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Schedule and Outreach
Benefits of Rail in Virginia

Provided 9/8
Focus 9/19

Provided 9/18
Focus Sept.-Nov.

October - December

Executive Summary

Rail Plan Chapters

Outreach

Stakeholder Workshop
Public Meeting
CTB Workshop
CTB Adoption
# Benefits of Rail in Virginia

## Travel Safe

18 lives saved and 3,000 crashes avoided each year.

- Shipping by rail avoids about 1.7 billion miles of truck travel in Virginia.
- Passenger travel by rail avoids about 271 million miles of personal driving in Virginia.

## Breathe Easier

3M tons of CO2 emissions avoided (6.4% of total in Virginia per year).

- On average, railroads are four times more fuel efficient than trucks.
- Moving freight by rail instead of truck generates 75% less greenhouse gas emissions.
- The total estimated level of rail service in Virginia in 2015 was about 25 billion ton-miles.

## Save Money

$123M pavement maintenance savings (6% of annual VDOT maintenance budget).

- 8 passenger railcars = 240 passenger vehicles.
- 100 freight railcars = 340 semi-trailer trucks.

## Grow the Economy

Rail services drive 6% of Virginia’s total economy, more than 6,000 jobs created directly by rail network.

- Freight rail: $2.2 billion in annual benefits; about 9 cents per ton-mile of rail use.
- Passenger rail: $190 million in annual benefits; about 46 cents per passenger-mile of rail use.

Benefits are largely derived from savings from diverting freight and passengers from highways to rail and includes congestion savings and crash reduction benefits.
Benefits Continued

- Connects to National and International Markets
- Moves both people and goods
  - Stats about passengers served and goods moved
- Serves Port of Virginia
Future Trends

Rail Industry Drivers

- Growth in Intermodal Traffic
- Changes in Energy Production: Oil, Gas and Coal
- Congestion
- Environmental
- Demographic Changes
- Aging Infrastructure
- Changes in Rail Governance Framework
- Amtrak Northeast Corridor
**Future Trends**

**FREIGHT**

Freight movement by train is expected to increase in Virginia.

**PASSENGER**

Population continues to grow in the urban areas of Virginia.

**NETWORK SIGNIFICANCE**

- The Washington, D.C. metropolitan area has the nation’s highest rate of congestion.
- The Hampton Roads area also experiences high levels of congestion.
- Vehicle use per road-mile has been increasing for decades.
- Since the mid-1960s Virginia has experienced a decline in relative capacity as both population and state gross domestic product (GSP) have steadily risen.
- Economic Growth: Virginia’s rail network is a key link between two mega-regions, the Northeast mega-region and the Piedmont Atlantic mega-region to the south. Most of the nation’s population growth and economic expansion is occurring in ten emerging mega-regions.


Vision for the Future
Vision

VTrans Vision
Good for business, good for communities, and good to go.

State Rail Plan Vision
Virginia’s rail network is a valuable asset that drives the economy, reduces congestion, improves safety, and saves taxpayer money. Continued investment in rail infrastructure will ensure the mission and vision of the Commonwealth’s transportation network is achieved.

Goals and objectives link visions to prioritize investments in rail.
Vision

GOAL: Optimize Return on Investments

Implement the right solution at the right price

OBJECTIVES:

- Leverage previous investments by supporting existing passenger services
  - Enhance reliability for existing services
  - Prioritize improvements to existing service corridors over service expansion capital projects
- Target growing markets and make efficient use of the Rail Industrial Access Program funds
- Leverage public-private partnerships by prioritizing projects with matching funds
- Prioritize capacity investments that meet the needs of both the public and private sectors through enhanced data sharing
- Determine on a corridor-basis when rail is the most efficient mode to move people and goods
Priority Investments
WASHINGTON TO NORTH CAROLINA CORRIDOR

- CSX owned/operated
- Intermodal freight service
- Primary north-south route for Amtrak long-distance service
CHAP TER I N D E X

01  THE ROLE OF RAIL IN STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION
Chapter one introduces you to the role and importance of rail in the Commonwealth’s transportation network. From a farm-to-market transportation system to an evolving system supporting a thriving economy and the Port of Virginia, rail has helped Virginia grow and prosper.

02  THE STATE’S EXISTING RAIL SYSTEM
Chapter two provides an overview and inventory of Virginia’s existing rail system and services, and identifies the economic, demographic, and transportation demand forecasts and trends that will affect future

03  PROPOSED PASSENGER RAIL IMPROVEMENTS AND INVESTMENTS
This chapter introduces projects and initiatives that will enhance Virginia’s passenger and commuter rail services to better serve the mobility needs of the state and region.

04  PROPOSED FREIGHT RAIL IMPROVEMENTS AND INVESTMENT
The information in chapter four describes the recent improvements and investments that have been made, and potential future investments, by the state’s freight railroads and the Commonwealth.

05  THE STATE’S RAIL SERVICE AND INVESTMENT PROGRAM
Chapter five prioritizes short and long range investments for the Commonwealth.

06  COORDINATION AND REVIEW
This chapter describes how the DRPT involved stakeholders in the coordination necessary to develop the rail plan.