

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE RAIL CORRIDORS REFERRED TO AS THE S-LINE AND SA-LINE FOR THE BENEFITS OF IMPROVED PASSENGER RAIL, IMPROVED FREIGHT MOVEMENT, IMPROVED COMMUTING OPTIONS, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has a long tradition of progressing successful passenger and freight rail projects and supporting the development of rail infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, NCDOT has worked with state, regional, and federal partners to develop plans for the federally-designated Southeast Corridor, a passenger and freight rail network extending from Washington, D.C. through North Carolina to Jacksonville, Fla.; and

WHEREAS, a Record of Decision to develop the Raleigh to Richmond portion of the Southeast Corridor was approved by the Federal Rail Administration (FRA) on March 2017, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act; and

WHEREAS, the development of the S-Line and SA-Line corridors support and promote economic development in communities along the corridor, including those in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, the developed S-Line and SA-Line would provide greater access to jobs, health care, and education and provide new options for the movement of both goods and people; and

WHEREAS, the developed S-Line and SA-Line would provide efficient and reliable commuting options for communities and businesses along the corridor;

WHEREAS, NCDOT anticipates pursuing federal grants to assist with the purchase of portions of the S-Line and the SA-Line in North Carolina and to study transit-oriented communities and development along the corridor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) Board that the Board supports the acquisition and development of the S-Line and SA-Line to provide for the full economic potential to be realized in the corridor; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DCHC MPO Board encourages appropriation of state funding for the non-federal share of any grants to support the acquisition and development of the S-Line and SA-Line.