



MONTGOMERY COUNTY 'DISAPPOINTED' BY ELLISTON RAIL FACILITY CONCLUSION

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Montgomery County, Virginia – Montgomery County's Board of Supervisors are "extremely disappointed" by the final report pointing to Elliston as the only feasible location for the Roanoke Regional Intermodal Rail Facility.

Board Chairman Annette Perkins said, "We are extremely disappointed with the report concluding that Elliston is the recommendation for Norfolk Southern's intermodal facility. Montgomery County's Board of Supervisors and citizens are strongly opposed to the intermodal facility locating in Elliston because it will adversely affect our quality of life, including increased traffic and noise, and the degradation of air and water quality. This is not the type of economic development Montgomery County wishes to locate here."

"The Board joined with our neighboring localities more than two years ago to support the Heartland Corridor project. Montgomery County has since learned that very few jobs will be created that will employ County residents. The negative environmental impacts far outweigh any positives for our community," Chairman Perkins added.

Montgomery County's Board of Supervisors has unanimously passed three resolutions since 2006 opposing Elliston as the site for the intermodal facility. Citizens are also strongly opposed to Norfolk Southern's proposal and petitioned the Board to oppose development of this pristine location.

"The Commonwealth of Virginia has pledged significant public funding for this project, which will be owned and operated by Norfolk Southern, a private corporation. It is not sound public policy to provide public funding for a project that is outside local zoning authority and that the County opposes," Chairman Perkins said.

"In light of the conclusions announced today, the County will be evaluating its options and exploring all avenues of recourse," Chairman Perkins said. "While we are determining our next steps, we welcome input from our regional partners over the coming weeks as we determine our best course of action."

County concerns include:

- Increased truck traffic through the villages of Shawsville, Elliston and Lafayette if North Fork Road (State Route 603) is not upgraded. It will also increase truck traffic at the Ironto exit of I-81, one of the interstate's busiest and most dangerous exits. Truck traffic will also bring increased congestion, noise and air pollution to this quiet area.
- Use of the power of eminent domain by a private corporation using taxpayer dollars.

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- The negative impact on the rural character of the village. The intermodal facility does not comply with the County's 2025 Comprehensive Plan. The Comp Plan and village plans emphasize development of this significant historic corridor to encourage small entrepreneurial ventures such as antique shops and craft stores and other activities that are in scale with existing development.
- The negative environmental impact on the Roanoke River and its potential for ecotourism and tourism initiatives by industrializing one of the County's most scenic landscapes.

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