

JEFFERSON CITY, TENNESSEE

Resolution 2009-14

RESOLUTION PETITIONING TENNESSEE'S CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TO SPONSOR A GRANT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A MODEL 21ST CENTURY STEEL INTERSTATE RAIL SYSTEM ALONG THE INTERSTATE 81/INTERSTATE 40 TO DEMONSTRATE THE POTENTIAL OF FAST FREIGHT RAIL AND PASSENGER SERVICE TO THE NATION.

WHEREAS, European and Asian nations continue to advance numerous 21st Century "Steel Interstate" rail service concepts, not a single rail service in the United States undertaken this challenge, exposing our nation to greater risk from volatility of petroleum costs and supply, as well as weakening our country's economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, the Steel Interstate Rail System would reduce our dependence on imported fuel, enhancing national security while building corridor capacity, modal redundancy, and, at the same time, enhancing safety and environmental quality; and

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

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

WHEREAS, numerous governing bodies in Virginia and Tennessee have previously voted support for improved rail service as opposed to massive widening of Interstate highways; and

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

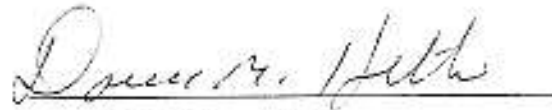
WHEREAS, Congress is considering investments in transportation, energy, fuel conservation, renewable energy, greenhouse gas abatement, and infrastructure as fiscal stimulus for the nation, and the Steel Interstate is a perfect fit in all of these areas.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of Jefferson City, Tennessee that:

The City of Jefferson City 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, Tennessee to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, via Knoxville, Tennessee, and designated as the pilot segment of the 21st Century Steel Interstate System.

ADOPTED this the 4th day of May, 2009.

APPROVED:



Darrell M. Helton, Mayor

Attest:



Monica Myers, City Recorder