

Resolution No. 05-40

**A Resolution Encouraging Inclusion of the Bristol to Memphis
Railroad Connection in Tennessee's Multimodal Transportation Plan**

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) is preparing a *25-Year, Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Plan* and is actively seeking input from local governments concerning such plan; and

WHEREAS, TDOT has indicated the State's future transportation system must provide for all modes of transportation to work harmoniously to provide mobility for freight and people in a cost-effective manner; and

WHEREAS, growth trends in freight movements and changes in the demographic structure of Tennessee's population indicate the State must make adjustments in transportation programs to meet the mobility needs of the future; and

WHEREAS, the highway corridor formed by Interstate Highways 81 and 40 extends from Bristol to Memphis and links population centers comprising more than 60 percent of the State's population; and

WHEREAS, Interstates 81 and 40 carry a volume of heavy truck traffic which is twice that anticipated in their design, with approximately 50% of the heavy truck traffic on non-urban sections consisting of long-distance trucks moving between origins and destinations outside of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in order to benefit Tennessee's economic interests the mobility of its citizens, the State should take action to conserve the remaining capacity of Interstates 81 and 40; and

WHEREAS, the cost of widening Interstates 81 and 40 could be phased in over a longer period of time if long-distance freight movements can be encouraged to utilize the parallel railroads; and

WHEREAS, the new rail capacity generated by the improvement of railroads could accommodate passenger trains for intercity travel in the future; and

WHEREAS, the 2003 TDOT *Rail System Plan* shows that a Bristol to Memphis railroad connection could be built to provide for passenger trains and a significant diversion freight traffic from Interstates 81 and 40 onto a parallel rail line; and

WHEREAS, studies in Tennessee and Virginia have shown that the benefits of truck-to-rail diversions could be greatly magnified by linking Interstate 81 corridor railroad improvements in both states; and

WHEREAS, the TDOT *Rail System Plan* shows that cross-state competitive rail freight service and rail passenger service could be provided at costs which will be exceeded by shipper benefits and other public benefits.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF BRISTOL, TENNESSEE AS FOLLOWS:

That the City of Bristol encourages the Tennessee Department of Transportation to consider the Bristol to Memphis Railroad Connection as a project of statewide strategic importance and not in direct competition for transportation funding with projects which have local or regional economic value.

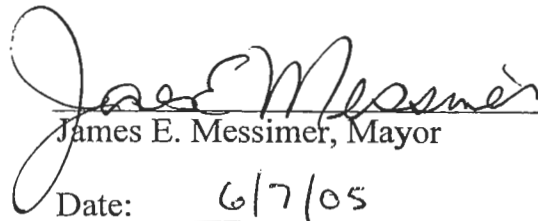
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Bristol supports the efforts of TDOT to develop a Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Plan.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the City of Bristol asks TDOT to formulate a program to implement the building of the Bristol to Memphis Railroad Connection.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Tennessee should seek the cooperation of the Commonwealth of Virginia in coordinated railroad improvements along the Interstate 81 corridor.

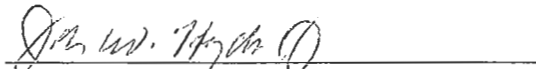
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that TDOT is requested to support the phased construction of the Bristol to Memphis Railroad Connection by securing the cooperative efforts of the railroads involved and the Commonwealth of Virginia, and by including appropriate projects in the next 3-Year Program of Projects and in the 10-Year Investment Plan which will be prepared as part of the Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Plan.

WHEREUPON, Mayor Messimer declared the Resolution adopted, affixed his signature and the date thereto, and directed that the same be recorded.


James E. Messimer, Mayor
Date: 6/7/05


Robert L. Wilson, Jr., City Recorder

Approved as to Form and Legality
This 31st day of May, 2005


Jack W. Hyder, Jr., City Attorney