

STATEWIDE RAIL PLAN

About the Statewide Rail Plan

DRPT is developing the Statewide Rail Plan to provide a clear vision and strategy to address rail needs in the Commonwealth. The plan, currently in draft form, outlines proposed projects designed to meet the Commonwealth's goals for the efficient and effective movement of people and goods through passenger and freight rail transportation.

The 2008 Statewide Rail Plan replaces the 2004 Statewide Rail Plan and builds upon past successes to enhance Virginia's multimodal transportation corridors. The plan discusses the current state of the Commonwealth's rail system as well as challenges facing the system such as increased demand for freight and passenger service, population growth, capacity limits and quality of life issues such as the increase in fuel prices and the decline in air quality.

To address these issues and improve the overall rail system, the Statewide Rail Plan identifies several potential projects to address rail needs in the Commonwealth.

Potential Projects

The projects identified in the Statewide Rail Plan are arranged into four categories - Class I and Shortline Railroads, Port of Hampton Roads, Passenger Rail initiatives and High-Speed Rail initiatives. The Class I and Shortline Railroad portion represents \$1.8 billion, the Port of Hampton Roads portion represents \$178 million, the Passenger Rail portion represents \$1.7 billion and the High-Speed Rail portion represents \$1.2 billion for a total of \$4.9 billion in rail investments.

The potential projects will deliver public benefits such as removing approximately 7.3 million cars and trucks from Virginia highways, saving more than 445 million gallons of fuel and saving more than 1.2 million tons of carbon emissions per year.

The table provided on the back of the fact sheet outlines the proposed projects by category.

The potential funding and partnership opportunities for these projects are discussed in the draft plan in terms of railroad, state, local, federal and passenger rail sources. Many of the potential projects will require a public-private partnership to share both in the cost and benefits of rail system improvements.

All project costs are for capital improvements only and do not include the cost of operating passenger rail service. All public benefit data represent annual benefits.

Next Steps

Next steps include completion of the public comment period for the draft Statewide Rail Plan in August 2008 and development of the Rail Action Plan for release in September 2008.

The Rail Action Plan will provide funding strategies and detailed implementation plans for the projects identified in the Statewide Rail Plan. A public comment period will be provided for the Rail Action Plan, and the results will be incorporated into the final Statewide Rail Plan to be published this fall.

More information, including a full copy of the draft Statewide Rail Plan, is available on DRPT's Web site at www.drpt.virginia.gov

Potential Projects Identified in the 2008 Draft Statewide Rail Plan

Project	Corridor	Description
Class I and Shortline Railroad Projects		
CSX National Gateway Corridor	I-95, I-295, I-495	Double-stack clearances, rail yard construction and Virginia Avenue Tunnel clearance.
Norfolk Southern Crescent Corridor	I-81	Thirty-nine projects to expand single main-line tracks to double tracks, add passing sidings, expand passing sidings, realign curves, improve connections, and add track signals and signal systems.
Norfolk Southern Heartland Corridor	Route 460	Access improvements for Roanoke Region Intermodal Facility, development of a parallel double-stack route, additional tunnel clearances and track capacity improvements.
Norfolk Southern Coal Corridor	Route 460	Capacity improvements through additional track
Shortline Railroad Preservation	Statewide	Improve all railroads to meet Federal freight and passenger standards for freight and Class 4 track standards for passenger trains.
Port of Hampton Roads		
Norfolk International Terminals Central Rail Yard Expansion	Route 460	Rail intermodal yard expansion, construction of additional track, ties, ballast, switches, pavement in rail yard area, container handling areas and other infrastructure.
Craney Island Rail Connection	Route 460	Construction of siding track in the median of Route 164, planning and design of new track connection between APM Terminal and Craney Island Marine Terminal on-dock intermodal yard.
Norfolk/Portsmouth Beltline Railroad	Route 460	Improvements to train operations and grade crossing at the Main Gate of Norfolk International Terminals as well as improvements to existing rail yard.
Passenger Rail Initiatives		
Commuter Rail Improvements, Alexandria to Manassas	I-66	Upgrades to Norfolk Southern track between Alexandria and Manassas including infrastructure rehabilitation.
Commuter Rail Improvements, Gainesville to Haymarket	I-66	Infrastructure and capacity improvements for expansion of Virginia Railway Express on Norfolk Southern track between Manassas and Gainesville/Haymarket. Improvements contingent upon results of major investment study.
Commuter Rail Improvements, Fredericksburg to Washington, D.C.	I-95, I-395, I-495	Construction of a third track for Virginia Railway Express operation on CSX tracks between Fredericksburg and Washington, D.C., improvements to existing service including signalization, and station and rail infrastructure improvements.
Urban Crescent Express	I-95 and I-64, I-295, Route 460	Rail infrastructure, capacity and station improvements and/or construction for additional Amtrak service between Washington, D.C., Richmond and Newport News.
TransDominion Express	I-81, Routes 29 and 460	Rail infrastructure, capacity and station improvements and/or construction for more frequent Amtrak service to Lynchburg and Charlottesville, and expanded service to Roanoke, Bristol and Richmond.
High-Speed Rail Initiatives		
Southeast High-Speed Rail	I-95, I-295, I-495, I-85, I-64, Route 460	Infrastructure improvements for high-speed rail service between Richmond and the North Carolina line and between Richmond and Hampton Roads.