

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2014-114

To Explore the Feasibility of Passenger Rail and the Establishment of Priorities for Investment in High-Capacity transit Along the I-77 Corridor

WHEREAS, increasing modes of travel, such as transit, walking and bicycling, offer the potential for cleaner air, greater health of the population, reduced traffic congestion, more livable communities, less reliance on fossil fuels and their foreign supply sources and more efficient use of road space and resources; and,

WHEREAS, the region along the I-77 corridor from Columbia to Charlotte has grown in both population and employment and has thus begun to experience a greater rise in traffic congestion, wherein providing transportation options such as transit and commuter rail will help maintain quality of life and lessen the need for investment in roadways; and,

WHEREAS, land use patterns that are supportive of high-capacity transit can help create developments that will establish a larger base of potential riders than may otherwise be expected; and,

WHEREAS, transit-supportive communities are livable communities, which include well-designed developments of living and working spaces where daily activities can be accomplished by walking and are conveniently served by transit; and,

WHEREAS, the restoration of passenger rail service between Columbia and Charlotte has the potential to serve as the first leg of a statewide network of corridors connecting all of South Carolina's major cities as well as those communities in between; and,

WHEREAS, the states of Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia are making progress on the Southeast High-Speed Rail Corridor from Washington to Atlanta and implementing corridor service between their major cities, and corridor service projects in Virginia and North Carolina have exceeded ridership expectations; and,

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Multimodal Transportation Plan, which will identify multimodal transportation needs through 2040 including a detailed Statewide Rail Plan, will examine the Columbia to Charlotte corridor to ensure that it exhibits characteristics most suitable for passenger rail investment; and,

WHEREAS, Amtrak's completion of a ridership and revenue analysis for enhanced passenger rail service in the Carolinas and Virginia will include the restoration of passenger rail service between Columbia and Charlotte; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council this 18th day of November, 2014, that the City of Columbia fully commits to explore the feasibility of passenger rail and the

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establishment of priorities for investment in high-capacity transit along the I-77 corridor, but the City of Columbia does not commit any City funds or monetary support.

Requested by:

Mayor Benjamin

Mayor



Approved by:


City Manager

Approved as to form:

City Attorney



ATTEST:

City Clerk



Introduced: 11/18/2014

Final Reading: 11/18/2014