

**RESOLUTION APPROVING CONVERSION OF THE CANONIE ATLANTIC COMPANY
49.1 MILES OF RAILROAD CORRIDOR TO THE CONVERSION AND
DEVELOPMENT OF THE EASTERN SHORE RAIL-TO-TRAIL**

WHEREAS, the counties of Accomack and Northampton are the principal members of the Accomack-Northampton Transportation District Commission Board, and

WHEREAS, the Accomack-Northampton Transportation District Commission Board is the sole shareholder of Canonie Atlantic Company, and

WHEREAS, Canonie Atlantic Company is a private entity which owns 49.1 miles of railroad corridor located in Accomack and Northampton Counties, and commonly called the Eastern Shore Railroad (ESRR), and

WHEREAS, the Canonie Atlantic Company filed a petition with the Surface Transportation Board to discontinue service and end its common carrier obligation to provide freight rail service over the approximately 49.1 miles of rail line in Accomack and Northampton Counties, and

WHEREAS, the Surface Transportation Board decided on October 31, 2019 to approve the Canonie Atlantic Company petition for abandonment of service, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Accomack and Northampton Counties believe that it is in the best economic, recreational, health and tourism interests of their citizens that the Canonie Atlantic Company's 49.1 miles of abandoned rail line be converted to a world-class rails-to-trails project;

THEREFORE, by this resolution, the Board of Supervisors of Accomack and Northampton Counties approve moving forward with the conversion of the Canonie Atlantic Company's 49.1 miles of abandoned rail line to a rails-to-trails corridor, and

FURTHERMORE, it is agreed to seek the support of all appropriate governmental agencies within the Commonwealth of Virginia to achieve the goal of development of a rails-to-trails facility, and

FURTHERMORE, as the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail Association, with support from the Virginia Bicycling Federation, intends to request the Surface Transportation Board approve a Certificate or Notice of Interim Trail Use, and to work with the counties of Accomack and Northampton, it is in the best interests of Accomack and Northampton Counties to negotiate with the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail Association as a step in achieving the County's overarching goal of developing a world-class Eastern Shore Rail-to-Trail.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED that the County of Accomack supports proceeding with the conversion of 49.1 miles of conditionally abandoned Eastern Shore Railroad to a Rails-To-Trails project, and seeks the support and assistance of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail Association and the Virginia Bicycle Federation in the successful development and completion of this project.

Votes: Crockett: aye Hart: aye Gordy: absent Tarr: aye Major: aye
Chesser: aye Phillips: nay Muhly: nay Wolff: aye

Attest: 
Michael T. Mason, Clerk

Date: December 4, 2019