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Town of Edinburg

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November 2, 2026
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November 1, 2026

Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. AB 290 (sub-No. 425X)
Norfolk Southern Railway Company-Abandonment Exemption-in
Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren Counties, VA.

The Town of Edinburg, Virginia opposes the motion to hold the above referenced proceeding in Abeyance.

Edinburg adopted a resolution supporting conversion of the corridor to the Shenandoah Rail Trail and supports Norfolk Southern Railway Company's (NSR) abandonment of the Line. Edinburg also supports the Commonwealth of Virginia's pending acquisition of the corridor, and interim trail use and railbanking. Edinburg speaks here for itself and does not address which entity should serve as trail sponsor.

Edinburg further asks that the Surface Transportation Board evaluates any Offer of Financial Assistance (OFA) as to its capability to return freight rail to this corridor and whether it is actually economically feasible. Edinburg believes neither of these goals appears to be possible. The first based on a continued lack of businesses requesting rail service along this corridor for decades. The second based on a recent VDOT evaluation of the corridor that estimated a cost of $300 million in restoration work that would be required to allow for 25mph use.

Edinburg requests that the Surface Transportation Board allow NSR to move forward with the abandonment process for the corridor which will allow the Commonwealth to purchase the corridor, railbanking and ultimately interim trail use.

Respectfully,

Daniel J. Harshman
Mayor

Attachment A: Edinburg's Resolution of Support
Attachment B: Certificate of Service

ATTACHMENT A

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE ACQUISITION AND CONVERSION OF OUT-OF-SERVICE RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY TO A TRAIL FOR ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION AND RECREATION

WHEREAS 48 miles of the former Manassas Gap Railroad which lie between Riverton Junction, in Warren County, and the Town of Broadway, in Rockingham County, and passing through the Town of Edinburg and Shenandoah County, are in a state of disuse, all freight and passenger service having ceased;

WHEREAS the prospect of restoration of freight or passenger service along the aforementioned section of railroad is very unlikely;

WHEREAS the railroad, in its current state of disuse, is a blight on our community, and a danger to youth who may be tempted to trespass;

WHEREAS the railroad presents an opportunity to create a world-class trail providing bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian access to extraordinary landscape views and several important Civil War battlefields;

WHEREAS such trail would catalyze tourism-related economic growth;

WHEREAS such trail would connect eleven communities including the Towns in Shenandoah County, offering an option of safe alternative transportation within and between these communities to a broad segment of the local population, for commuting to work and school, thereby improving the quality of life;

WHEREAS the creation of the trail will further enhance Edinburg's efforts at the historic Edinburg Mill as well as the work being done by the U.S. Forest Service in partnership with the Camp Roosevelt CCC Legacy Foundation on the future CCC James R. Wilkins, Sr. Interpretive Center, both of which are directly adjacent to the trail's route;

WHEREAS an organization known as the Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail Exploratory Partnership, whose membership includes representation of each locality through which the trail would pass, has been formed to explore trail feasibility;

WHEREAS the 2020 Virginia General Assembly directed the state Department of Conservation and Recreation to study trail feasibility and deliver a report no later than November 1st, 2021;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Edinburg endorses the conversion of the aforementioned 48-mile discontinued railroad to a multiuse trail for alternative transportation and recreation;

FURTHERMORE, Edinburg resolves to join with the other trail localities in seeking the support of regional, state and federal agencies and the railroad's owner, Norfolk Southern Corporation, toward the goal of development of the trail.

Adopted this 13th day of April, 2021

Daniel J. Harshman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on November 2, 2026, I caused a copy of the foregoing reply to be served by email on the following parties of record:

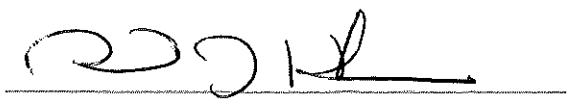
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Daniel J. Harshman
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