

NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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David W. Rundgren

Executive Director

RESOLUTION

Supporting the I-81 – I40 Corridor as a Demonstration for The National Steel Interstate System (NSIS)

- WHEREAS,** Congress is considering investments in transportation, public health, renewable energy, energy efficiency, fuel conservation, greenhouse gas abatement, and public infrastructure as fiscal stimulus, and a National Steel Interstate rail system will promote all these goals, and
- WHEREAS,** Steel Interstate rail service would reduce Interstate truck traffic and dependence on imported oil, while enhancing safety, national security, and economic competitiveness, and
- WHEREAS,** a Steel Interstate System offers the nation greater transportation productivity at lower cost compared to equivalent interstate highway expansion, and
- WHEREAS,** today, no passenger rail service, diminishing airline service, and limited intercity public bus service exists within the I-81 corridor and surrounding region but Steel Interstate service allows for harmonious fast passenger and freight operation, and
- WHEREAS,** Steel Interstate technology offers positive advantages for communities, the Commonwealth, other Interstate 81 states, and the United States relating to cost, safety, economic growth, tourism development, and varied freight and passenger service options, and
- WHEREAS,** when electrified, the Steel Interstate System offers the U.S. opportunity to employ domestic, renewable energy sources and efficiency to drive transportation, and
- WHEREAS,** forty-nine Virginia and four Tennessee governing bodies have previously voted support for improved rail service over massive widening of I-81;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the New River Valley Planning District Commission petitions the Virginia Congressional Delegation to work in concert with other I-81 Corridor representatives to sponsor and secure funding for a comprehensive study for the pilot segment (between Knoxville, TN and Harrisburg, PA) of a National Steel Interstate System.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission urges the Norfolk-Southern Corporation, as owner of the current rail right-of-way and provider of rail service in the I-81 Corridor, to participate in the undertaking of the comprehensive study.

Signed this 28th day of May, 2009

Thomas L. Starnes, Chairman

Counties:
Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski

Towns:
Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd
Pulaski, Narrows, Pearisburg, Rich Creek

Universities:
Radford University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

City:
Radford