

RESOLUTION NO. 05-37
REASONABLE SOLUTIONS FOR 1-81:
A SIX POINT PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

WHEREAS, there is a need to address safety issues and congestion problems on portions of 1-81 throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, an eight- to 12-lane, tolled truck lane project has been proposed and is under review by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT); and

WHEREAS, state and local elected officials, business groups and citizens organizations throughout the 1-81 corridor have called for an alternative plan that is less costly, more targeted to specific safety and congesting issues, and more effective at moving goods and people throughout the corridor;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors hereby supports *Reasonable Solutions for 1-81: A Six Point Plan for the Future*, as a good first step towards addressing the needed long-term improvement to I-81 in Virginia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board calls upon federal, state and local governments to work cooperatively toward achieving the following goals:

- Complete spot improvements to 1-81, such as climbing lanes and redesigned exits, which will improve safety and relieve congestion.
- Use of the highway's median, where possible, for such improvements to limit the encroachment of the road on private property and to avoid further impacts on adjacent landowners, communities, farmland, battlefields and tourism.

- Significantly step up law enforcement to improve safety.
- Incorporate meaningful transit options and funding for both urban and rural areas in road improvement plans. Coordinate with local governments, major employers, and colleges and universities in the development of these options.
- Work cooperatively with rail companies and government officials from Tennessee to Pennsylvania to develop an intermodal rail line to increase options for freight capacity, maintain economic competitiveness and avoid air quality and congestion problems as road use grows.
- Provide funding for land acquisition to create a buffer and mitigate impacts of I-81 on cultural resources in the corridor, most notably battlefields; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board calls upon the Commonwealth Transportation Board to continue to develop a long-range plan to solve the safety and congestion issues for I-81.