



Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition
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A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE ACQUISITION AND CONVERSION OF
OUT-OF-SERVICE RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY TO A TRAIL FOR ACTIVE
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, all freight and passenger service having ceased;

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

WHEREAS the railroad, in its current state of disuse, presents an obstruction and safety hazard to the community;

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 eleven communities, offering the option of safe active 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 an organization known as the Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail Exploratory Partnership, whose membership includes representatives 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 1st, 2021;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition endorses the conversion of the aforementioned 48-mile discontinued railroad to a shared-use trail for active transportation and recreation;

FURTHERMORE, The Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition resolves to join with the localities along the trail 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.

Scottie Pendleton
Chair of the Coalition Board of Directors