



Board of Supervisors

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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—Star Solutions and Fluor corporation—have submitted proposals to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to expand the number of lanes and other appurtenances on I-81; 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, Senate Joint Resolution 55 recommended the establishment of intermodal transfer facilities to reduce truck traffic on long haul highways in the Commonwealth, particularly Interstate 81; and,

WHEREAS, Wythe County is intersected by both Interstate 77 and Interstate 81 and is traversed by the Norfolk and Southern Shenandoah Line which creates a desirable location for an intermodal transfer facility; 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 increased use of rail for the movement of freight up the I-81 corridor will reduce air pollution, dependence on fossil fuels and reduce traffic conflicts with passenger vehicles.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County Virginia strongly petitions for the development and promotion of rail freight and passenger alternatives to be included in the review of the proposals for improvements to Interstate 81.

Adopted this 10th day of June 2003


Anne B. Crockett-Stark, Chairperson

ATTEST:


R. Cellell Dalton, Clerk