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HOUSE BILL NO. 2021

Offered January 11, 2017

Prefiled January 10, 2017

A BILL to amend and reenact § 1 of Chapter 6 of the Acts of Assembly of 2008, Special Session II, as amended by Chapter 130 of the Acts of Assembly of 2010 and Chapter 100 of the Acts of Assembly of 2011, relating to the Norfolk Southern Railway right-of-way.

Patron—Villanueva

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 1 of Chapter 6 of the Acts of Assembly of 2008, Special Session II, as amended by Chapter 130 of the Acts of Assembly of 2010 and Chapter 100 of the Acts of Assembly of 2011, is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 1. The General Assembly determines that construction of a public transportation project extending from the terminus of the Norfolk Light Rail starter line at Newtown Road in the City of Norfolk to the oceanfront area in the City of Virginia Beach, along the Interstate 264 corridor on the right-of-way of the Norfolk Southern Railway, is in the public interest and qualifies for public funding, to the extent that any may be required, from the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund, established by § ~~33.1-221.1:8~~ 33.2-1529.1 of the Code of Virginia, or other funding available to the Commonwealth. Notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, the funds provided to the City of Virginia Beach under the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund to ~~purchase railroad right-of-way from the Norfolk Southern Railway~~ shall be expended and used subject to such requirements as the Federal Transit Administration shall determine to be most effective for the purchase of the right-of-way as a site for the future construction of a public transportation project. ~~Nothing herein shall be interpreted to preselect the mode of public transportation to be constructed on the right-of-way to be acquired or any other public transportation alternative under study. Any Such public transportation project selected pursuant to the federally required environmental process currently underway will be deemed to satisfy the requirements of this act may include light rail, bus rapid transit, express bus lanes, roadways or tracks for developing technologies, a high-speed information corridor, or the construction of a multi-use path for pedestrians or bicycles, so long as the construction of any multi-use path project or information corridor does not preclude the future construction of other transportation projects in the right-of-way. Construction of any qualifying transportation project on the acquired right-of-way shall be commenced by July 1, 2032.~~

INTRODUCED

HB2021