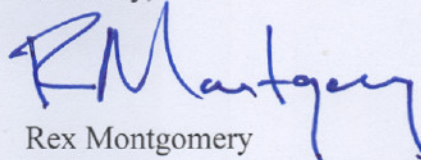
Mr. David L. Foster
Executive Director
RAIL Solution
342 High Street
Salem, VA 24153

Dear Mr. Foster:

At the March 11, 2009 Executive Board meeting, the Bristol Tennessee / Virginia Metropolitan Planning Organization adopted Resolution 09-02 supporting development of the 21st Century Steel Interstate Rail Service for the Interstate 81 corridor. As a multi-state MPO located along the I-81 corridor, Bristol has been a committed supporter for rail improvements with VDOT as well as the Tennessee DOT.

A copy of the adopted resolution is enclosed for your reference. If the Bristol MPO can be of additional assistance, please contact me at 423-989-5519 or Rmontgomery@bristoltn.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Montgomery".

Rex Montgomery
Transportation Planning Manager

Enclosure

Bristol MPO Resolution 09-02

A Resolution Supporting the Building of a 21st Century *Steel Interstate* Rail Service In the I-81 Corridor

WHEREAS, while Europe approaches numerous 21st Century "Steel Interstate" rail service concepts, no such rail service is in the offing in the United States, exposing the 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 nation opportunity to employ domestic renewable energy sources and efficiency to drive transportation; and

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

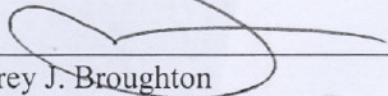
WHEREAS, Steel Interstate technology offers positive advantages for communities, for the states, and for the United States relating to cost, safety, economic growth, tourism development, decreased fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, improved air quality and public health, varied freight and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

WHEREAS, numerous Tennessee and Virginia communities have supported improved rail service over massive widening of I-81 in the past; and

WHEREAS, no passenger rail and limited public bus service exists in much of the I-81 corridor; 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.

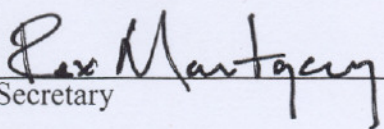
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Executive Board of the Bristol Metropolitan Planning Organization that the MPO supports passage of a Federal transportation demonstration grant to assemble in the I-81 Corridor between Knoxville, Tennessee and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the pilot segment of 21st Century rail, the North American Steel Interstate System.



Jeffrey J. Broughton
Chairman, Executive Board

Date: _____

3/11/2009



Secretary