



## **Resolution To Support The Development Of The Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail**

**WHEREAS**, 48 miles of the former Manassas Gap Railroad which lie between Riverton Junction, in Warren County, and the Town of Broadway, in Rockingham County, and passing through Shenandoah Valley communities are in a state of disuse, all freight and passenger service having ceased;

**WHEREAS**, the prospect of restoration of freight or passenger service along the aforementioned section of railroad is very unlikely;

**WHEREAS**, the railroad, in its current state of disuse, is a blight on our community, and a danger to youth who may be tempted to trespass;

**WHEREAS**, the railroad presents an opportunity to create a world-class trail providing bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian access to extraordinary landscape views and several important Civil War battlefields;

**WHEREAS**, such trail would catalyze tourism-related economic growth;

**WHEREAS**, such trail would connect Shenandoah Valley communities including the towns of Broadway and Timberville in Rockingham County offering the option of safe alternative transportation within and between these communities to a broad segment of the local population, for commuting to work and school, thereby improving the quality of life;

**WHEREAS**, community amenity, health benefits, increased property value, increased tax revenue, compatible economic development, and historical preservation are benefits that a trail or greenway can provide to communities, including public health, economic and transportation benefits;

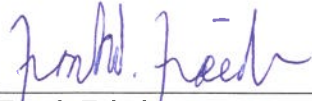
**WHEREAS**, an organization known as the Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail Exploratory Partnership, whose membership includes representation of each locality through which the trail would pass, has been formed to explore trail feasibility;

**WHEREAS**, the 2020 Virginia General Assembly directed the state Department of Conservation and Recreation to study trail feasibility and deliver a report no later than November 1, 2021;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission endorses the conversion of the aforementioned 48-mile discontinued railroad to a multiuse trail for alternative transportation and recreation;

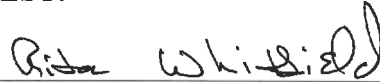
**FURTHERMORE**, the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission resolves to join with the other trail localities in seeking the support of regional, state and federal agencies and the railroad's owner, Norfolk Southern Corporation, toward the goal of development of the trail.

**APPROVED ON THIS 19<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2021.**



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Frank Friedman  
CSPDC Chairman

ATTEST:



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Rita Whitfield  
Clerk to the Commission