



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

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Chairman

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Agenda Item #10

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

January 18, 2012

MOTION

**Made By: Mr. Miller Seconded By: Mr. Bowie
Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously**

Title: Richmond/Hampton Roads Intercity Passenger Rail Project Norfolk Southern Railway Company Project Components

WHEREAS, on February 17, 2010, the Commonwealth Transportation Board approved the preferred alternative for the Richmond to Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Corridor to run alongside Route 460 to Norfolk; and,

WHEREAS, the Board has allocated funds and made adjustments within the Six Year Improvement Program toward the advancement of the Richmond to Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Corridor Richmond to Norfolk Route to provide intercity passenger rail connectivity from Norfolk, with direct service destinations, to as far north as Boston, Massachusetts; and,

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) has worked with and entered into agreements with Norfolk Southern Railway (NS) and CSX Transportation (CSX) to construct the rail improvement project components necessary to provide the track capacity for said passenger rail service; and,

WHEREAS, DRPT has entered into agreement with Amtrak to develop an operating plan to advance the extension of intercity passenger rail service from Richmond to Norfolk; and,

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2011, the CTB has provided \$1,406,691 in additional funding to offset the identified costs of the development of the project, and meet existing budget funding needs for additional work required in Petersburg for soil stabilization at the connection between the CSX and NS tracks and, and construction of crash walls in Norfolk to protect the I-264 bridge piers and the Hampton Roads Transit *Tide* light rail line bridge piers near the Harbor Park intercity passenger rail station track; and

WHEREAS, since that time, NS has notified DRPT of additional project component work and existing budget funding needs that will require an additional \$11,999,574 to complete the project in order to construct additional siding capacity at New Bohemia to alleviate freight train interference and provide necessary capacity in the congested Petersburg area, acquire additional property at St. Julian's Street Train Servicing Facility due to closure of Roberts Road and to prevent the rerouting of heavy truck traffic through residential neighborhoods, to improve the Portlock Yard, to upgrade or build new crossovers between Petersburg and Norfolk, and to upgrade the CSX Railroad diamonds in Suffolk along the route to allow for faster passenger train speeds; and,

WHEREAS, Amtrak has required DRPT to provide a handicap wheelchair lift at the Harbor Park passenger platform facility per ADA requirements; and,

WHEREAS, NS and DRPT have agreed that the additional project component work and existing budget funding need is necessary to complete the NS project components; and,

WHEREAS, on December 9, 2011, by letter, NS requested that DRPT defer the Nokesville to Calverton Double Track project from FY2012-2013 to begin in July 1, 2015 in order that sufficient funding be available in FY2012 for the additional project cost; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the 2011 *Acts of Assembly*, Chapter 890, Item 448.C., unmatched use of Rail Enhancement Funds for this project is authorized; and,

WHEREAS, the Board believes that this project is for the common good of a region of the Commonwealth and serves a public purpose.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby amends the FY2012-FY2017 Six Year Improvement Program and de-allocates the Nokesville to Calverton Double Tracks project (\$12,814,667 in FY2012 and \$9,333,333 in FY2013) and approves the provision of \$11,999,574 of unallocated Rail Enhancement Funds without match to Norfolk Southern Railway Company to fund the additional work and meet additional funding needs identified to complete the Norfolk Southern Railway Richmond to Hampton Roads Intercity Passenger Rail Project components in an agreement acceptable to the Director of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation for a startup target date of service initiation of no later than December 31, 2012; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby approves and amends the FY2012-FY2017 Six Year Improvement Program of the Rail Enhancement Fund amounts unallocated to Norfolk Southern Railway Company for the Nokesville to Calverton Double Tracks project of \$12,814,667 in FY2015 and of \$9,333,333 in FY2016.

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