

Durham Open Space and Trails Commission (DOST)
Resolution Regarding 2005 Federal SafeTEA-LU \$2 Million Earmark

WHEREAS, DOST seeks to ensure the taxpayers of Durham do not lose the \$2 million rail corridor acquisition earmark #4456 from the SafeTEA-LU Bill, which was originally intended to be used for the Duke Beltline / 501 Rail Corridor project,

WHEREAS, an agreement with the Norfolk Southern Railroad could not be reached in the Duke Beltline / 501 Rail Corridor project,

WHEREAS, these funds can be used for the acquisition of *any* rail corridor in Durham to be used as a trail,

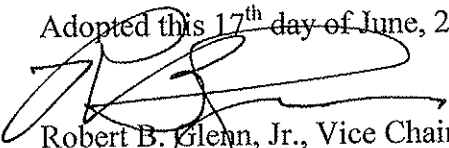
WHEREAS, this bill expires in September of 2009 and to date does not have the needed Project Agreement in place with NCDOT to preserve the funds,

WHEREAS, the required 20% funding match by Durham can be spread over multiple years in the Project Agreement,

AND WHEREAS, the Panther Creek Rail Trail, as planned in the Eastern Durham Open Space Plan and the Durham Trails and Greenways Master Plan presents an opportunity for a rail trail acquisition, while also acquiring and protecting lands in the critical Falls Lake watershed,

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that DOST recommends to the City Council and the County Commissioners, that staff resources be prioritized to protect these funds by putting in place a Project Agreement with NCDOT as expediently as possible for a Panther Creek Rail Trail project. It is recommended that the Project Agreement spread the funding, and hence the funding required by Durham for the match, over multiple years such that Durham's current fiscal situation does not cause us to lose this substantial funding opportunity.

Adopted this 17th day of June, 2009


Robert B. Glenn, Jr., Vice Chair
Durham Open Space & Trails Advisory Commission