



December 6, 2016

Mrs. Jennifer Mitchell
Director
Department of Rail & Public Transportation
600 East Main Street, Suite 2102
Richmond, VA 23219

Mrs. Mitchell:

On behalf of the Town of Ashland, Virginia; Hanover County, Virginia and Randolph-Macon College we would like to thank you and the Department of Rail & Public Transportation (DRPT) staff for listening to the concerns of the citizens and stakeholders in Hanover and the greater Ashland community regarding the DC2RVA Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) process. From the beginning of the DEIS process the Town, County and College have requested more information and the opportunity to help DRPT craft a solution that could truly be called a preferred alternative. We understand that a more detailed and focused study may be difficult and involve compromise, but we are fully supportive of this recommended approach. The Town of Ashland, Hanover County and Randolph-Macon College request that you forward our message of committed support for DRPT's recommendations to the CTB to request of the Federal Rail Administration (FRA) the ability 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.

We are confident our community and stakeholders can work with DRPT to create and endorse a route which meets rail capacity needs while dramatically reducing negative impacts to the community. We look forward to working with you on this important project. Thank you again for your openness to compromise.

Sincerely,

James R. Foley
Mayor
Town of Ashland, VA

Sincerely,

Cecil R. Harris, Jr.
County Administrator
Hanover County, VA

Sincerely

Robert R. Lindgren
President
Randolph-Macon College