

- Rail Service Satisfaction
- Potential Rail Service Improvement Projects
- State Programs and Regulations
- Future Outlook

After each interview, DRPT provided the completed draft interview document to the respondent for his/her review and comments before finalizing. The information provided in the freight rail shipper interviews is located in **Appendix S**.

6.1.6 Railroad Interviews

Virginia's Class I and shortline railroads were contacted during development of the State Rail Plan to solicit input. Topics addressed included:

- Descriptions of physical and operating characteristics and operations of each railroad's network within Virginia;
- Past and potential future capital projects aimed at improving operational efficiency, capacity, and safety, and providing enhanced service to rail shippers; and,
- A list of improvement and infrastructure needs for shortline railroads, which often do not possess the financial and technical resources of the Class I railroads.

Specific needs identified by the shortline railroads are presented in **Chapter 2**, and potential projects to address these needs are included in the Rail Service Investment Plan presented in **Chapter 5**.

6.1.7 Coordination with Neighboring States

DRPT routinely interacts with neighboring states through involvement in national and regional transportation organizations to address specific transportation service and facility issues and planning initiatives. Specifically, these include such groups as the I-81 Corridor Coalition, I-95 Corridor Coalition, Standing Committee on Rail Transportation, FRA's Southeast Regional Rail Stakeholder Committee, and others. In addition, during stakeholder workshops and interviews, DRPT learned more about the trends, best practices, and lessons learned of multi-state planning.

6.1.8 Public Meetings

DRPT will host an online public meeting at completion of the Virginia State Rail Plan, at <http://vastaterailplanonlinemeeting.com>. The online meeting will include a narrated introduction, meeting boards, and maps.



- Identifying the way the Industrial Access Program budget can be spent.
- Working with the states that surround Virginia to ensure the rail lines beyond Virginia’s borders are improving in tandem with Virginia’s rail lines.

6.4 State Rail Planning Coordination

At the state, regional, and local level, DRPT works with the CTB, MPOs, cities, and counties to coordinate rail transportation planning and development efforts. Some of these agencies participated in the Virginia State Rail Plan development process and had the opportunity to provide feedback input through review and comment on the Draft State Rail Plan.

Virginia coordinates its state transportation planning and related processes with other transportation planning programs and activities of the state and metropolitan areas in accordance with federal law¹. Federal planning code:

- requires coordination of transportation planning and processes between state departments of transportation, MPOs, and public transit operators;
- encourages economic development and environmental sustainability for transportation; and,
- promotes integration of the management and operation of transportation systems and facilities to ensure an intermodal transportation system for the U.S. and the states establishes requirements for long-range transportation planning.

¹ Title 23 of U.S. Code Sections 134 and 135; Title 49 of U.S. Code Sections 5303 and 5304