



County of Roanoke

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May 4, 2009

The Honorable Mark Warner, United States Senate
The Honorable Jim Webb, United States Senate
The Honorable Bob Goodlatte, Member of Congress
The Honorable Rick Boucher, Member of Congress
The Honorable Frank Wolf, Member of Congress

Dear Senators Warner and Webb and Representatives Goodlatte, Boucher, and Wolf:

Attached is a copy of Resolution 042809-5.b to reconfirm support for rail alternatives to complement planned improvements to I-81. This resolution was adopted by the Board of Supervisors at their meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2009.

If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brenda J. Holton, CMC
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Supervisors

Enclosure

cc: Paul Mahoney, County Attorney
David Foster, Executive Director, Rail Solution, 342 High Street, Salem, VA 24153
Wayne Strickland, Executive Director, Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ROANOKE COUNTY, VIRGINIA, HELD AT THE ROANOKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER ON TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2009

RESOLUTION 042809-5.b TO RECONFIRM SUPPORT FOR RAIL ALTERNATIVES TO COMPLEMENT PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS TO I-81

WHEREAS, the I-81 corridor is increasingly the route of choice for trucks traveling between the northeast and the south/southwest because of congestion on I-95 and expanding shipments generated by the North American Free Trade Act; and

WHEREAS, roadway improvements alone are not projected to adequately address forecasted congestion levels on I-81 during the time horizon of the current Long-Range Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, improvements to rail infrastructure near the I-81 corridor may be thought of as investing in a "Steel Interstate" that would provide additional freight capacity to complement I-81; and

WHEREAS, various technologies including but not limited to: tractor trailer on rail car, trailer on rail car, double stack intermodal container, and other strategies or technologies would benefit from increased freight rail capacity in or near the I-81 corridor; and

WHEREAS, rail improvements can complement existing national policy initiatives by reducing dependence on imported fuel, providing modal redundancy, enhancing national security, and when electrified offering the U.S. opportunity to employ domestic renewable energy sources and efficiency to drive transportation; and

WHEREAS, rail improvements offer positive advantages for communities, the Commonwealth, neighboring 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, rail improvements offer added capacity potential for possible future passenger rail service in the I-81 corridor;

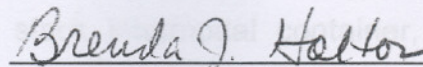
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Roanoke County, Virginia, strongly petitions for the development of rail improvements, which benefit both freight and passenger rail service options, parallel to I-81, to complement highway-widening and to move a large volume of the long-distance freight traffic from trucks on I-81 to freight trains parallel to I-81.

On motion of Supervisor Flora to adopt the resolution, and carried by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Supervisors Moore, Church, Flora, McNamara, Altizer

NAYS: None

A COPY TESTE:



Brenda J. Holton, CMC
Deputy Clerk to the Board

c: The Honorable Mark Warner, United States Senate from Virginia
The Honorable Jim Webb, United States Senate from Virginia
The Honorable Bob Goodlatte, Member of Congress, VA-6
The Honorable Rick Boucher, Member of Congress, VA-9
The Honorable Frank Wolf, Member of Congress, VA-10
Paul Mahoney, County Attorney
David Foster, Executive Director, Rail Solution, 342 High Street, Salem, VA 24153
Wayne Strickland, Executive Director, Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission