

## **A RESOLUTION**

### **TO SUPPORT THE GREENVILLE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION IN ITS EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT AND PRESERVATION OF TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS.**

**WHEREAS**, Greenville County Council (“County Council”) committed in 1998 to preserving railroad corridors and promoting economic development;

**WHEREAS**, County Council established Greenville County Economic Development Corporation (“GCEDC”) through Enabling Legislation by Resolution No. 890, effective June 1, 1999;

**WHEREAS**, in 1999, the County invested \$1.3 million in acquiring approximately 15 miles of railroad right-of-way—of which about 11.8 miles resulted in the northern GHS Swamp Rabbit Trail—and directed GCEDC to manage it;

**WHEREAS**, the GCEDC is a public benefit non-profit corporation that performs the functions of and carries out the purposes of preserving, owning, leasing, constructing, acquiring, and operating transportation services and facilities (i.e., railroad rights-of-way) related to the promotion of economic development of Greenville County;

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the GCEDC, as related to the promotion of economic development of Greenville County, states that it is “To facilitate, through rail line ownership and/or rail corridor preservation, intermodal, business, commuter, shipping, and leisure traveler access to Greater Greenville and its gateways. Our highest priorities, in carrying out this mission, are safety, citizenship, responsibility, and cost effectiveness”;

**WHEREAS**, numerous planning studies have demonstrated a growing need for Greenville County to provide multi-modal public transportation options to meet the current and future needs of local citizens and visitors;

**WHEREAS**, GCEDC still owns approximately 3.4 miles of railroad right-of-way parallel to Laurens Road from Pleasantburg Drive to CU-ICAR that could be a multi-modal routeway;

**WHEREAS**, the GCEDC corridor allows improved public connectivity on its dedicated right-of-way as well as nearby existing roads through multi-modal options via cars, buses, electric personal on-demand driverless (ePOD) vehicles, bicycles, and walking paths;

**WHEREAS**, multi-modal stations or mobility hubs provide opportunities for Transit Oriented Economic Development (“GreenVillages development”) along the Laurens Road corridor at locations such as Washington Street, Pleasantburg, and Verdae;

**WHEREAS**, the GCEDC railhead terminus at Pleasantburg near Laurens Road represents a special opportunity for a mobility hub with workforce housing, recreational trails and parks to provide significant public benefit;

**WHEREAS**, GreenVillages development around mobility hubs provides places where people love to live, work, shop, and play in a mixed use environment, including housing, shops, offices, restaurants, and other functions that meet population needs; and

**WHEREAS**, significant development and/or re-development along the GCEDC corridor could generate significant economic impact during construction and would result in increased real estate sales and a larger tax base for the community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IN RESOLVED BY GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL** that:

1. County Council reaffirms its continuing support of GCEDC and encourages support of efforts to create a model multi-modal transportation corridor from Downtown Greenville along Laurens Road to CU-ICAR.
2. County Council pledges its support to GCEDC in researching rapid transit options, developing a business case, and implementing the GCEDC multi-modal transportation corridor as soon as possible.
3. County Council pledges its support to the expansion of the trails corridors currently operated by the Greenville County Parks Recreation and Tourism Department throughout the County.
4. County Council also encourages GCEDC to obtain grants and donations to fund the Corporation's proposed projects.
5. County Council encourages GCEDC to work with public and private sector partners for development of GCEDC projects.

**DONE IN REGULAR MEETING THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.**

GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Taylor, Chairman  
Greenville County Council

ATTEST:

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Theresa B. Kizer  
Clerk to Council

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Joseph M. Kernell  
County Administrator