RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF "ANALYSIS OF SOUTH JERSEY RAIL EXPANSION ALTERNATIVES" REPORT AND SUBMISSION OF SAME TO THE DELAWARE RIVER PORT AUTHORITY AND OTHER RELEVANT ENTITIES

WHEREAS, the Legislature, in 1986, enacted the State Planning Act (the Act), N.J.S.A. 52:18A-196 et seq., recognizing that New Jersey, the nation's most densely populated State, requires sound and integrated statewide planning and coordination of statewide planning with local and regional planning in order to conserve the State's natural resources, revitalize its urban centers, protect the quality of its environment, and provide needed housing and adequate public services at a reasonable cost while promoting beneficial economic growth, development and renewal; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 52:18A-196 includes the following legislative findings and declarations:

- significant economies, efficiencies and savings in the development process would be realized by private sector enterprise and by public sector development agencies if the several levels of government would cooperate in the preparation of and adherence to sound and integrated plans
- a cooperative planning process that involved the full participation of state, county and local governments as well as other public and private sector interests will enhance prudent and rational development, redevelopment and conservation policies and the formation of sound and consistent regional plans and planning criteria

WHEREAS, the Act includes the further legislative finding and declaration that these purposes can best be achieved through the establishment of a state planning commission (the Commission) consisting of representatives from the executive and legislative branches of state government, local government, the general public and the planning community; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:18A-202(a), the Commission has been authorized and directed to prepare, maintain and revise the State Development and Redevelopment Plan
(State Plan), and to give due consideration to the plans of state Agencies in developing the State Plan; and

WHEREAS, the State Plan is a policy document, representing a balance of development and conservation objectives best suited to meet the needs of the State, developed through a consensus process, taking into account feedback from planning entities, including State agencies and used as a tool to guide decisions regarding, inter alia, land use, for all relevant State agencies as well as municipal, county and other governmental agencies performing planning related functions; and

WHEREAS, among the powers and duties of the Commission is to review any bill introduced in either house of the Legislature which appropriates funds for a capital project and it may study the necessity, desirability and relative priority of the appropriation by reference to the State Plan, and may make recommendations to the Legislature and to the Governor concerning the bill; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is expressly authorized to take all actions necessary and proper to carry out the provisions of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the following policies of the State Plan are most relevant to the inquiry of which alternatives are most in alignment with the State Plan:

**Policy 2: Public Transportation Priorities**

Public transit funds should be invested in the following areas beyond preservation of the existing network:

- Improvements that provide greater accessibility to rail, bus and ferry transit stations and Centers from within and outside the state.
- Improvements that promote system usage for intra-state trips, especially realizing the potential of the major transfer facilities and connecting the rail system to important instate traffic generators.
- Improvements that foster mobility within developed areas and that link neighborhoods, for example, intra-city transit.
- Improvements that link redevelopment to existing and planned mass transit facilities.
- Connect developed areas that are under served by mass transit.
- Promote development that is conducive to mass transit services.
- Expansions of fixed rail networks that, where feasible, complete coverage to all significant corridors in locations and ways that support compact development and redevelopment.
- Capacity that permits travel conveniently and comfortably to major centers adjacent to the state; and

**Policy 4: Integration of Land Use and Transportation Planning**

Establish a working partnership between transportation agencies, municipal, county and regional governments and the private development community to strengthen the linkages between land use planning and transportation planning for all modes of transportation including mass transit, highways, rail, aviation, passenger ferry service and port facilities. Transportation
system improvements and good land use planning practices must be mutually supportive. Coordinate and harmonize local, state and regional infrastructure investment plans and programs with local land use plans to achieve the following objectives:

- Reduce consumption of land and increase the efficiency of infrastructure.
- Support public transportation systems and other alternatives to the automobile.
- Reduce total vehicle miles of travel.
- Reduce the overall consumption of energy resources for transportation purposes.

Policy 5: Transportation and Environmental Resource Protection

Coordinate transportation planning and project development with environmental planning through a capital planning process. Before programming for construction, evaluate the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of installing transportation improvements and of the development that these improvements may support or induce to ensure that they accommodate and protect sensitive environmental resources.

Policy 7: Transportation and Energy Conservation

Reduce the consumption of energy resources for transportation purposes by:

- reducing the total vehicle miles traveled through efficient land development patterns;
- using public and alternative transportation systems

Policy 20: Transportation Planning as a Redevelopment and Development Tool

Employ transportation planning, facilities and services as development and redevelopment tools to shape growth and leverage economic development opportunities.

Policy 21: Labor Markets

Use appropriate transportation connections to link places of residence with those areas of growing employment opportunities identified in the State Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Commission considered a presentation at its November 2008 meeting regarding potential rail line extensions to Port Authority Transit Company ("PATCO") which runs between Lindenwold, NJ and center-city Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, the Commission directed staff of the Office of Smart Growth to perform an evaluation of potential rail line extensions for consistency with the State Plan; and

WHEREAS, staff of the Office of Smart Growth presented a draft evaluation to the Commission at its December 2008 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Commission directed staff of the Office of Smart Growth to add some further assessments to the evaluation; and
WHEREAS, staff of the Office of Smart Growth has updated the evaluation, entitled "Analysis of South Jersey Rail Expansion Alternatives" as shown in EXHIBIT A attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Commission agrees with the updated evaluation indicating that proposed alternative #3 and proposed alternative #4 are most consistent with the State Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission, pursuant to its authority under the Act, hereby approves adoption of the report entitled "Analysis of South Jersey Rail Expansion Alternatives;" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission hereby authorizes this resolution and attached Exhibit be provided to the following planning entities:

- NJ Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA)
- Port Authority Transit Company (PATCO)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that staff to the Commission are authorized and encouraged to share the contents of this resolution and attached exhibit to all municipalities that are on each of the potential rail alignments discussed in the report and to provide any support services to explain the relevance and benefit of implementing the State Plan in their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution and attached exhibit be forwarded to the Governor, the Senate President, the Assembly Speaker, and members of the Cabinet; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Commission and the Executive Director of the Office of Smart Growth are hereby authorized to execute such documents and to take such other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to disseminate this resolution and attached report and provide information regarding same to interested persons.

Certification

This Resolution was adopted by the New Jersey State Planning Commission at its meeting held on Wednesday, February 18, 2009. Ayes (10) Kenneth Albert, Elizabeth Semple, Brent Barnes, Monique Purcell, James Souder, Patrick Morrissey, Edward McKenna, Shing-Fu Hsueh, Charles Richman, and Louise Wilson. Nays (0). Abstains (0).

Benjamin L. Spinelli, Secretary
NJ State Planning Commission