



September 22, 2026 City Council Meeting

Title

Consider adopting a resolution endorsing passenger rail service expansion — Council Member Laura Dent

Summary

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) is developing its 2026 Statewide Rail Plan. The City of Harrisonburg requests for the 2026 Virginia Statewide Rail Plan to reflect local government interest in re-establishment of passenger rail service to Harrisonburg. The City of Harrisonburg encourages the Virginia General Assembly to request in the upcoming Session for DRPT to study the feasibility of passenger rail service expansion to the Harrisonburg/Rockingham County MSA.

Recommendation

Option 1- Adopt a resolution endorsing passenger rail service expansion

Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact

Context & Analysis

At its September 8, 2026 meeting, City Council heard a presentation by the community organization Blue Ridge Rail on local interest in passenger rail expansion. Following this presentation, City Council unanimously directed City staff to develop a letter or resolution supporting the concept of expansion of passenger rail to Harrisonburg. The resolution presented this evening outlines the multiple reasons City Council supports for DRPT to consider the Harrisonburg/Rockingham County MSA as a future site of passenger rail as the passenger rail system in Virginia continues to be expanded.

Options

Option 1- Adopt a resolution endorsing passenger rail service expansion

Option 2- Deny a resolution endorsing passenger rail service expansion