



RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia continues to support the expansion of passenger rail service as a means of economic development and transportation innovation;

WHEREAS, on October 31, 2017, the closest passenger rail station available to Southwest Virginia residents opened in Roanoke with service provided by the Amtrak *Northeast Regional*;

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2021 the Virginia General Assembly passed an amended state budget that includes \$83,500,000 to extend passenger rail service from Roanoke to the Blacksburg-Christiansburg area and increase the frequency of passenger rail service along the I-81/Route 29 Corridor from Washington, D.C.;

WHEREAS, the 2021 Transportation Funding Initiative also adopted in the amended state budget requires the Secretary of Transportation to study the impact of a possible future extension of passenger rail service to Bristol, Virginia;

WHEREAS, the Bristol study will require the Secretary of Transportation to provide an assessment of both the total project costs and incremental costs resulting from the extension of passenger rail service in far Southwest Virginia;

WHEREAS, a preliminary study completed in 2019 by the City of Bristol, the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Appalachian Regional Commission forecast approximately 23,600 annual riders from a Bristol stop, the direct creation of between 14 and 22 jobs, and estimated between \$30 million and \$32.7 million in needed track improvements;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Abingdon supports the Bristol study requirement as provided in the 2021 Transportation Funding Initiative and respectfully recommends a full and thorough consideration of the positive impacts of expanded passenger rail service in far Southwest Virginia, including alleviating stress along the Interstate 81 corridor;

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Town of Abingdon prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Secretary of Transportation for the Commonwealth of Virginia and appropriate state legislators.

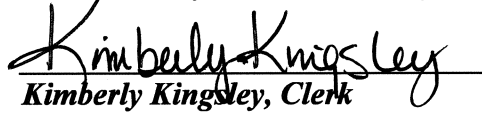
Adopted June 7, 2021.

BY 
Mayor Derek Webb

The undersigned Clerk of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia (the "Town") hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Council held on June 7, 2021. I hereby further certify that such meeting was a regularly scheduled meeting and that, during the consideration of the foregoing resolution a quorum was present. I further certify that the minutes of such meeting reflect the attendance of the members and the voting on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Member	Attendance	Vote
Derek Webb, Mayor	Yes	Aye
Donna Quetsch, Vice Mayor	Yes	Aye
James Anderson	Yes	Aye
Amanda Pillion	Yes	Aye
Mike Owens	Yes	Aye

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Town of Abingdon as of June 7, 2021.


Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk