

Town of Murphy

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August 28, 2018

Jason T. Orthner, P.E.
Director
North Carolina Department of Transportation
Rail Division
1553 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27601-1553

Dear Mr. Orthner:

The Town of Murphy, Cherokee County, and our larger community wish to thank you for traveling to Murphy on August 22nd to meet with us on the viability for restarting the train from Murphy to Andrews, with a possible stop at Harrah's Valley River Casino & Hotel.

As discussed, the extensive NC DOT study completed in 2015 concluded a solid positive economic impact directly associated with the return of the train. Thank you for agreeing to review the 2015 comprehensive study to advise on the NC DOT's current position.

We continue to be very passionate about making the train a reality. The tremendous economic impact to Boone, Bryson City and Blue Ridge Georgia, to mention a few, seem to clearly validate that tourism trains can and are proven to be game changers in communities that previously were in peril before the train. In addition and most importantly, I have learned of the need and value in reintroducing freight to the plan.

We are confident that our compelling case will be successful in scoring a winning score for economic success in the western part of our wonderful state. Any metrics do clearly identify that our Appalachian area is in severe need of

economic stimulation. The train is our best and biggest opportunity to positively impact our economy not only locally, but regionally and state wide.

We look forward to your response for a review of the recent 2015 comprehensive study and further hope your conclusion will keep us on a path for the train's return.

If possible, it will be greatly appreciated if you could provide an approximate date for your review of the NC DOT 2015 study.

Thank you and your team for visiting with us. We also thank you in advance for your diligent efforts to help the economic perils of our community in western North Carolina.

Yours truly,



Rick Ramsey
Mayor, City of Murphy

cc: The Honorable U.S. Congressman Mark Meadows
The Honorable NC State Senator Jim Davis
The Honorable NC State Representative Kevin Corbin
NC DOT Division 14 Chief Engineer Brian C. Burch,
Cherokee County Commissioner Gary Westmoreland
Town of Murphy City Council
Town of Murphy Manager, Chad Simons