

Item Title: Resolution in Support of NCDOT Acquisition of the S-Line

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners adopts the attached resolution in supporting the NCDOT acquisition of the S-Line.

Item Summary:

Purpose: The NCDOT is requesting local governments and others to pass resolution of support of acquisition and development of the S-Line

Background: The S Line is a rail line stretching from South Central North Carolina, through Wake County, and into Virginia. NCDOT is considering acquiring this rail line as part of plans to encourage regional travel. The acquisition would also complement future extensions of Wake County's commuter transit plans, as the rail line connects from Apex to Wake Forest. The Board of Commissioners received an update on this issue during its February 10, 2020 Work Session and reached a consensus to approve a resolution supporting NCDOTs efforts.

Board Goal: NCDOT acquisition of the S-Line supports objectives in the Board Goal Areas of Growth and Sustainability.

Fiscal Impact: The resolution encourages state acquisition and development of the S-Line and SA-Line. By adoption of this resolution, the Board does commit to any local funds nor support appropriation of Wake Transit funding for the project.

Additional Information:

NCDOT has been working with local, state, and federal partners to explore the opportunities of the S-Line, the CSX rail corridor that runs from Hamlet into Virginia. In Wake County, the S-Line runs from Apex to Wake Forest. This corridor is in CAMPOs 2045 long range metropolitan transportation plan for future commuter service between Raleigh and points North and is shown as "Option to Future Expansion to Wake Forest" in the Wake Transit Plan.

The S-Line provides an option for the state to connect major state and regional hubs to support economic development, ease highway congestion, and grow communities along the corridor.

In December, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation announced a deal with CSX. A portion of the deal will enable the N.C. Department of Transportation to acquire a 10-mile portion of an inactive freight line in North Carolina so the line can be

converted for use on the Southeast Rail Corridor. The Southeast Rail Corridor is a network of passenger and freight rail from Washington D.C. to Jacksonville, Fla. The rail runs through North Carolina roughly parallel to Interstate 85 and U.S. 1. The 10-mile section to be acquired runs from Ridgeway in Warren County to the North Carolina-Virginia border.

NCDOT is pursuing a federal Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant application and has asked local governments and others to pass resolution of support of acquisition and development of the S-Line. NCDOT is also seeking matching non-federal funds for the CRISI application.

The Board of Commissioners is asked to adopt the attached resolution that supports the acquisition and development of the S-Line and SA-Line by NCDOT.

By adoption of this resolution, the Board does not commit general funds nor appropriation of Wake Transit funding for the project.

Attachments:

1. Draft Resolution