



Town of Ashland

Center of the Universe

101 THOMPSON STREET
P.O. BOX 1600
ASHLAND, VIRGINIA 23005-4600

TELEPHONE (804) 798-9219
FAX (804) 798-4892

October 24, 2016

Friends and Neighbors:

Thank you for all you do to make Ashland such a wonderful community. We often reach out to our citizens to ask for their input, but today I'm reaching out to ask for your help. On November 1, 2016 members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, as well as staff of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, will be visiting Ashland to get a first-hand look at the impact their recommendation on the DC2RVA High Speed Rail project will have on the community. This is an unprecedented opportunity for the Town to show the Board just how devastating a third track through downtown Ashland will be for residents, businesses and tourists.

The day will likely begin with a presentation at the Ashland Theater at 11am. There will not be any public comment but we are hoping there will be time for a Q&A session. They will also do a walking tour of Ashland from the RMC campus down Center Street to around Myrtle Street between 12:30 and 1:30pm. We are actively seeking more information on the logistics of their visit.

My request to you is that we do everything we can to welcome them with open arms and help them to understand what a wonderful community they would be destroying by putting a third rail through the heart of downtown. So if you have the time and resources, spruce up your property, decorate for the holidays, put out signs saying "Welcome CTB Members!", make a point to be out walking Center Street and Railroad Avenue during that time period, or simply sit on your porch and wave when the various groups go by.

Let's make a positive impression on these decision makers. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to me at (804) 363-4817, or call our Interim Town Manager, Joshua Farrar, at (804) 798-8650. Thanks again for all you do to make Ashland, Ashland.

Sincerely,

James R. Foley
Mayor
Ashland, VA
"The Center of the Universe"

JAMES R.
FOLEY.
MAYOR

JAMES D.
MURRAY
VICE MAYOR

GEORGE F.
SPAGNA, JR.
COUNCIL MEMBER

STEVEN P.
TRIVETT
COUNCIL MEMBER

KATHLEEN K.
ABBOTT
COUNCIL MEMBER

JOSHUA S.
FARRAR
INTERIM TOWN
MANAGER

ANDREA E.
ERARD
TOWN ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A.
COLLINS
CLERK OF COUNCIL