

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
 FOR THE PORT BIENVILLE RAILROAD'S NORTH SOUTH RAILROAD CONNECTOR  
 BETWEEN PORT BIENVILLE AND NICHOLSON, MISSISSIPPI**

**WHEREAS**, the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission sponsored, in conjunction with the Mississippi Department of Transportation and the Federal Railroad Commission, a Feasibility Study for the development of an approximately 26-mile-long railroad connection between Port Bienville Short Line Railroad in South Hancock County and the Norfolk Southern Railroad near Nicholson, Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, such a railroad connector would create economic opportunity for the growth of Hancock County and parts of Pearl River County by creating dual Class 1 rail access to both the CSX and the Norfolk Southern Railroads; and

**WHEREAS**, such a connector would further serve to provide additional rail service options to existing industry in South Mississippi where only one option currently exists; and

**WHEREAS**, this north-south connector also has the ability to provide evacuation and storage response outside of coastal flood zones during an emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the next step in the process is to address potential environmental impacts through the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act; and

**WHEREAS**, such a Draft EIS has been prepared and announced in the Federal Register on September 21, 2018 with public comments due on November 5, 2018.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the City of Diamondhead, Mississippi hereby acknowledges the value of the project for the benefit of the region and for Mississippi and offers its support for the project as described in the Draft EIS; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the parties are encouraged to expedite the approval of the final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision so that this valuable project may begin in earnest.

On motion of Councilmember L'Ecuyer, seconded by Councilmember Depreo, this motion was **PASSED and APPROVED** this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2018.

	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN
Mayor Schafer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember L'Ecuyer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember Depreo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember Moran	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember Koenenn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



ATTEST: Jeannie Klein  
 JEANNIE KLEIN, CITY CLERK

APPROVED: Thomas Schafer, IV  
 THOMAS SCHAFFER, IV MAYOR