

Agenda Item Summary Sheet



Meeting Date: 3/21/2016	Agenda Item Number: 7
Submitted By: Zach Ollis	
Attachments:	

Topic: Saluda Grade Resolution

Requested/Recommended Action & Motion: Provide input for Manager and be prepared to approve or deny motion

Summary Explanation & Background: We have prepared a resolution for council's consideration regarding the rail lines throughout our Town. This resolution puts the Town firmly behind the Saluda Grade Trail Committee and their commitment to working toward turning the "W Line" into a rails to trails project. Please be prepared to approve or deny this resolution of support.

Town Priority/Goal (Strategic Plan):

Direct Financial Impact:

Indirect Financial Impact:

Funds Included in Current Budget:



TOWN OF TRYON

301 N. TRADE ST.

TRYON, NORTH CAROLINA 28782

(828) 859-6654 • FAX (828) 859-6653

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, NC 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 east of the Mississippi River;
- 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;



TOWN OF TRYON

301 N. TRADE ST.

TRYON, NORTH CAROLINA 28782

(828) 859-6654 • FAX (828) 859-6653

- Promote health, fitness, and welfare to all who use it;
- Provide alternate safe healthy access to schools and parks along the trail;
- 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 Town of Tryon, North Carolina 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 Town of Tryon 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 Town of Tryon 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 Town of Tryon 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.



TOWN OF TRYON

301 N. TRADE ST.

TRYON, NORTH CAROLINA 28782

(828) 859-6654 • FAX (828) 859-6653

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Done in regular meeting, duly assembled, 21st day of March, 201

Mayor

Town Clerk

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member