



NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION

Commending Edson L. Tennyson

Agreed to by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission September 4, 2014

WHEREAS, Edson L. Tennyson, a renowned transit engineer and consultant, was a tireless supporter of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and an effective advocate for transit throughout his professional career and long into his retirement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tennyson was generous with his advice, facts and opinions and always challenged those around him to extend their reach, defend transit investments and clearly understood and communicated the fundamentals of successful transit; and

WHEREAS Ed Tennyson was a member and friend of the Light Rail Transit Committee of the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies of Science; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tennyson was involved in light rail beginning in the 1950's and was one of several investors in the Milwaukee Speedrail system which sought to resuscitate the inner portions of Milwaukee's once-vast interurban system into a suburban rapid transit service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tennyson served as Philadelphia's Chief Transit Engineer and reimagined Center City Philadelphia into open urban spaces centered around transit; and

WHEREAS, While other cities were ripping up street railways and building urban highways, Ed Tennyson helped craft Philadelphia's policy to preserve rail transit through what we know today as public-private partnerships and as a result Philadelphia's street railway operation remains the largest in the country; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tennyson formed the Passenger Service Improvement Corporation in the late 1950's to provide public funds to the Pennsylvania and Reading Railroad as reimbursement for the losses incurred in commuter rail service and to provide new rolling stock; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tennyson was the force behind linking Philadelphia's two commuter rail networks through the Center City Commuter Connection, the Fox Chase Electrification, Airport High Speed Line and retention of the PRR Norristown Line to the City limits at Ivy Ridge; and

WHEREAS, Ed Tennyson served with distinction as Philadelphia's Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Property for Transit Engineering and as Pennsylvania's Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary for Local and Area Transportation; and

WHEREAS, after leaving Pennsylvania's Department of Transportation, Ed Tennyson moved south to work in Arlington, Virginia making his mark on transportation in Northern Virginia and the Washington, DC metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, while an employee of Arlington County Ed Tennyson served on NVTC's Management Advisory Committee representing Arlington; and

WHEREAS, following his retirement from Arlington County, Ed Tennyson continued to serve the Commonwealth and region as a regular participant at the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission's monthly board meetings for over 30 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hereby commends Edson Tennyson on the occasion of his sad passing on July 14, 2014 at the age of 92 and to honor his legacy of excellence as an example for other transportation planners and public servants.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul C. Smedberg".

Paul C. Smedberg, Chairman