

Resolution



The Hanover Chamber in its role as the preeminent business and property rights association working to make Hanover a better place to live, work and play, and as a champion for the economic vitality of Hanover County and the Town of Ashland hereby resolves:

Background

Whereas, the DC2RVA Southeast High Speed Rail organization has released and recently updated information regarding its on-going Tier II Study for routing high speed rail through Hanover County. In the materials posted to the public on its website and in mailings to landowners in the Town and West Ashland, a revised red line has been superimposed over aerial photography to identify a possible western bypass route and upgrades to existing lines have been discussed.

Whereas, inquiries by Chamber members and other citizens have raised many questions about these proposals, the Tier II Study as a whole, and the meaning of the high speed rail classification. And Hanover County, the Town of Ashland and our members have called for more information on possible routes and how these new or improved rails will be used.

Resolved

Therefore, the Hanover Chamber hereby resolves that:

Because the current Tier II Study investigation, as presented by DC2RVA, does not provide sufficient information or adequate choices for expansion and upgrade of rail service to and through Hanover County, and as such is a disservice to productive discourse and consideration of these large scale public improvements.

Because much of the current information about the expansion and upgrade of rail service through Hanover County has not been fully presented to the landowners or the public, and, where available, is often out of date and/or not in compliance with current planning standards.

Because it is unclear whether the current proposal would actually provide "high speed rail" or the extent to which these improvements will be for freight rail usage, and who will be the principal beneficiaries of this investment, recognizing that rail upgrades can have a positive economic impacts, but should not be undertaken to the detriment of residents and businesses principally for private benefit.

We hereby disapprove of the public presentations to date of an alternative western bypass as a simple red line carving through farms and homesteads without any accompanying analysis or consideration to the immediate impact on residents and businesses along this theoretical route.

We ask for any party advocating for expansion and upgrade of rail service to provide more timely and complete information about what such high speed rail proposals would actually entail in terms of the types of rail traffic, the proposed funding, the estimated schedule for such work, the benefitted parties and, most importantly, the expected impacts on Hanover and Ashland residents and businesses.

Considered and approved by the Hanover Chamber of Commerce Board this June 2, 2016.