



DC2RVA TIER II DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

RESOLUTION OF ASHLAND MAIN STREET ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS the mission of Ashland Main Street Association is to preserve, enhance, and promote downtown Ashland through cooperative efforts among local businesses, community organizations, Randolph-Macon College & the Town; and,

WHEREAS Ashland Main Street Association is one of only 29 Designated Virginia Main Street communities; and,

WHEREAS Ashland Main Street Association is fully accredited by the National Main Street Center; and,

WHEREAS there are approximately 100 business located in our Main Street Association downtown district; and,

WHEREAS the purpose of the National Main Street initiative is to increase economic activity within historic small towns within the United States; and,

WHEREAS increased economic activity is accompanied by a compact, vibrant town center, pedestrian-friendly streets, excellent shopping and dining experiences, and walkable communities; and,

WHEREAS the addition of a third rail through the Town of Ashland would have a very significant negative impact on Ashland Main Street's ability to successfully execute its mission; and,

WHEREAS a third rail would split our historic downtown district in half making it impossible to easily move between businesses; and,

WHEREAS the Town of Ashland's recently completed multi-million dollar streetscape project that enhances pedestrian movement will be decimated by the construction of a third rail; and,

WHEREAS the addition of a third rail will prevent nearly 50 percent of our school children from walking to school, thereby making the Town less attractive to family with school-age children; and,

WHEREAS the addition of a third rail will either destroy or negatively impact the real estate values of 68 trackside residential and commercial properties located between W. Vaughan Road / Archie Cannon Drive and Ashcake Road with 2016 Hanover County tax assessed values totaling at least \$92,874,100; and,

WHEREAS the addition of a third rail will jeopardize the future of historic buildings, including Cross Brothers Grocery, the second-oldest continuously operating grocery store in the nation; and,

WHEREAS the construction of a third rail will severely limit the ability of visitors to the Town to support local businesses thereby further reducing the tax base of the Town with a population of approximately 7,300 residents; and,



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WHEREAS the construction of a third rail will divide the campus of Randolph-Macon College further increasing the economic harm to Ashland businesses by limiting access of faculty, staff, and students;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Ashland Main Street Association vigorously endorses and supports all statements contained in the Resolution passed by the Ashland Town Council on July 5, 2016; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Ashland Main Street Association expresses its desire for increased transparency and detailed project information from the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Public Rail and Transportation; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Ashland Main Street Association encourages the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Public Rail and Transportation, Commonwealth Transportation Board, and U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration to secure a prudent and feasible alternative route to increase passenger and freight rail traffic that will not impact the Town of Ashland, its residents, businesses, and visitors; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Secretary of Transportation of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, the Director and Chief of Rail of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, the Federal Railroad Administrator, Hanover County Supervisors, Town of Ashland Council members, Randolph-Macon College President, and the members of Ashland’s federal and state legislative delegations.

On a motion of James Zemp, seconded by Jennifer Chambers, the members of the Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve this Resolution as follows:

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| Daniel Bartges – yea | Lorie Foley – yea | Darrell Leftwich – yea |
| Robert Brown - yea | Sara Holloway – yea | Timothy McDermott – yea |
| Jennifer Chambers – yea | William Gatewood – yea | Suzanne Wolstenholme – yea |
| Paul Davies – yea | Hugh Joyce – yea | James Zemp – yea |

The undersigned certifies that this is a correct copy of the Resolution of Ashland Main Street Association

William Gatewood, President

Date

Thomas Wulf, Executive Director

Date