

TOWN OF MARION

P. O. BOX 1005
138 WEST MAIN STREET
MARION, VA 24354

Phone: 276-783-4113

Fax: 276-783-8413

www.marionva.org

COUNCIL:

David P. Helms, Mayor

Jane Hale
Suzanne Jennings
James L. Gates, D.D.S.
Ken Heath

Bill Weaver
Mel Leaman
Mark Warren



A RESOLUTION

PETITIONING VIRGINIA'S FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES TO SPONSOR A GRANT FOR BUILDING A MODEL 21ST CENTURY RAIL "STEEL INTERSTATE" SERVICE IN THE I-81 CORRIDOR TO DEMONSTRATE FAST RAIL FREIGHT AND PASSENGER SERVICE POTENTIAL TO THE NATION

WHEREAS a "Steel Interstate" rail system offers the promise of reduced Interstate truck traffic, reduced dependence on imported fuel, greater modal redundancy, enhanced national security and – when electrified – offers the U. S. the opportunity to employ domestic renewable energy sources and efficiency to drive transportation; 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, and varied freight and passenger service options; and

WHEREAS, forty-nine Virginia and four Tennessee governing bodies have previously voted support for improved rail service in the I-81 corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Marion agreed that the requested rail alternatives be an "integral and necessary component of the Interstate 81 improvement project."

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 envisioned Steel Interstate rail project offers outstanding opportunity in all these areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Town Council of the Town of Marion, urgently petition our congressional delegation 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. The first step toward doing this project would be preliminary engineering and design of the system.

Signed this 16th day of March 2009.

David P. Helms, Mayor



John E. B. Clark, Jr., *Town Manager*
Donnie Colcy, *Dir. Of Water & Sewer*
Mindy Dyer, *Senior Citizens Director*
Mark Fenyk, *Counsel*
Billy Hamm, *Purchasing Agent*

Cecil Hicks, *Asst. Town Manager/Town Engineer*
Michael D. Roberts, *Chief of Police*
Jack Perry, *Director of Public Works*
Dixie O. Sheets, *Dir. Of Finance/Town Clerk*
Samuel C. Wagner, *Recreation Director*

