



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

Sean T. Connaughton
Chairman

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Agenda Item # 15

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

April 17, 2013

MOTION

**Made By: Mr. Dana Martin Seconded By: Ms. Fisher
Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously**

**Title: VTA 2000: Engineering and Environmental Work for Downtown Roanoke Passenger
Rail Service – Norfolk Southern Railway Company
FY 2013 – FY 2018 Six Year Improvement Program
Location: City of Roanoke, Virginia**

WHEREAS, the Virginia Transportation Act of 2000 provides funds for improvement of intercity passenger rail service from Washington, D.C. to Bristol, VA; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (“the Department”) is working toward the advancement of intercity passenger rail service from Lynchburg to Roanoke, with direct service destinations as far north as Boston, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, the Department has been working with Norfolk Southern Railway Company (“NSR”), Amtrak, and the City of Roanoke to extend state supported passenger rail service from Lynchburg to downtown Roanoke; and

WHEREAS, to initiate this effort the Department must begin environmental and engineering work for passenger rail infrastructure improvements in the City of Roanoke (“the Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Department will work with NSR to develop an agreement for engineering and environmental work associated with the Project; and

WHEREAS, NSR has provided to the Department a cost estimate of \$600,000 to perform engineering for the platform, servicing facility, and related track work; and

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WHEREAS, in a letter dated April 13, 2013 from the Mayor of Roanoke to Department Director Thelma Drake, the City stated its strong support of bringing Passenger Rail Service back to the Roanoke Valley, and indicated its willingness to contribute funding toward the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Department is requesting authorization to utilize unobligated VTA 2000 funds toward engineering and environmental work related to this Project in order that the project can begin prior to July 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Board supports the initiative to bring intercity passenger rail service back to the Roanoke Valley.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commonwealth Transportation Board hereby amends the FY2013 – FY2018 Six Year Improvement Program to include this Project and allocates \$600,000 of unmatched VTA 2000 funds for engineering and environmental work associated with the Project, contingent upon the execution of an agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway which is acceptable to the Director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

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