



The Regional Commission

313 Luck Avenue, SW / PO Box 2569 / Roanoke, Virginia 24010

TEL: 540.343.4417 / FAX: 540.343.4416 / www.rvarc.org / rvarc@rvarc.org

The 26th day of March, 2009

RESOLUTION

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;

AGENDA (Cont'd)

Page -2

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bradley E. Grose". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'B'.

Bradley E. Grose, Chairman
Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission