



City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

Office of Mayor
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**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
RAIL ALTERNATIVES TO COMPLIMENT
PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS TO I-81**

WHEREAS, the I-81 corridor is increasingly the route of choice for truck travel in the Shenandoah Valley; and

WHEREAS, proper inclusion of a freight/passenger rail component in a comprehensive surface transportation policy assures notable reduction in needed interstate capacity and associated design and construction costs; and

WHEREAS, the increased use of railroads to move freight will improve safety by reducing dangerous vehicular congestion on I-81, will improve energy conservation by reducing the amount of diesel fuel consumed for freight transportation, will improve the health of people and other living things in our community by lowering air pollution and toxic emissions along I-81, may improve the local economy by assuring time-competitive, low-cost rail shipping options for local businesses and industrial prospects and may eliminate the necessity for placing tolls on I-81; and

WHEREAS, 11 counties and several cities and towns along the Interstate 81 corridor have adopted resolutions supporting rail transportation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Harrisonburg, Virginia, hereby calls upon federal, state and local government officials along the Interstate 81 corridor from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to Chattanooga, Tennessee, to work cooperatively with the rail companies to develop an intermodal railroad; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council calls upon the Virginia Department of Transportation to seriously and objectively consider this option when reconstructing I-81.

9-9-03

Date

Atteste:


Mayor


Clerk of the City Council