



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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STEPHEN G. KING
County Administrator

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

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 are in a state of disuse, with 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 Broadway and Timberville, 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, the trail would be characterized by sound, sustainable and safe design and link multiple parks, multiple businesses, and Civil War sites while paralleling the North Fork of the Shenandoah River along its route in Rockingham County; 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;

WHEREAS, the 2020 Virginia General Assembly directed the Virginia 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 Rockingham County Board of Supervisors endorses the conversion of the aforementioned 48-mile discontinued railroad to a multiuse trail for alternative transportation and recreation; and

FURTHERMORE, Rockingham County 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.

Resolved this 24th day of March 2021.

Rick L. Chandler,
Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

ATTESTE:

Stephen G. King,
Clerk to the Board of Supervisors