

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE ACQUISITION AND CONVERSION OF OUT-OF-SERVICE  
RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY TO A TRAIL FOR ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION AND RECREATION**

**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 the Town of Front Royal, are in a state of disuse, all freight and passenger service having ceased; and,

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

**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; and,

**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; and,

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

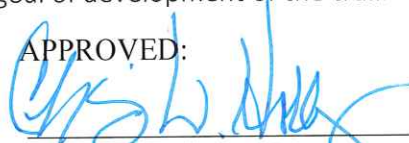
**WHEREAS** such trail would connect eleven communities including the Town of Front Royal in Warren County, offering the option of safe alternative transportation within and between these communities to a broad segment of the local population, for commuting to work and school, thereby improving the quality of life; and,

**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; and,

**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<sup>st</sup>, 2021; and,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and the Town Council of the Town of Front Royal endorse and support the conversion of the aforementioned 48-mile discontinued railroad to a multiuse trail for alternative transportation and recreation; and 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:

  
Chris W. Holloway Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Tina L. Presley, Clerk of Council

---

This Resolution was approved at the Regular Meeting of the Town of Front Royal, Virginia Town Council conducted on June 28, 2021 upon the following recorded vote:

Lori A. Cockrell  Yes  No

Jacob L. Meza  Yes  No

Gary L. Gillispie  Yes  No

Letasha T. Thompson  Yes  No

E. Scott Lloyd  Yes  No

Joseph E. McFadden  Yes  No *Remote by Phone*

\*\*\*\*\*

Approved as to Form and Legality:

*Douglas W. Napier*  
Douglas W. Napier, Town Attorney

Dated: 07-01-2021