

**RESOLUTION BY THE BELVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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 of 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 Town of Belville 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 Town of Belville will explore the potential for future collaboration and partnership with the City of Wilmington on the Rail Realignment Project.

Adopted this the 18th day of May 2020.

SIGNED: 
Mike Allen, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sharon A. Niemann, Town Clerk

