



Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Resolution of Support for Long Bridge Expansion Project

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization, CA-MPO, is the policy decision-making body for the purpose of carrying out the continuing, cooperative and comprehensive (“3-C”) transportation planning and programming process as defined in United States Code Title 23, Section 134 and Title 49 Section 1607; and in accordance with the constitution and statutes of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the CA-MPO provides a forum for conducting a continuing, comprehensive, and coordinated (3-C) transportation decision-making process among the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, University of Virginia, JAUNT, Charlottesville Area Transit, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transit and Virginia Department of Transportation officials; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board on June 18, 2014 approved in the FY2015-2020 Virginia Six Year Improvement Plan” fully funding second train to Lynchburg” from Washington DC within the Route 29 Solutions transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of this second train service is delayed due to a lack of available rail access between Lynchburg and Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, the Long Bridge across the Potomac River connecting Virginia with Washington, DC is currently at 98% capacity with freight and passenger volume, thereby contributing heavily to the lack of available rail access for passenger rail use; and

WHEREAS, the volume of freight and passenger service across the Long Bridge is expected to increase by 150 percent by the year 2040, a projection established before the recent announcement of the Amazon headquarters to be located in Crystal City, VA and the 25,000+ plus accompanying jobs; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Railroad Administration is expected to consider a final environmental impact assessment in 2020 with design services occurring from 2020-2022 and possible construction beginning in 2022 based upon available federal and state funding; and

WHEREAS, the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan for the Charlottesville Albemarle MPO region states, “additional passenger rail service is important; particularly early morning service that supports business travel between the region and Washington D.C. and other areas in the northeast corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville Amtrak Station currently supports over 141,000 passengers per year, a 32% increase since 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization advocates for the maintaining of the current Long Bridge and construction of two additional rail tracks to create a four-track crossing over the Potomac River to increase capacity for passenger, inter-city and freight rail service and that such funding and approvals take place as quickly as possible to accommodate the escalating demand; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) supports the expansion of the Long Bridge to add two more tracks for freight and passenger use across the Potomac River and to make this support known to Governor Northam, the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board, the Virginia Congressional delegation and the local delegation of the Virginia General Assembly.

Adopted this 23th day of January, 2019 by the Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization.

ATTESTED:

Ann Mallek, Chair
Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO

Date