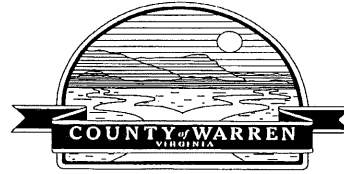


RESOLUTION



of the Board of Supervisors of Warren County 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 County of Warren, Virginia are in a state of disuse, all freight and passenger service having decreased significantly; 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 Warren County and the Town of Front Royal, 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 such trail would provide the communities of Warren County and the Town of Front Royal opportunity for an outdoor experience not currently available, which promotes a healthy lifestyle for area residents and provides connections to other existing or planned bicycle infrastructure in Warren 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; 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 1st, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren, Virginia endorses the conversion of the aforementioned 48-mile discontinued railroad to a multiuse trail for alternative transportation and recreation; and

FURTHERMORE, the Board of Supervisors 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.

Adopted: April 20, 2021

ATTEST:

Cheryl L. Cullers
Cheryl L. Cullers, Chair
Warren County Board of Supervisors

Edwin C. Daley
Edwin C. Daley, Interim Clerk
Warren County Board of Supervisors