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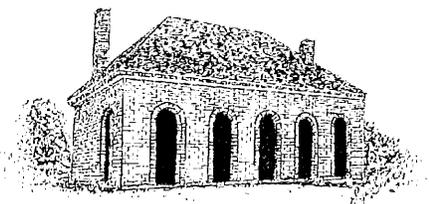
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HANOVER COURTHOUSE

HANOVER COUNTY

ESTABLISHED IN 1720

November 28, 2016

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The Honorable Aubrey Layne
Secretary of Transportation
Commonwealth of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Secretary Layne:

On behalf of the Hanover County Board of Supervisors, I am forwarding the attached resolution, adopted by the Board at its meeting on November 22, 2016, concerning the DC2RVA Rail Project. This resolution urges the Federal Railroad Administration and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation to abandon consideration of any western bypass around the Town of Ashland and also to abandon consideration of constructing a third track at grade through the Town of Ashland and urge that these agencies engage collaboratively with representatives of the County and the Town to find an option, or combination of options previously identified, that would achieve the goals of the DC2RVA project while minimizing the impact on residents, businesses and institutions and preserving the historic character and economic vitality of the County and Town.

Sincerely,

Aubrey M. Stanley
Chairman
Hanover County Board of Supervisors

cc: Ms. Jennifer Mitchell, Director, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
Ms. Sarah E. Feinberg, Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration
Mr. Joshua Farrar, Interim Town Manager/Finance Director, Town of Ashland
Mr. Charles M. Culley, Jr., County Administrator, Caroline County
Mr. Timothy J. Baroody, City Manager, City of Fredericksburg
Mr. Mark B. Taylor, County Administrator, Spotsylvania County

**RESOLUTION OF THE HANOVER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGARDING WASHINGTON, D.C. TO RICHMOND, VIRGINIA,
RAIL IMPROVEMENTS**

WHEREAS the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) have proposed passenger rail service and rail infrastructure improvements in the north-south travel corridor between Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Virginia, and

WHEREAS this project is intended to increase passenger and freight rail capacity to deliver higher speed passenger rail, to improve passenger service and to accommodate an anticipated growth of freight rail service, and

WHEREAS the FRA and VDRPT are currently evaluating several alternatives to improve rail service through the County of Hanover, including (1) the acquisition of right of way and the construction of two new tracks in a bypass corridor which would run to the west of the Town of Ashland and (2) the acquisition of additional right of way and construction of a third track running at grade parallel to the two existing tracks through the Town of Ashland, and

WHEREAS the route of the western bypass corridor currently under consideration would destroy the rural character of a historic and agriculturally significant portion of western Hanover that the County and its residents have worked hard to preserve, would bisect or consume 45 parcels of land, comprising a total of 2,428 acres, would directly impact an additional 24 parcels of land that are immediately adjacent to the proposed route and would destroy or severely impact a number of homes, and

WHEREAS a third track running at grade through the Town of Ashland would (1) dramatically impact the economic vitality and character of the Town and eliminate vehicular access and severely restrict pedestrian access for many of the existing homes and businesses on Center Street in the heart of the Town and, (2) restrict access to Randolph Macon College and substantially diminish the charm of its campus and (3) impose additional restrictions on vehicles and pedestrians moving in the east-west corridors through the Town, and

WHEREAS, in addition to the CSX rail corridor running north-south through Hanover County roughly parallel to Interstate 95, there is an existing rail line called Buckingham Branch running from Doswell into Richmond through a long established corridor, and the substantial portion of this corridor that lies north of Route 54 and runs through sparsely inhabited agricultural and industrial areas could be part of an option that avoids the need for a western bypass or for a third at grade track through Ashland,

WHEREAS VDRPT has published a number of options for accomplishing the goals of improving passenger and freight rail service through Hanover County, but there has been no effective mechanism for collaborative dialogue between VDRPT and County and Town representatives;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Hanover County Board of Supervisors to urge the Federal Railroad Administration and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation to abandon consideration of any western bypass around the Town of Ashland and also to abandon consideration of constructing a third track at grade through the Town of Ashland and urge that these agencies engage collaboratively with representatives of the County and the Town to find an option, or combination of options previously identified, that would achieve the

goals of the DC2RVA project while minimizing the impact on residents, businesses and institutions and preserving the historic character and economic vitality of the County and Town.

On motion of Mr. Stanley, seconded by Mr. Hazzard, the members of the Board of Supervisors voted to approve this resolution, as follows:

	Vote:
Aubrey M. Stanley	Aye
Angela Kelly-Wiecek	Aye
Sean M. Davis	Absent
Wayne T. Hazzard	Aye
W. Canova Peterson	Aye
Faye O. Prichard	Aye
Scott A. Wyatt	Aye

The undersigned certifies that this is a correct copy of the Resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

Date: November 28, 2016


Cecil R. Harris, Jr., County Administrator
Clerk, Hanover County Board of Supervisors