

The
MAYOR & BOROUGH COUNCIL
of the **Borough of Glen Ridge**
County of Essex
State of New Jersey

Monday, August 9th, 2010.

RESOLUTION NO. 124 - 10

Offered By Councilperson **BAKER**
Seconded By Councilperson _____

RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO WORK COOPERATIVELY FOR THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF A RAIL-TRAIL PARK WITHIN BELLEVILLE TOWNSHIP, BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, CITY OF NEWARK, GLEN RIDGE BOROUGH AND MONTCLAIR TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, Belleville, Bloomfield, Newark, Glen Ridge and Montclair are among the most densely-populated municipal jurisdictions within the most densely-populated state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Belleville, Bloomfield, Newark, Glen Ridge and Montclair support the planning and evaluation of non-motorized inter-local transportation alternatives and trail opportunities for community development, public health and public recreational access; and

WHEREAS, Belleville, Bloomfield, Newark, Glen Ridge and Montclair are home to a 100 foot-wide, 4.5-mile continuous, contiguous and underutilized segment of the former Erie Railroad, New York & Greenwood Lake Railway; and

WHEREAS, in 2002 New Jersey Transit Corporation terminated commuter passenger service, and regular operational and maintenance responsibilities along said corridor; and

WHEREAS, freight rail service provided by Norfolk Southern Corporation has been partially- and/or fully-discontinued along portions of the corridor as evidenced by removal of track, tie, signal and at-grade crossing equipment, and the loss of shippers; and

WHEREAS, the corridor forms a superior connection between and among Belleville, Bloomfield, Newark, Glen Ridge and Montclair and enhances the linkage of residential communities, commercial and business sites, and civic, institutional and recreational lands and waters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Glen Ridge hereby declare that it is their intention to work with Belleville, Bloomfield, Newark and

Montclair to pursue re-use of the corridor as a possible "rail-with-trail" facility to jointly accommodate freight shippers, passenger service and non-motorized public access and recreational trail use or recreational facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council intend to work with Belleville, Bloomfield, Newark and Montclair in the planning, design, grant-writing and activities necessary to advance corridor reuse; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council recognize the amount of work and planning such an undertaking involves and as such hereby agree to the formation of an Interlocal Rail-Trail Planning Committee ("Committee"), whose official membership shall consist of one mayoral appointee from Belleville, Bloomfield, Newark, Glen Ridge and Montclair. The Committee shall meet regularly, keep records, develop a project workplan, host meetings and public events, work with stakeholders, and serve as a forum for coordinating municipal, county, state, federal and regional agency activities. The Committee shall not be authorized enter into contracts, expend money, maintain a budget, approve expenditures, or incur any liability on behalf of Glen Ridge. The committee will be an advisory Committee to plan and coordinate the undertaking with the Borough Council maintaining responsibility to take any necessary action, expend any money, enter into any contract or incur any liability.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough of Glen Ridge recognizes that Belleville, Bloomfield, Newark and Montclair are going to consider passing that above resolution and Glen Ridge encourages those municipalities to do so and is willing to enter into a memorandum of understanding after all of the resolutions are passed.

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I hereby certify that the above resolution was duly adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Glen Ridge at a meeting of said Borough Council held on _____ 2010.

Borough Clerk of the Borough of Glen Ridge

Mayor of the Borough of Glen Ridge