

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DELAWARE RIVER PORT AUTHORITY
PATCO EXPANSION INTO GLOUCESTER COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Delaware River Port Authority (hereinafter "DRPA") has been studying various transit alternatives with regard to extending light rail line services from the City of Camden to Glassboro; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware River Port Authority will have the final say in determining the route of the new Light Rail System extension; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Planning Commission, made up of State and local officials as well as members of the public, has just selected two (2) of five (5) proposals promoted by the DRPA as the best routes for the region whereby either of the two selections would use existing Conrail right-of-ways to route a rail line through many of Gloucester County's older towns, servicing a large population and encouraging the redevelopment of existing communities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed route would also alleviate congestion and provide accessibility to employment for those of lower income; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Planning Commission Panel found that the other proposals, which would also run new rail lines, and in some instances in median strips along Route 55, Route 42, Interstate 676 and the Atlantic City Expressway, would encourage growth in areas that should be preserved and would create urban sprawl and defeat the purpose of the proposed Light Rail System extension; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey Office of Smart Growth has also recently announced its preferred route and, in fact, has taken a stance for the first time regarding the best way to extend the rail line, which decision is formalized by the State Planning Commission's recommendation; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has also allocated \$500 Million Dollars from

the State Transportation Fund for the Light Rail System extension project; and

WHEREAS, DRPA Officials are still studying the transit alternatives with an anticipated decision in late spring or early summer, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the County of Camden does hereby officially note its support and recommendation to approve the proposed Light Rail System extension into Gloucester County and ending in the Borough of Glassboro, as per the recommendation of the New Jersey State Planning Commission, as well as the New Jersey Office of Smart Growth; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Camden that:

- 1 The Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholders does hereby publicly announce its support and endorsement of the Light Rail System extension into Gloucester County pursuant to the recommendation of the New Jersey State Planning Commission, as well as the New Jersey Office of Smart Growth; and
- 2 That a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Delaware River Port Authority.

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