

**WILMINGTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
BOARD**

**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 Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization provides transportation planning services for the City of Wilmington, Town of Carolina Beach, Town of Kure Beach, Town of Wrightsville Beach, Town of Belville, Town of Leland, Town of Navassa, New Hanover County, Brunswick County, Pender County, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority and the North Carolina Board of Transportation; and

**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 the 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 has commenced 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

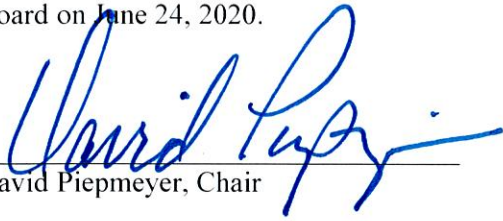
**WHEREAS**, the Wilmington Rail Realignment project would provide new options for the movement of goods while also enhancing mobility and public safety for the region; and

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

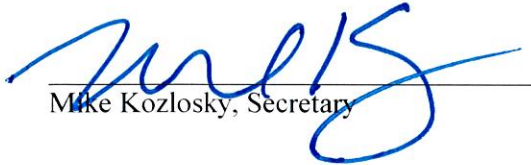
**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Board of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby supports the furtherance of the Wilmington Rail Realignment Project to provide the region of southeast North Carolina with a solid foundation for transportation on which growth and future prosperity can be built.

**NOW THEREFORE**, also be it resolved that the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization will explore the potential for future collaboration and partnership with the City of Wilmington on the Rail Realignment Project.

**ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Board on June 24, 2020.

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David Piepmeyer, Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Kozlosky", written over a horizontal line.

Mike Kozlosky, Secretary