

**Resolution Endorsing
Light Rail in Virginia Beach**

Whereas, the City of Virginia Beach is home to the region's largest population; and

Whereas, the City and the Hampton Roads region continue to experience increased vehicular traffic disproportionate to population growth; and

Whereas, congestion along major road corridors and bridges already exceeds capacity most hours of the day and the prospect of expanding those facilities or constructing new roadways is unlikely and exceedingly expensive; and

Whereas, traffic congestion costs everyone with Hampton Roads citizens losing half a billion dollars and 26 million hours per year stuck in traffic; and

Whereas, we recognize that the integration of an alternative transportation mode must become an integral part of a local and regional transportation system; and

Whereas, in Virginia Beach no reliable alternative exists to use of the individual car for business and recreational travel; and

Whereas, The Tide light rail service in the City of Norfolk has ridership exceeding projections and has expanded the city's tax base thus diminishing the proportionate tax burden of the individual tax payer; and

Whereas, the City of Virginia Beach has an existing corridor where light rail service might be extended that intersects major business, shopping and recreational destinations, making it the next logical leg for system development; and

Whereas, our population is aging, changing our demographics and demanding that as persons age they will have access to safe, reliable and affordable alternative to driving; and

Whereas, oceanfront traffic congestion and limited parking hinder the ability of residents and visitors to enjoy one of the region's greatest assets and create difficulties for employees to reach their oceanfront base jobs; and

Whereas, there will soon be passenger rail connection to and from the Northeast corridor, Washington DC, Richmond, and points south through the multi-modal station at Harbor Park to which light rail will connect.

Now therefore, let it be resolved that _____ hereby supports the extension of the light rail system through the City of Virginia Beach as the next phase of what must become an interconnected passenger rail system in Hampton Roads and beyond.

Name/Title

Date