



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 1a.

DATE OF MEETING: November 21, 2011

REQUESTED BY: Kyle M. Breuer, Director, Planning & Community Development Department

SHORT TITLE: Resolution Supporting the Reconstruction of the Railroad Tracks between Castle Hayne and Wallace, NC.

BACKGROUND: The North Carolina Department of Transportation is examining the potential for and impacts of reconstructing 27-miles of railroad tracks between Castle Hayne to Wallace in southeastern North Carolina. The 27-mile rail corridor is state-owned and links New Hanover, Pender and Duplin Counties. The re-establishment of the railroad tracks would improve freight rail options to support the North Carolina State Port Authority, our military bases, improve access for moving products through the state's most agriculturally active region and improve access to major population centers to the north and west. The re-establishment of the rail line would provide access to serve the military installation at Camp Lejeune and also provide a second rail line out of the North Carolina State Port in Wilmington, linking the Port to the interior of the state and supporting economic development. These reconstructed railroad tracks would also allow the introduction of passenger rail between Wilmington and Raleigh via Goldsboro. The reconstructed railroad tracks would have significant and profound positive economic benefits for southeastern North Carolina. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO) adopted a resolution of support the reconstruction of the railroad tracks between Castle Hayne and Wallace, NC on September 28, 2011. Along with the TAC adopted resolution, it is being requested that all local government members of the WMPO adopt resolutions of support for this transportation project.

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED: To consider a resolution supporting the reconstruction of the railroad tracks between Castle Hayne and Wallace, NC.



**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE RAILROAD TRACKS
BETWEEN CASTLE HAYNE AND WALLACE**

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization provides transportation planning services for the City of Wilmington, Town of Carolina Beach, Town of Kure Beach, Town of Wrightsville Beach, Town of Belville, Town of Leland, Town of Navassa, New Hanover County, Brunswick County, Pender County, Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority and the North Carolina Board of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization is charged with developing, in cooperation with NCDOT, long-range local and regional multi-modal transportation plans; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation is examining the potential for and impacts of reconstructing 27-miles of railroad tracks between Castle Hayne to Wallace in southeastern North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the 27-mile rail corridor is state-owned and links New Hanover, Pender and Duplin Counties; and

WHEREAS, the re-establishment of the railroad tracks would improve freight rail options to support the North Carolina State Port Authority, our military bases, improve access for moving products through the state's most agriculturally active region and improve access to major population centers to the north and west; and

WHEREAS, the re-establishment of the rail line would provide access to serve the military installation at Camp Lejeune and also provide a second rail line out of the North Carolina State Port in Wilmington linking the Port to the interior of the state and supporting economic development; and

WHEREAS, these reconstructed railroad tracks would also allow the introduction of passenger rail between Wilmington and Raleigh via Goldsboro; and

WHEREAS, these reconstructed railroad tracks would have significant and profound positive economic benefits for Pender County and all of southeastern North Carolina.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Commissioners of Pender County supports the efforts of the WMPO to re-establish the 27 mile rail corridor between Castle Hayne and Wallace; and further encourages the NC DOT to reconstruct the railroad line between Castle Hayne and Wallace, and also requests that the North Carolina Department of Transportation do everything in their power to double track this rail line for future freight and passenger service.

ADOPTED this the 21st day of November, 2011.

George R. Brown, Chairman

Rick Benton, Clerk to the Board