

Resolution



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, Norfolk-Southern Corporation estimates that seventy 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"; 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 Town Council of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, has previously supported passenger alternatives as evidenced by the adoption of a resolution on September 13, 1999, encouraging the implementation of rail service and pledging its assistance to the Commonwealth of Virginia in implementing said service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, in the interest of protecting and promoting public health, safety and welfare strongly petitions for the development and promotion of rail freight to further highway expansion construction and in the review of the proposals for improvements to I-81.

Adopted this 12th day of May 2003.

Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Sharon P. Hackler, CMC, Town Clerk

A TRUE COPY

Cheryl G. Brown
CLERK OF COUNCIL Chief Deputy Clerk