We Want Your Input

**TOPICS**

- Study scope
- Draft station concept
- Draft ridership methodology
- Traveler survey development

Bedford Passenger Station (ca. 1906)
Photo courtesy of https://www.bedfordva.gov/1189/About-the-Town-of-Bedford

Bedford Passenger Station (ca. 1917)
Photo courtesy of http://www.oldlibertystation.com/ols_history.asp
Study Scope

- Planning-level conceptual design
  - Develop potential station locations and layouts consistent with railroad and local design standards

- Planning-level opinion of probable construction costs
  - Develop probable capital costs of station alternatives

- Ridership analysis methodology
  - Develop revenue and ridership forecasts for the station concepts

- Traveler survey
  - Develop and conduct a traveler survey and report results

- Stakeholder and public meetings
  - Develop presentations and conduct five (5) BFRRRI meetings and two (2) public meetings between August 2019 and March 2020

- Final report
  - Compile results of study activities to report methodologies, results and recommendations developed, including potential next steps

FOLLOW-UP PUBLIC MEETING – SPRING 2020

Bedford Station ca. 1975
By Hikki Nagasaki - TrainWeb, Bedford, Virginia, Public Domain
https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=50150977
Previous Work

Signed agreement
- Extend passenger rail service from Lynchburg to Roanoke
- Between Commonwealth of Virginia, Amtrak, Norfolk Southern Railway and City of Roanoke

Formation of Bedford/Franklin Regional Rail Initiative (BFRRRI)

2014

2016

Town of Bedford Passenger Rail Station Feasibility Study and Conceptual Plan
- Prepared by Wendel in March 2016
- Prepared for the Town of Bedford, VA

Intercity Passenger Rail Service Study
- Prepared by WSP/Parsons Brinkerhoff in December 2016
- Prepared for DRPT

2019

Intercity Passenger Rail Operating & Capital (IPROC) Grant Application
- Prepared by the Town of Bedford, VA
- Submitted to DRPT

Elks Home Site
Bedford Ave. Site
Depot St. Site
Courthouse Site
Preferred Site
Woolen Mills Site
Station Programming Guidelines

Amtrak Category 3 – Caretaker

- Serves low-density areas (suburban/rural)
- Projected Annual Ridership between 20,000-100,000

La Plata, MO Amtrak Station
Example of Caretaker Station
Photographer: Jim Taylor

Amtrak Category 4 – Shelter

- Serves low-density areas (suburban/rural)
- Projected Annual Ridership less than 20,000

Holyoke, MA Amtrak Station
Example of Shelter Station
Amtrak Category 3 – Caretaker
- Platform with canopy
- Building
- Auto & taxi pick-up & drop-off lanes
- Parking
- Rental cars on call
- Bicycle racks
- Station and regulatory signage
- Site lighting
- Trash pick-up and snow removal
- All customer service features based on site evaluation
- Vending machines
- Host/Greeter staff

Amtrak Category 4 – Shelter
- Platform with canopy
- Sheltered waiting area
- Auto & taxi pick-up & drop-off lanes
- Parking
- Station and regulatory signage
- Trash pick-up and snow removal
- All customer service features based on site evaluation
- Emergency platform call box
- No staff at shelter
Platform Programming

**Side Platform Elements**

- **Length** – 1000 feet preferred for Northeast Regional trains
- **Width** – 15 feet preferred for capacity & baggage service
- **Height** – high-level for ADA accessibility
- **Slope** – away from tracks for safety
- **Weather protection** - canopy, wind breaks or shelter
- **Signage and Passenger Information Displays (PIDS)**
- **Seating**
- **Entrance/exit capacity**
- **Travel distance to exit**
- **Recycling and trash receptacles**

Dover, NH
Example of High-level Platform
Site Programming – Prototype Station

- Site access and circulation
  - Pedestrians
  - Cyclists & non-motorized transportation
  - Vehicles
  - Railroad

- Location along tracks
- Existing train operations

- Proximity to at-grade crossings
- Parking
- Community spaces
- Utilities and mechanical systems

Amtrak Station Program Planning Guidelines
Caretaker Station Prototype
**Ridership Forecasting**

**Forecasting Methodology**

- **Demographics:**
  - Population
  - Employment
  - Income

- **Service Characteristics by mode:**
  - Travel time (in vehicle, access/egress)
  - Frequency
  - Fares/trip costs

- **Existing Trip Tables:**
  - Auto
  - Air
  - Intercity Bus
  - Rail

- **Existing Trip Tables:**
  - Auto
  - Air
  - Intercity Bus
  - Rail

- **Travel Survey Data:**
  - Calibrate trip flows
  - Refine station catchment areas

- **AECOM Intercity Passenger Rail Forecasting Model**

- **Forecast Results:**
  - Virginia station boardings/alightings
  - Baseline and two build scenarios
  - Base year and future year
The traveler survey will be an anonymous on-line survey aimed at both residents and visitors to Bedford, which will allow the project team to accurately capture the ridership catchment areas for the region’s stations, as well as calibrate travel flows.

Information to be collected:
- Origin and destination
- Trip purpose
- Primary mode/access and egress mode
- Fare/trip cost
- Propensity to take rail

Sample Bedford Catchment Area
The project team will work with DRPT and other Stakeholders to distribute the link to the on-line survey in locations such as:

- Rail stations (Roanoke/Lynchburg)
- Local businesses
- Highway rest areas

Currently developing sampling plan to ensure a statistically significant sample across the following elements:

- Visitor vs. Residents
- Current travel mode

Anticipated Data Collection: October 15-November 15, 2019