

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING REQUEST OF DRPT

WHEREAS the Town of Ashland is a community and has embraced its relationship as such since its founding as a railroad resort community in the 1840s known as the “Slashes of Hanover;” and

WHEREAS the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) completed a Record of Decision in 2002 for a Tier I Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the SEHSR Project; and

WHEREAS DRPT introduced the Richmond Area Rail Master Plan (Phase I) in July 2003 which analyzed the benefits and costs of a variety of alternatives for rerouting all passenger trains to Richmond’s Main Street Station as part the preparation for meeting NEPA standards; and

WHEREAS the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the DRPT issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) in 2014 to prepare a Tier II Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Washington, D.C. to Richmond Southeast High Speed Rail (DC2RVA) project; and

WHEREAS DRPT initially offered three alternatives on November 12, 2015 for the Town of Ashland’s consideration: 1) No-build option, 2) Add a third track along the existing track through downtown Ashland, 3) Add a double track by-pass to the west of Ashland as an alternative to adding a third track through Ashland; and

WHEREAS all of the alternatives studied by DRPT in the Ashland portion of the DC2RVA corridor involve significant community impacts and a third track through Ashland would have a devastating impact; and

WHEREAS DRPT has recommended to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) additional study of capacity improvements in the Ashland area that would be separate from the current DC2RVA Tier II Environmental Impact Statement, so as to move forward with DC2RVA and yet allow for additional coordination and time to study and identify a preferred alternative for the Ashland area.

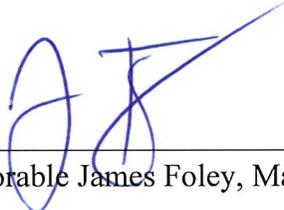
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Ashland Town Council at its regular meeting on December 6, 2016, that the Ashland Town Council strongly opposes a third track through Town, and therefore heartily endorses and supports DRPT’s recommendation made on December 6, 2016 to the CTB to request of the Federal Rail Administration (FRA) the ability for DRPT to conduct a separate additional study for the Ashland area while proceeding with the DC2RVA project for the remainder of the 123-mile corridor, so as to allow for additional coordination and time to study and identify a preferred alternative for rail capacity improvements in the Ashland area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be sent to the Secretary of Transportation of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, the Director and Chief of Rail of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, and the members of Ashland's federal and state legislative delegations.

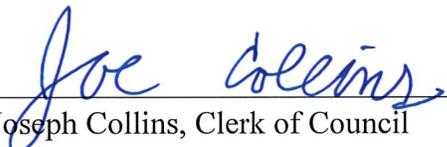
On a motion of Councilmember Spagna, seconded by Councilmember Trivett the members of the Ashland Town Council voted to approve this Resolution as follows:

	Vote:
Kathleen K. Abbott	Aye
James R. Foley	Aye
James D. Murray	Aye
George F. Spagna	Aye
Steven P. Trivett	Aye

The undersigned certifies that this is a correct copy of the Resolution of the Ashland Town Council.



The Honorable James Foley, Mayor



Joseph Collins, Clerk of Council