

Mayor
Scott Merki

Recorder
Susan J. Webster



Council Members
Elizabeth Skinner
Rick Weber
Chris Chapman
Rose Jackson
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Town of Bath

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Town of Bath

Resolution 01-01-2020

The Town of Bath Mayor and Council express support for a MARC Train stop in northern Morgan County serving the Town of Bath, Berkeley Springs, WV, Hancock, MD and Fulton County, PA and surrounding areas; We adopt the following Resolution this 21st day of January, 2020:

Whereas, an Appalachian Regional Commission study released in June, 2000 for the Eastern Panhandle Regional Planning & Development Council by Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade and Douglas, Inc. displayed positive results for a Marc extension to Hancock, WV; and

Whereas, findings from the report showed support from CSX to extend the MARC commuter service from its closest existing station in Martinsburg, West Virginia to Hancock, West Virginia; A plan for extension included both a Service and Station Concept plan, with estimated capital costs; A market analysis was developed to project how operating impacts would be offset by ridership potential; and

Whereas, the study found that extension of the MARC commuter rail service from Martinsburg to Hancock would be economically feasible with the support of CSX. Improvements would include a weatherized passenger platform, lighted parking facilities, security fencing and a new switching spur. Given the location of the station in close proximity to adjoining states, it was concluded that funding might be achieved through federal programs and participation by other states; and

Whereas, Maryland officials have expressed concern with increasing costs of operation for the current rail line to Martinsburg, WV; and

Whereas, a rail line extension to Hancock would serve western Maryland, Berkeley Springs, WV, and southern Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, West Virginia has committed millions of dollars in funding over the past several years, but with declining ridership and without a long-term plan or commitment for the riders or government leaders; and

Whereas, tourism related travel via MARC train could boost ridership with added excursion train trips or as simple as "reverse commutes" on Friday evening & Monday morning; and

Whereas, serving western Maryland, the Berkeley Springs area and southern Pennsylvania could attract funding opportunities from the Federal Government programs and resources; and

Whereas, an active "Tristate Rail Effort Committee" worked across the tristate area from 1997-2006 in support of the expansion and rail line extension to Hancock; and

Whereas, positive economic impacts from wages & spending for professionals that use the MARC Train are an important segment of the eastern panhandle of WV, western MD and southern PA economies;

Therefore be it resolved: The Mayor and Council of the Town of Bath request state leaders in Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania; transportation officials on the local, regional and state levels; and Governor Justice of WV, Governor Hogan of MD and Governor Wolfe of PA to consider the opportunities available with a line extension of MARC Train to Hancock; increased ridership opportunities; increased revenues; possible Federal funding opportunities; expanded services to western MD, southern PA and across the WV eastern panhandle; increased job opportunities; increased options for taxpayer/commuters; increased tourism opportunities; and a step towards a long-term funding plan & agreement; and

Be it further resolved, the Town of Bath Mayor and Council requests a copy of this resolution to be sent to the Honorable Governor of Maryland Larry Hogan, the Honorable Governor of West Virginia Jim Justice and the Honorable Governor of Pennsylvania Tom Wolfe; the area Legislative delegations of WV, MD and PA; and Transportation officials in MD, WV and PA.

Scott Merki, Mayor

Scott E. Merki

Susan Webster, Recorder

Susan Webster

Elizabeth Skinner, Council Member

Elizabeth A. Skinner

Rose Jackson, Council Member

Rose Jackson

Chris Chapman, Council Member

Chris Chapman

Rick Weber, Council Member

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John Bohrer, Council Member

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