



**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 Strasburg, 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 eleven communities including the Town of Strasburg and other Towns in Shenandoah 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, this transformative project would serve to advance the Strasburg Town Council's strategic plans and broader community goals in a wide variety of ways;

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 1st, 2021;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Strasburg endorses the conversion of the aforementioned 48-mile discontinued railroad to a multiuse trail for alternative transportation and recreation;

FURTHERMORE, The Town of Strasburg 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.

Signed this 9th day of March, 2021.

Brandy H. Boies, Mayor

Attest: Amy A. Keller, Clerk of Council

