

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT OF
CANONIE ATLANTIC COMPANY'S 49.1 MILES OF RAILROAD CORRIDOR
TO AN EASTERN SHORE RAIL-TO-TRAIL PROJECT**

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 commonly called the Eastern Shore Railroad (ESHR); and

WHEREAS, 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 Canonie Atlantic Company's petition for abandonment of service; and

WHEREAS, the Boards 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by this resolution, the Boards of Supervisors of Accomack and Northampton supports moving forward with the conversion of Canonie Atlantic Company's 49.1 miles of abandoned rail line to a rails-to-trails corridor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that 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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, as the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail Association with support from the Virginia Bicycling Federation has petitioned the Surface Transportation Board to approve a Certificate or Notice of Interim Trail Use to work with the Accomack-Northampton Transportation District Commission, Canolie Atlantic Company, and the Counties of Accomack and Northampton, it is in the best interest of Accomack and Northampton Counties to negotiate with the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail Association as a step in achieving the Counties' overarching goal of developing a world-class Eastern Shore Rail-to-Trail.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Northampton supports proceeding with the conversion of the 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.

Adopted this 10th day of December, 2019.

NORTHAMPTON) BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By: 
Its Chairman

ATTEST:


County Administrator/Clerk