

APPROVED



**Brunswick County Board of Commissioners
ACTION AGENDA ITEM
January 21, 2020**

From:
Andrea White

Action Item # V. - 2.
Administration - Resolution in Support of the Wilmington Rail
Realignment Project

Issue/Action Requested:

Request that the Board of Commissioners approve a resolution supporting the Wilmington Rail Realignment Project.

Background/Purpose of Request:

On June 18, 2018, the Board of Commissioners approved a letter of support for the City of Wilmington's application for a grant from the Federal Railroad Administration for their Rail Realignment Project. In June 2019, the Wilmington Rail Realignment Project was announced as a recipient of up to \$2 million in grant funds under the Federal Railroad Administration's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement grant program. The NCDOT's Board of Transportation approved \$250,000 in matching funds in October 2019, with an additional \$250,000 in matching funding expected in the subsequent fiscal year.

The City of Wilmington is now requesting that surrounding towns and counties consider a resolution supporting the Wilmington Rail Realignment project for the benefits of environmental sustainability, improved commuting times, public safety, quality of life, enhanced freight movement and economic development.

Fiscal Impact:

Reviewed By Director of Fiscal Operations

Approved By County Attorney:

Yes

County Manager's Recommendation:

Recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve a resolution supporting the Wilmington Rail Realignment Project.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

- Resolution Supporting the Wilmington Rail Realignment Project

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

Routing Sheet for Board Action

Date of Meeting: 1/21/2020

Ref: Administration - Resolution in Support of the Wilmington Rail
Realignment Project

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Received by Clerk's Office | Date Received: <u>1/3/2020</u> | # Originals: <u>2</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Approved by Board of Commissioners | <u>1/21/2020</u> | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Filed & Sent to Dept. | Date Sent: <u>1/22/2020</u> | # Originals: <u>1</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Received by Department | Date Received: _____ | # Originals: _____ |

Signature of Recipient: _____

****Upon completion of this routing sheet, please make a copy for your records and interoffice this routing sheet to Jared Galloway in the Clerk's Office****

County of Brunswick
Office of the County Commissioners



RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE WILMINGTON RAIL REALIGNMENT PROJECT FOR THE BENEFITS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, IMPROVED COMMUTING TIMES, PUBLIC SAFETY, QUALITY OF LIFE, ENHANCED FREIGHT MOVEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington has worked with local, regional, state, federal and private partners in the conceptualization of the Wilmington Rail Realignment Project; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2017 Wilmington City Council accepted the Wilmington Rail Realignment and Right of Way Use Alternatives Feasibility Study which found no fatal flaws to the project, and supported continued development of the project; and

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2019 the Wilmington Rail Realignment Project was announced as a recipient of up to \$2 million in grant funds under the Federal Railroad Administration's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements grant program; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Board of Transportation approved during their October 2019 meeting \$250,000 in matching funds, with an additional \$250,000 in matching funding expected in the subsequent fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington is expected to commence work pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act in the first half of 2020; and

WHEREAS, the development of the Wilmington Rail Realignment Project promotes environmental sustainability in nearby communities along the corridor; and

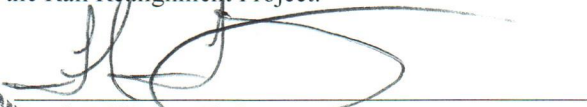
WHEREAS, the Wilmington Rail Realignment project would provide new options for the movement of goods while also enhancing mobility and public safety for the region; and

WHEREAS, the improvements associated with the Wilmington Rail Realignment Project will stimulate regional investment and economic development opportunities.

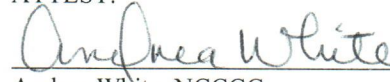
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners supports the furtherance of the Wilmington Rail Realignment Project to provide the region of southeast North Carolina with a solid foundation for transportation on which growth and future prosperity can be built.

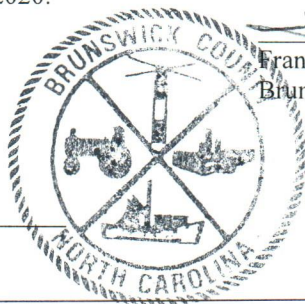
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Brunswick will explore the potential for future collaboration and partnership with the City of Wilmington on the Rail Realignment Project.

This the 21st day of January, 2020.


Frank Williams, Chair
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:


Andrea White, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board



End

Of

Original

County of Brunswick
Office of the County Commissioners



RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE WILMINGTON RAIL REALIGNMENT PROJECT FOR THE BENEFITS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, IMPROVED COMMUTING TIMES, PUBLIC SAFETY, QUALITY OF LIFE, ENHANCED FREIGHT MOVEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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WHEREAS, the improvements associated with the Wilmington Rail Realignment Project will stimulate regional investment and economic development opportunities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners supports the furtherance of the Wilmington Rail Realignment Project to provide the region of southeast North Carolina with a solid foundation for transportation on which growth and future prosperity can be built.

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This the 21st day of January, 2020.

Frank Williams, Chair
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Andrea White, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

COUNTY OF BRUNSWICK

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRUNSWICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
BOLIVIA, NORTH CAROLINA 28422

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BOLIVIA, NORTH CAROLINA 28422

TELEPHONE
(910) 253-2000
(800) 442-7033 (NC)
TELECOPY
(910) 253-2004

June 18, 2018

Ms. Laura W. Padgett
Wilmington Rail Realignment Project Coordinator
Post Office Box 1810
Wilmington, North Carolina 28402-1810

Dear Ms. Padgett:

This letter is in support of the City of Wilmington, North Carolina's FRA grant application for Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) submitted to the Federal Department of Transportation through the Federal Railroad Administration.

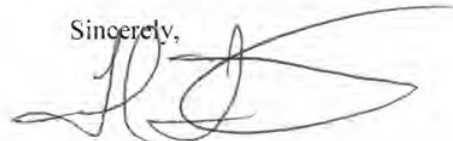
Brunswick County supports the Wilmington Rail Realignment Project to relocate the freight use of the Wilmington beltline rail from the center of the congested heart of the City to the west side of the Cape Fear River, through less inhabited areas, to provide a direct access from the Port of Wilmington to the CSX Davis Railyard. The new route provides significant new economic development opportunities for shipping from surrounding counties and the Southeast U.S. to the Port of Wilmington.

The removal of freight use will provide an opportunity for re-purpose of the right-of-way to alternative transportation, providing accessible, affordable housing and congestion relief. It can also provide a public transit link between the City of Wilmington and the northern part of Brunswick County, linking two more urban developed areas.

Relocating the track will eliminate the 'last-mile' delay into the Port and improve the Port's current efficient operations, improve safety of the rail line, relieve road and track conflicts, and open up freight line access to new industrial sites near the City and in nearby rural and small urban areas in four counties.

Brunswick County supports the City of Wilmington's effort to secure funding for the PE/NEPA track of the CRISI grant opportunity so this important and transformative project can move forward.

Sincerely,



Frank Williams
Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

cc: Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

