

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING**  
**RAIL ALTERNATIVES**  
**TO I-81 CONVERSION INTO EAST-COAST TRUCK BYPASS**

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

**WHEREAS**, two multi-national corporations—Halliburton and Fluor corporations—have submitted proposals to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to expand the number of lanes and other appurtenances on I-81, and

**WHEREAS**, Norfolk-Southern Corporation estimates that 70 percent of truck traffic on I-81 passes through Virginia to destinations south or north, and

**WHEREAS**, the minimal rail freight proposals included in the Star Solutions and Fluor Public Private Partnership Act proposals do not adequately address rail freight potential in the whole I-81 corridor, and

**WHEREAS**, these same proposals provide no option for passenger rail, although upgrading the corridor's main rail line secures the passenger rail option, and

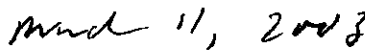
**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of Virginia is now planning the future of the I-81 corridor, those decisions containing dramatic impacts for the future of western Virginia, and

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of Virginia's decision on this corridor will determine whether I-81 and connecting interstates will become a multi-state "East Coast Truck By-Pass",

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Bristol, Virginia, strongly petitions for the development and promotion of rail freight and passenger alternatives to further highway expansion construction.



Dr. Douglas R. Weberling, Mayor



Date