



April 10, 2017

To: The City of Saluda Commissioners

From: The Saluda Historic Depot

Subject: A resolution supporting the efforts of the Saluda Grade Trail Committee to convert the Norfolk Southern rail right-of-way between Saluda, NC and Landrum, SC to a rails to trails project should this right-of-way become retired or rail banked

WHEREAS, the economies of Tryon, NC, Saluda, NC, and Landrum SC were built by the existence of the railroad; and

WHEREAS, the scenic Saluda Grade, being the steepest standard track rail grade in the United State, is one of the most famous, beautiful, and historically significant rail corridors in the country; and

WHEREAS, Norfolk Southern Corporation's rail between Landrum and Saluda (line W) has not been utilized for rail traffic since 2001; and

WHEREAS, said rail is unlikely to be put back into service in the foreseeable future; and WHEREAS, conversion of said rail bed into a recreational trail could:

- Provide a permanent recreational exercise facility for local residents and visitors;
- Serve as a magnet for clean, environmentally friendly tourism for the region;
- Promote and expand existing tourist related businesses;
- Promote the creation of new tourist related businesses;
- Promote equine related enterprises resulting from public trail access;
- Enhance downtown development in Tryon, Saluda, and Landrum;
- Increase sales and hospitality taxes as a result of increased retail activity;
- Preserve the scenic Saluda Grade, one of the most famous and historically significant stretches of rail line in the United States.
- Give Norfolk Southern Corporation a means to renew, rejuvenate, and reinvigorate the economies of communities which were originally built by its corporate predecessor, Southern Railway;
- Promote health, fitness, and welfare to all who use it;
- Provide alternate safe healthy access to schools and parks along the trail;
- Educate the school children of Saluda about the town's heritage and importance of the railroad
- Promote the arts community
- Enhance the quality of life of residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Saluda Grade Trail Committee has been formed for the purpose of accomplishing such a conversation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Saluda Historic Depot, LLC, expresses its support for the Saluda Grade Trail Committee and its mission, and pledges its active cooperation in accomplishing that mission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Saluda Historic Depot, LLC encourages, challenges, and invites other governments, organizations, and individuals to likewise support the mission of the Saluda Grade Trail Committee in the hope that said Committee will accomplish said mission with all due speed; and

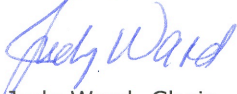
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Saluda Historic Depot, LLC expresses its recognition of and appreciation for the contributions of Norfolk Southern Corporation and its corporate predecessor,

Southern Railway in creating, building, and maintaining the economy of our region throughout virtually the entire 20th Century; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Saluda Historic Depot, LLC entreats Norfolk Southern Corporation to look kindly upon the mission of the Saluda Grade Trail Commission as an opportunity for Norfolk Southern to repurpose its unused rail line and thereby help to recreate, rebuild, and remake said economy as it moves forward through the 21st Century.

The Saluda Historic Depot endorses and supports all initiatives and efforts by the Saluda Grade Trail Commission to convert a rails to trails should Norfolk Southern Corporation retire or bank the line.

Sincerely,



Judy Ward, Chair
Saluda Historic Depot