

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE STAFF COMMENTS OF THE D.C. TO RICHMOND
(DC2RVA) HIGH SPEED RAIL PROJECT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT**

WHEREAS, the DC2RVA project corridor is a segment of the federally-designated Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor (SEHSR) in the northernmost part of a five-state network of a high speed rail corridor under development, stretching southward from Washington D.C. through Richmond to Raleigh, Charlotte, Atlanta and Jacksonville; and

WHEREAS, track and signal improvements for the SEHSR will provide capacity for more trains operating at speeds up to 110 miles per hour in rural areas and up to 79 miles per hour in urban areas, although trains are expected to travel much slower in urban areas such as Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, the SEHSR states, in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), completed a Tier I Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the implementation of high speed rail passenger service within the SEHSR corridor from Washington, D.C. to Charlotte, NC in 2002; and

WHEREAS, the DC2RVA project corridor is a 123-mile stretch of railroad along the northern most segment of SEHSR, between Richmond, Virginia and Arlington, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the DC2RVA project is to improve reliability and on-time performance, reduce travel time and improve trip times, and increase frequency by adding up to nine (9) additional Amtrak round-trips daily between D.C. and Richmond from the current service of 10 trips per day; and

WHEREAS, infrastructure improvements from the DC2RVA project will enable future growth and expansion of Virginia Railway Express (VRE), a vital transit service along the I-95 corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) is engaged in a Tier II Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process for DC2RVA that evaluates the benefits, costs, and environmental effects of several possible alternatives; and

WHEREAS, the Draft EIS was released in September 2017, and a 60 day comment period began on September 8, 2017, and ends on November 7, 2017; and

WHEREAS, city staff has reviewed the Draft EIS to determine impacts to the City and consistency with the City's Strategic Plan;

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia has received a Federal FAST LANE grant (\$165M) which includes funding to construct a 4th track within CSX right-of-way between

Arlington County and the vicinity of Telegraph Road in Alexandria and modify existing CSX tracks in Alexandria;

WHEREAS, staff comments document both technical and key high level concerns of the City, including the impact of shifting existing tracks toward residential areas, property acquisition, noise and vibration impacts and mitigation, and impacts to Alexandria Union Station parking;

WHEREAS, staff has identified comments on the Draft EIS that will be submitted to DRPT by November 7, 2017;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA:

1. That the City Council endorses staff comments on the DC2RVA project.
2. That the City Manager be authorized to submit the provided staff comments to DRPT before November 7, 2017; and
3. That this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Adopted: October 24, 2017

ALLISON SILBERBERG, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Gloria Sitton, City Clerk