

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 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, on April 7, 2020 the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the City of Wilmington entered into a reimbursement agreement for up to \$500,000 to act as a match toward the Federal Railroad Administration grant; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2020 the City of Wilmington the award of a \$2.5 million contract to AECOM Technical Services of North Carolina, Inc. for professional engineering services and services pursuant to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act for the Rail Realignment Project; 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 Navassa 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 Navassa will explore the potential for future collaboration and partnership with the City of Wilmington on the

Rail Realignment Project.

TOWN OF NAVASSA

Jerry Merrill
MAYOR
For Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST:

Charlene Alston
CLERK

