



## RESOLUTION

### CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR COMMUTER RAIL AND SUPPORT FOR TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT AT AN APPROPRIATE TRAIN STATION LOCATION IN SOUTH NASHUA

#### *CITY OF NASHUA*

*In the Year Two Thousand and Four*

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Nashua that:

WHEREAS, commuter rail service between the State of New Hampshire and Boston would offer our citizens an important alternative to using congested highways; and

WHEREAS, having rail service to Nashua would be a significant economic development opportunity for the City; and

WHEREAS, restoring commuter rail service to New Hampshire hinges upon the restoration of service to the City of Nashua first; and

WHEREAS, the Nashua region's leaders and citizens have overwhelmingly supported the restoration of commuter rail to NH; and

WHEREAS, South Nashua has been identified as a preferred location for the first train station in NH; and

WHEREAS, the NH Supreme Court has deemed that gas tax funds cannot be used to match the federal dollars for this project; and

WHEREAS, the restoration of commuter rail service to New Hampshire requires the coordinated efforts of the City, State, and Federal Government working in partnership with regional representatives and the private sector;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Nashua that the City continues to support commuter rail and envisions that the train station site will be designed using transit oriented development and smart growth principles. It will become a hub of mixed-use activity, optimizing the use of commuter rail in the midst of the region's most vibrant commercial center. The increased property values that result will generate increased tax revenue, which will be used to finance the match required for use of the federal funds appropriated to complete the project. The redevelopment of the site will meet the highest standards of design and serve as a model for generating the match necessary to continue the rail throughout NH; and

The City and NH Department of Transportation will pursue an agreement such that the project remains a State project, the City will provide the match, NH DOT will manage the project and the City will have approval authority over the train station site design; and

The City, Nashua Regional Planning Commission and NH Department of Transportation will pursue an agreement such that the parties will work to form a NH Transit Authority, which will have the responsibility of expanding, operating and maintaining commuter rail in NH.

By passage of this resolution, the Board of Aldermen supports using increased tax revenue to finance the match required for commuter rail, understanding that the following tasks must be undertaken by the City before said match is available for the project:

- 1) A site which is suitable for the development must be identified; and
- 2) A development agreement must be in place which demonstrates the economic viability of the proposed development and guarantees that the proposed development will generate sufficient new revenues to pay for the matching funds; and
- 3) A Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district must be established in concert with the development agreement and related financial plan; and
- 4) That bonds must be sold, only after approval of the site, development agreement, related financial plan and TIF, to cover the city's share of the matching funds.

The Board also recognizes that the following additional steps must be taken prior to finalization of the commuter rail project:

- 1) A project management agreement must be executed between the NH DOT and the City; and
- 2) A transit authority must be established; and finally,
- 3) Development, operations and management agreements must be confirmed with the MBTA and Guilford Transportation.