



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Department of Rail and Public Transportation

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DRPT to Allow for Public Comments at Next Town of Ashland/Hanover County Area Community Advisory Committee

RICHMOND— The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) has convened Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings related to the Town of Ashland/Hanover County Area portion of the Washington, D.C. to Richmond Southeast High Speed Rail (DC2RVA) corridor. The third meeting will be held on Monday, July 24, 2017 at Randolph-Macon College in Birdsong Hall, 114 College Avenue, Ashland, VA 23005, from 6 to 9 pm. Doors will open to the public at 5:30 pm. A public comment period will be offered for those wishing to make comments during the meeting.

Through the DC2RVA alternatives development process and related community meetings, DRPT recognized the unique nature of the Town of Ashland and Hanover County areas and that many of the alternatives for greater rail capacity in this area generated community concerns. As a result, DRPT recommended to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) a community-based effort to supplement DC2RVA public involvement activities and help inform DRPT's recommendation for a preferred alternative that provides the required rail capacity through the Ashland/Hanover area. As part of the community-based effort, DRPT proposes that the CAC will take a more intensive look at all previous options. The CAC could also identify potential new options to meet the purpose and needs of the DC2RVA project, while minimizing or avoiding any potential impacts of those options.

All meeting materials presented will be posted to the DC2RVA project website for public review. Comments in written form may also be submitted through the website or at the meeting. In addition to the CAC meetings, once the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is published, DRPT will hold public hearings with an opportunity for all interested parties to provide comments. Please visit the DC2RVA Project [website](#) for more information on the CAC and upcoming meetings.

CAC members, in alphabetical order, include: the Town of Ashland, CSX, Hanover County, Randolph-Macon College, and the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization. The meetings are being convened by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

Additional information:

Meeting locations are accessible to persons with disabilities. DRPT strives to provide reasonable accommodations and services for persons who require assistance to participate. For special assistance, call the Title VI Compliance Officer, 804-786-4440 or TDD 711 at least 72 hours prior to the public meeting.

Comments and questions may be submitted at any time. Ways to comment include:

- Electronic comment form on the project website.
- Leave comments on the toll-free project hotline: 888-832-0900 or TDD 711.
- Mail comments to: Emily Stock, Manager of Rail Planning, DC2RVA Project Office, 801 East Main Street, Suite 1000, Richmond, VA 23219.

En Español: Si usted necesita servicios de traducción a participar, por favor manda un email: espanol@DC2RVArail.com. También puede llamar a la línea directa del proyecto a dejar comentarios: 888-832-0900.

Website: www.DC2RVArail.com

Facebook: DC2RVArail

Twitter: @DC2RVArail

Project toll-free phone number: 1-888-832-0900 or TDD 711

Background

The Washington D.C. to Richmond Southeast High Speed Rail (DC2RVA) project includes a Tier II Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the 123-mile rail corridor that goes through all cities and counties along the I-95 corridor between Arlington, VA, and Chesterfield, VA. The DC2RVA Tier II EIS will evaluate track and safety improvements, bypasses, station options, and reasonable service alternatives for the entire corridor. A Tier I EIS, from Washington, D.C. to Charlotte, NC, was completed in 2002 and included this corridor. The current Tier II EIS is the next step in a rigorous environmental process.

The rail corridor that parallels I-95 is an integral component of the Commonwealth's transportation system. DC2RVA will improve this critical link in the U.S. intercity passenger rail system between Amtrak's Northeast Corridor (Boston, MA to Washington, D.C.) and the Southeast High Speed Rail corridor. This project is funded through a cooperative agreement between DRPT and FRA for the completion of preliminary engineering and Tier II environmental review.

About the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

DRPT's mission is to improve the mobility of people and goods while expanding transportation choices in the Commonwealth through rail, public transportation, and commuter services.

DRPT is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For additional information on DRPT's nondiscrimination policies and procedures or to file a complaint, please contact the Title VI Compliance Officer, Mike Mucha, (804) 786-6794 or TDD 711, 600 E. Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219.

