

**VIRGINIA**  
STATEWIDE RAIL PLAN

**Virginia Rail Plan**  
Executive Summary

## *CONTENTS*

- Schedule and Outreach
- Executive Summary
  - Benefits of Rail in Virginia
  - Trends of the Future
  - Vision for the Future
  - Priority Investments
  - Rail Plan Roadmap

## **Agenda**

*Create a Roadmap  
for the Executive  
Summary and  
Virginia Rail Plan*



# Schedule and Outreach

# Benefits of Rail in Virginia

Provided 9/8  
Focus 9/19

Executive  
Summary

Provided 9/18  
Focus Sept.-Nov.

Rail Plan  
Chapters

October -  
December

Outreach

Stakeholder  
Workshop

Public  
Meeting

CTB  
Workshop

CTB  
Adoption







# Executive Summary

# 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 = 240**  
PASSENGER RAILCARS PASSENGER VEHICLES



**100 = 340**  
FREIGHT RAILCARS 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

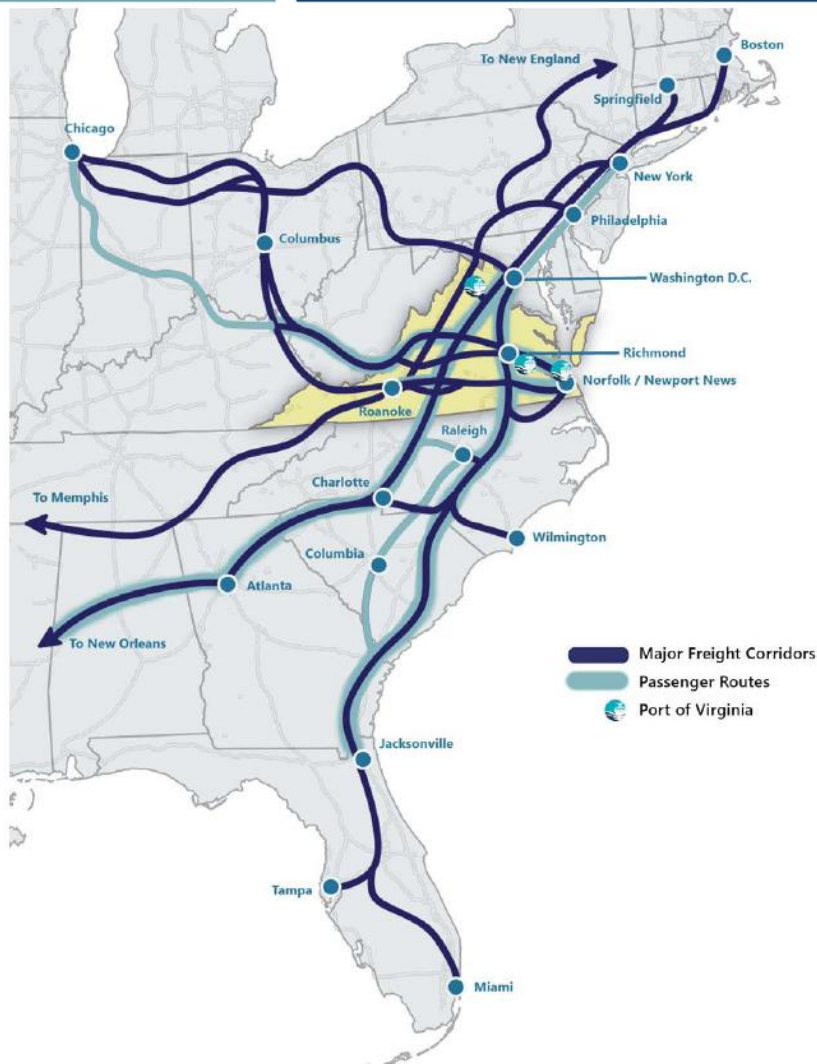


about 46 cents per passenger-mile of rail use

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





# Trends of the Future



## 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  
expected to  
in Virginia

Movement by  
14%; additional  
can enhance  
and keep addi-

## PASSENGER



### Population c in the urban

Since 2010, the sh  
total population  
urban crescent ros  
up from 81 per  
2000 and

## 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.

*[Measuring Traffic Congestion in Virginia  
- Virginia Performs, Virginia.Gov]*



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 (GDP)  
have steadily risen.

*[Measuring Traffic Congestion in Virginia  
- Virginia Performs, Virginia.Gov]*



### 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





## Goals



## Objectives

### **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.*



**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

Target investment where traffic, employment, population, or demand is expected to grow

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



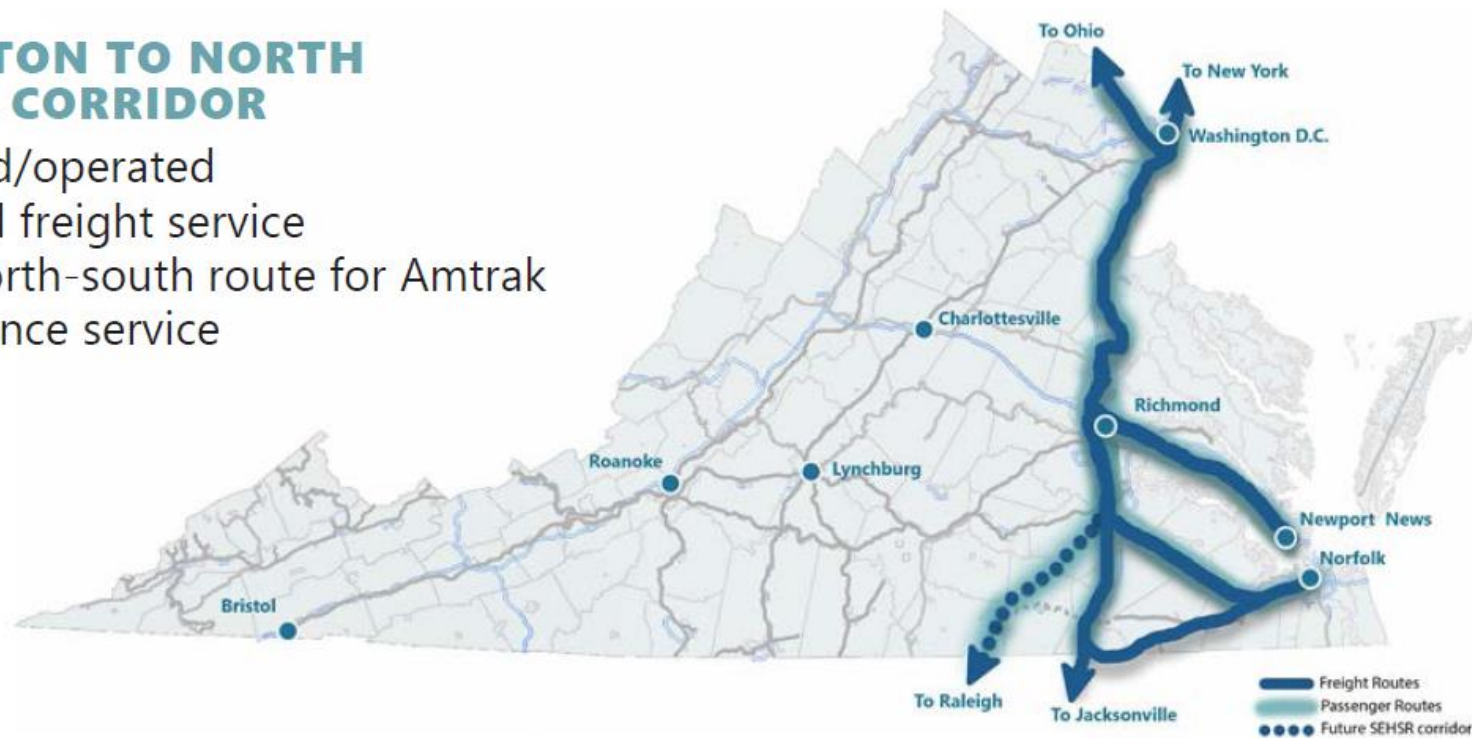


# Priority Investments



## WASHINGTON TO NORTH CAROLINA CORRIDOR

- CSX owned/operated
- Intermodal freight service
- Primary north-south route for Amtrak long-distance service



### TOP DRIVERS



Growth in  
Intermodal  
Traffic



Congestion



Demographic  
Changes



Amtrak Northeast  
Corridor

### KEY GOALS



Optimize Return  
on Investments



Consider  
Operational  
Improvements  
and Demand  
Management First



Ensure  
Efficient  
Intermodal  
Connections



# Rail Plan Road Map

# Rail Plan Road Map

## CHAPTER INDEX

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.







**Thank You**  
Questions?

