

Resolution



WHEREAS, Europe approaches numerous 21st Century "Steel Interstate" rail service concepts, no rail service in the United States offers this promise, exposing our nation to greater risk from petroleum depletion, cost increases, supply interruptions and economic competitiveness; and,

WHEREAS, Steel Interstate rail provides reduced dependence on imported fuel, builds modal redundancy, enhances national security, and--when certified--offers the U.S. opportunity to employ domestic renewable energy sources and efficiency to drive transportation; and,

WHEREAS, Steel Interstate rail demonstrates vastly greater transportation throughput productivity over equivalent investment in costly interstate highway expansion; 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, varied freight and passenger service options, reduced financing and carbon cap and trade risk exposure; and,

WHEREAS, forty-nine Virginia and Tennessee governing bodies have previously voted support for improved rail service over massive widening of I-81; and,

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,

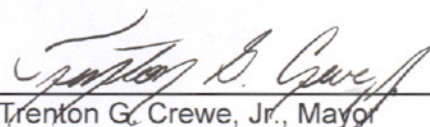
WHEREAS, Congress is considering investments in transportation, energy efficiency, fuel conservation, renewable energy, greenhouse gas abatement, and infrastructure as fiscal stimulus for the nation, and the Steel Interstate offers outstanding opportunity in all these areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Town Council of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, urgently petitions 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.

Adopted this 9th day of March 2009.

ATTEST:


Sharon P. Hackler, MMC, Town Clerk


Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Mayor