

Commerce Corridor Study Implementation Plan





RICHMOND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) is the federal and state designated metropolitan planning organization that serves as the forum for cooperative transportation decision-making in the Richmond region. The Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (RRPDC) is the contracting agent and staff for the RRTPO.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Commerce Corridor Study was prepared by Michael Baker International in cooperation with CDM Smith and the Economic Development Research Group (EDRG) on behalf of the Virginia Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment of the Secretary of Transportation and the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization. The report was prepared in consultation with RRTPO staff and representatives of the City of Richmond, Chesterfield County, Henrico County, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), and the Port of Virginia (POV).

DISCLAIMER

The contents of this report reflect the analysis and findings of Michael Baker International and their consultant team. The RRTPO accepts the accuracy of this work in recognition that the contents do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), VDOT or DRPT. This report does not constitute a standard, specification or regulation. The Commerce Corridor Study is the result of a vision and scenario planning exercise to identify future transportation needs and solutions for a sub-regional study area. The Commerce Corridor Study is complementary to the region's adopted metropolitan transportation plan, plan2040. This document is disseminated under the sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Transportation in the interest of information exchange. The United States Government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the RRPDC, and the RRTPO member organizations assume no liability for the contents or use thereof.

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NO DISCRIMINACIÓN

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Planning District Commission

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Town of Ashland Counties of Charles City Chesterfield Goochland Hanover Henrico New Kent Powhatan City of Richmond

RRTPO AGENDA 10/5/17; ITEM III.D.

COMMERCE CORRIDOR STUDY

Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization

On motion of James M. Holland, seconded by Kimberly B. Gray, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization adopts the Commerce Corridor Study and directs the coordination of project funding applications, planning efforts and initiatives to be advanced through the FY18 and future Unified Planning Work Programs.

This is to certify that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization approved the above resolution at its meeting held October 5, 2017.

WITNESS:

BY:

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Sharon E. Robeson Program Assistant Richmond Regional Planning District Commission

Barbara Schoeb Nelson Secretary Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Intro	oduction	1
-	1.1	Regional Collaboration	1
-	L.2	Recent Successes	3
2.	Imp	lementation Action Steps	3
3.	Proj	ect Solutions	6
3	3.1	Short-Term Criteria	6
3	3.2	Medium-Term Criteria	6
3	3.3	Long-Term Criteria	6
4.	4. Project Implementation Briefs		
5.	Proj	ect Bundling for Grant Applications	9
Ар	bendix	k: Implementation Briefs	10

List of Tables

Table 1: Short-Term Project Solutions	. 7
Table 2: Medium-Term Project Solutions	. 8
Table 3: Long-Term Project Solutions	. 8



Commerce Corridor Statement of the Future

• Be a *dynamic, economic engine* for the region

• Be a *vibrant, intermodal corridor* that provides

that serves as its gateway for commerce.

• Be recognized nationally for its integrated

economic and transportation systems

• Foster continued growth in quality, well-

paying jobs and ladders of opportunity for the

In 2040 the Commerce Corridor will...

opportunities.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Commerce Corridor: Transportation, Connectivity, Accessibility and Economic Opportunity Study (the Study) is a comprehensive multimodal strategy to address existing and future transportation challenges within the Commerce Corridor. The Commerce Corridor is situated along Commerce Road within the Richmond Marine Terminal (RMT) transportation node and the surrounding I-95 corridor from the James River to Route 10 in Chesterfield County. The Study identifies the development opportunities that will occur if the RMT fulfills its potential and examines the highway and rail transportation needs necessary to maximize connectivity, accessibility, and allow the full economic development potential of the corridor. A Technical Report, under separate cover, documents the research, community outreach, and analyses of the transportation network and economic conditions that led to the development of short-, medium-, and long-term project solutions needed for realization of the Commerce Corridor's potential.

The most challenging aspect of implementing the Study is overcoming obstacles such as acquisition of right-of-way, securing construction and maintenance funding, designing projects that provide access for all users, and meeting environmental standards. Partners must work together to find common ground on project designs, locations, and funding mechanisms. This Implementation Plan outlines the actions the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) and its partners can work together to fulfill the vision of the Commerce Corridor Study.

1.1 REGIONAL COLLABORATION

In June 2016, the RRTPO kicked off the Study in partnership with the Virginia Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) and other stakeholders to develop the comprehensive analysis of existing and future transportation needs and the prioritization of infrastructure investments along the Commerce Corridor. In addition to OIPI, the RRTPO partnered with representatives of the City of Richmond, Chesterfield



County, Henrico County, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, Port of Virginia, Virginia Economic Development Partnership, VDOT Richmond District, and VDOT Central Office to prepare this study. Ongoing collaboration and partnership with these agencies is an important necessity for successful implementation of this road map.

The Study incorporated feedback from the agencies mentioned, as well as stakeholders in the region including economic development representatives, private businesses, and local residents. This outreach, coupled with analysis of all modes, provided a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and

opportunities related to travel and economic growth in the study corridor. The project team gained a wealth of knowledge from the interviews conducted with project stakeholders. Below is a sampling of the diverse topics discussed:



Regional Economic Development Leaders feel workforce housing and training is critical to attracting new industrial businesses.



The major Interstate facilities serving the Study area will experience increased congestion in the future without significant infrastructure investment.



The Class 1 railroads are well below their capacity. Maintenance, rehabilitation and additional crews would be the first focus upon increased rail demand in corridor.



Shippers and carriers (trucks) think in terms of point-to-point travel time and in-terminal 'turn-time'.



The Richmond Marine Terminal has developable acreage and on-terminal warehouses for future on-site tenants.

The Commerce Corridor Study is funded by the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment. It is in alignment with VTrans2040, Virginia's Statewide Multimodal Long Range Transportation Plan, as well as the RRTPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan, plan2040.





1.2 RECENT SUCCESSES

The impact of regional collaboration and leadership is evidenced by recent successes in the Commerce Corridor. Capitalizing on investments made by the RRTPO, the Port of Virginia has reported consistent growth of barge cargo volumes passing through RMT. This has resulted in fewer heavy trucks traveling on I-64 from Hampton Roads. Renewed private sector interest in industrial and commercial opportunities in the area around RMT and the broader Commerce



Corridor is evidenced by multiple manufacturing and distribution facility projects currently in the development pipeline. As the Commerce Corridor continues to grow into an inland logistics hub of statewide significance, increased freight activity will bring additional stresses to a transportation network already strained to safely and efficiently handle existing passenger and freight volumes.



The Port of Virginia's 40-year lease of the RMT will create new opportunities for the region, but growth is likely to exacerbate existing multimodal transportation system deficiencies. Currently, the Commerce Corridor is experiencing safety, congestion and state of good

repair challenges. Insufficient vertical clearances and deficient interchange designs at multiple locations along the corridor limit connectivity and accessibility to key regional freight activity centers as identified in the VTrans2040 Regional Network Needs Assessment. System deficiencies on I-95 and the surrounding road and rail network range from pavement condition, signals and operations, vertical clearances, turning radii and geometrics to capacity constraints.

2. IMPLEMENTATION ACTION STEPS

The results of transportation and economic analyses described in the Commerce Corridor Study Technical Report informed the development of project solutions. Each of the project solutions are in varying degrees of development in terms of design development, cost estimation, funding, and implementation next steps. The following action steps describe how the RRTPO can work with its partners to move forward with implementing the Commerce Corridor project solutions:



- Identify Project Champions The project champion is the person(s) who takes on the role of ensuring everyone involved is on board and behind the ultimate success of the project.
- **Refine Project Development Details and Cost Estimates** The project solutions have planning level project details and cost estimates. As these solutions move forward in implementation, it is anticipated that project development details and costs will be further refined, as needed.



- Adopt Projects into RRTPO Plan Documents Project solutions of regional significance will be considered for inclusion in the region's plan2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
- Identify and Pursue Funding Opportunities Several project solutions are currently unfunded. Funding will need to be identified and secured in order to move forward with implementation.
- **Partner with State and Local Jurisdictions** Implementation of project solutions will rely on partnering with local jurisdictions.
- **Partner with Private Stakeholders** Some project solutions may rely on partnering with private stakeholders, such as railroad companies, private industry representatives, and businesses.





POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

The following programs are potential sources of funding for project solutions. Where applicable, these have been identified on each solution factsheet:

- Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) Grants: A competitive (discretionary) grant program aimed at providing financial assistance to highway, rail, port, and intermodal freight and highway projects of national and regional significance.
- *Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grants:* A competitive (discretionary) grant program aimed at funding road, rail, transit, and port projects that have the potential to achieve critical national objectives.
- *Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ):* A program for congestion reduction and air quality improvement projects and programs; funding is only available for areas that do not meet or previously did not meet federal air quality standards.
- *Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP):* A program for safety-related projects including adding capacity or improving alignment or operations. Projects must be consistent with the state Strategic Highway Safety Plan.
- DRPT Rail Industrial Access Fund: A fund source that promotes truck diversion by providing grant assistance to connect new or expanding businesses to the freight railroad network. The program supports localities, businesses, or industries seeking access to a common carrier railroad.
- DRPT Rail Enhancement Fund: A fund source that provides for capital improvements benefiting passenger and freight initiatives. This fund is typically utilized by Class I railroads, the Port of Virginia, and Virginia Railway Express for major capital investments
- *DRPT Rail Preservation Fund:* A fund source that benefits shortline railroads, which provide the "local" network and the "last mile" of service for rail freight to reach its destination.
- *SMART SCALE:* A project prioritization process that scores and ranks project applications. SMART SCALE is funded by two main sources; the District Grant Program, which is funding specific to each of the nine VDOT districts and the High Priority Projects Project, which is available statewide.
- *RSTP:* A program that provides flexible funding that may be used by MPOs with a population of 200,000 or more for projects to preserve and improve the conditions and performance of any Federal-aid highway, bridge or tunnel projects on any public road, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and transit capital projects.
- *Local:* Local jurisdictions may consider including projects in their Capital Improvement Programs.



3. **PROJECT SOLUTIONS**

The project solutions are organized into short-, medium-, and long-term timeframes based on anticipated implementation considerations such as cost, funding status, and complexity. Criteria for each timeframe are summarized below. The short-, medium-, and long-term solutions are listed in **Tables 1, 2, and 3**. These lists should be utilized as partners decide where to focus staff time and funding.

3.1 SHORT-TERM CRITERIA

Solutions are marked as short-term if the activity could generally be completed within a 10-year timeframe and has at least three of the following attributes:

- Relatively low cost (generally \$0 to \$50m)
- There exists a current need
- Funding is in place
- Not waiting for something else to occur before proceeding (e.g. not waiting on development to occur, federal, state or local approvals required)
- The action would help to market the area for industrial redevelopment
- Project Champion is identified

3.2 MEDIUM-TERM CRITERIA

Solutions are marked as medium-term if the activity could generally occur in the 10 to 20-year timeframe and has at least three of the following attributes:

- Higher cost than short-term solutions & generally up to \$100m
- Solution is not fully funded
- Solution is based on needs identified in the 10 to 20-year timeframe
- Requires more complex project delivery such a multi-jurisdiction, public and private infrastructure, multiple funding sources, federal, state or local approvals
- Waiting for other activities to occur before it makes sense to pursue (e.g. waiting for clarity on nature & intensity of industrial redevelopment, increased rail demand at port)

3.3 LONG-TERM CRITERIA

Solutions are marked as long-term if the activity would realistically occur beyond the 20-year timeframe and has at least two of the following attributes:

- Higher cost than short-term and medium-term solutions and generally above \$100m
- Solution is not fully funded
- Solution is based on needs identified in the 20+ year timeframe
- Requires very complex project delivery such a multi-jurisdiction, public and private infrastructure, multiple funding sources, or significant federal, state or local approvals
- Waiting for other activities to occur before it makes sense to pursue (e.g. waiting for clarity on nature & intensity of industrial redevelopment, increased rail demand at port)

Ref#	Short-Term Project Solution
H2.3.1	I-95/Route 10 Interchange (Phase 1)
H2.3.2	I-95/Route 10 Interchange (Phase 2)
H2.4.1	I-95 at Commerce Road Access Study
H2.5.1	I-95/Maury Street Interchange Improvement
H2.6	I-95 Auxiliary Lanes
H3.1	Deepwater Terminal Road Extension
H5.1	Commerce Road Improvements
H5.2	Commerce Road Area Improvements
H6.1	I-95 Operational Study
H6.2	I-95 ITS Improvements
H9.1	RIC/White Oak Traffic Study
H10.1	Route 10 Improvements
H10.2	Meadowville Technology Parkway Widening
H10.3	North Enon Church Road Widening
R9.	Rail Service Expansion
P1.1	RMT Off-Hours Delivery Solutions
P1.2	RMT New Access Point Feasibility Study
P1.3	RMT New Access Point
P1.4	RMT Gate Operations Study
P2.	RMT Inside-the-Gate Rail Operations Study
P3.	Attract On-Site Tenants to RMT
P4.	RMT Intermodal Transfer Improvements
P5.	RMT Business Development and Diversification
M1.	Image & Competitiveness of Commerce Corridor
M2.	Rail Industrial Access Grant Program Expansion
МЗ.	Intermodal Business Development and Incentives
M4.	RMT & Commerce Road Area Land-Use Plan
M5.1	Local Initiatives for Workforce Access to Jobs
M5.3	Multimodal Connectivity to Jobs
M6.1	Truck Routing and Wayfinding
M6.3	Community Impacts Analysis

Ref #	Medium-Term Project Solution
H1.2	New Market Road (Route 5) Widening
H2.1	I-95/Willis Road Interchange
H2.2	I-95/Willis Road Arterial Improvements
H2.4.2	I-95/Bells Road Interchange Improvement
H2.5.2	I-95/Maury Street Network Improvements
H7.1	Traffic Study for Altria/Dupont Redevelopment
H7.2	Walmsley Boulevard Extension
H8.	Traffic Study for Alleghany Warehouse Redevelopment
H9.2	I-295 Interchanges Traffic Study
H10.4	Meadowville Technology Park Traffic Study
H11	Commerce Road Realignment
R1.1	Richmond Marine Terminal Short-Line Service
R1.2	Deepwater Terminal Rail Lead Extension
R2.2	Deepwater Terminal Industrial Track - New Siding
R3.2	CSX South Yard Improvements
R3.3	Rail Access to Commerce Road Development Sites
R4.	Rail Access to RIC/White Oak Development Sites (CSX)
R5.	Rail Access to Meadowville Development Sites
R6.	Rail Access to RIC/White Oak Development Sites (NS)
R7.	CSX S-Line Crossing Improvements
M5.2	Commerce Corridor Workforce Development Initiative
M6.2	Noise Reduction Strategies

Table 2: Medium-Term Project Solutions

Table 3: Long-Term Project Solutions

Ref #	Long-Term Project Solution
H1.1	I-95/Route 895 Interchange Improvement
H2.4.3	I-95/Bellemeade Road New Interchange
H3.1	Deepwater Terminal Access Improvements
H6.3	I-95 Widening
R2.1	Deepwater Terminal Rail Lead Improvements



Ref #	Long-Term Project Solution
R3.1	CSX S-Line Improvements
R8.	Triple Crossing Improvements

4. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION BRIEFS

One page factsheets were developed for each individual project solution. The factsheets are standalone snapshots of the implementation status of each project solution and are intended to be regularly updated as the solutions move through the process. Each solution factsheet includes a summary of the need and project, the modal features, a location map, funding and project development information, and implementation status. The individual project solutions sheets are provided in the Appendix and organized by order of reference ID #.

5. PROJECT BUNDLING FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

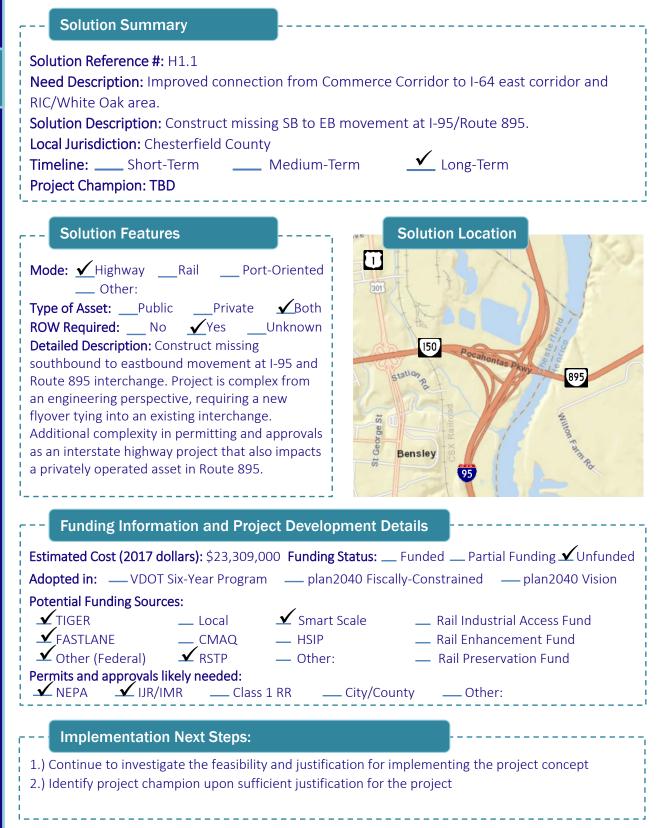
This section is forthcoming based on feedback from the RRTPO Board.



APPENDIX: IMPLEMENTATION BRIEFS



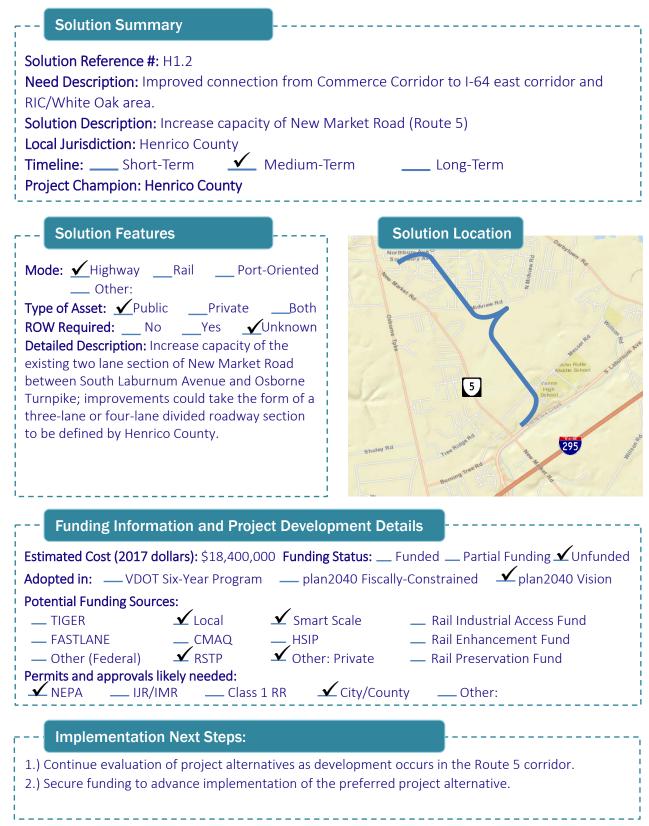
H1.1 : I-95/Route 895 Interchange Improvement





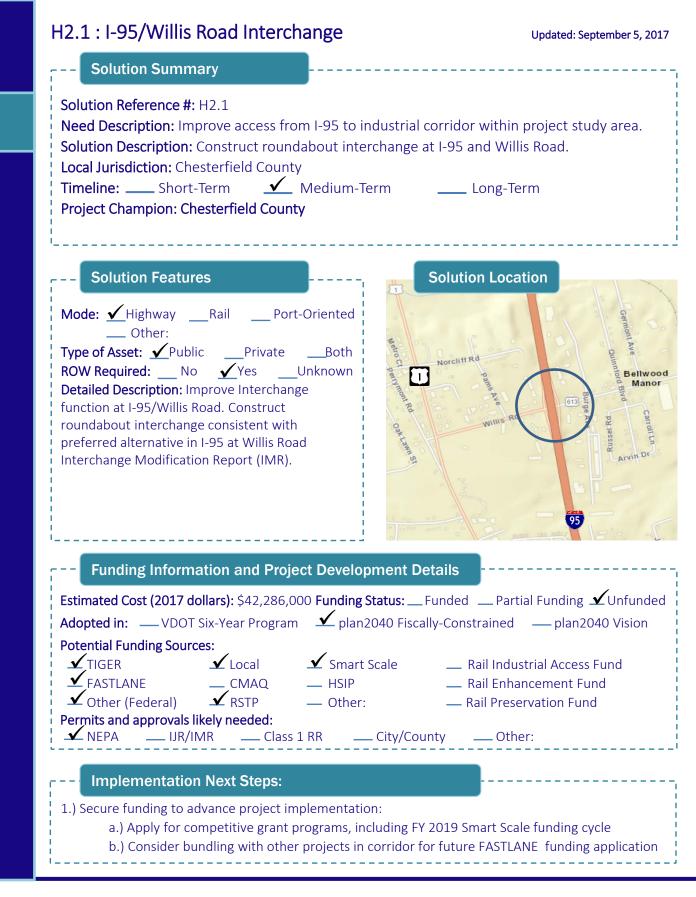
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H1.2 : New Market Road (Route 5) Widening





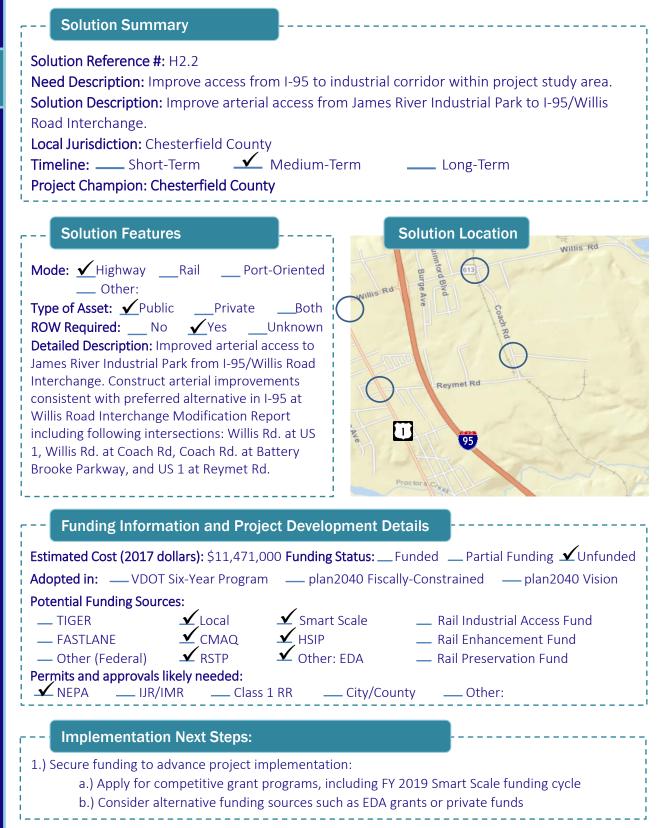
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Planning and Investment

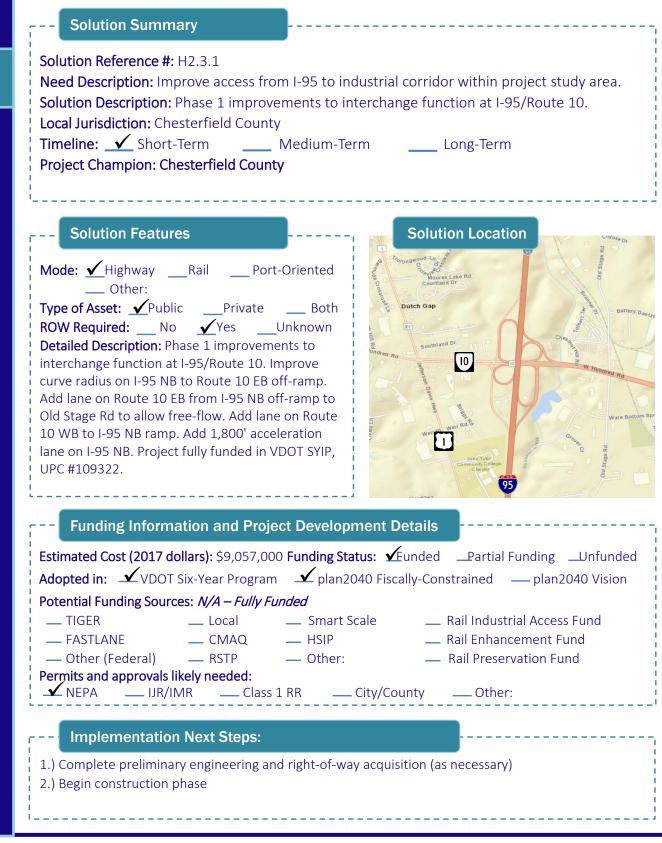
H2.2 : I-95/Willis Road Arterial Improvements





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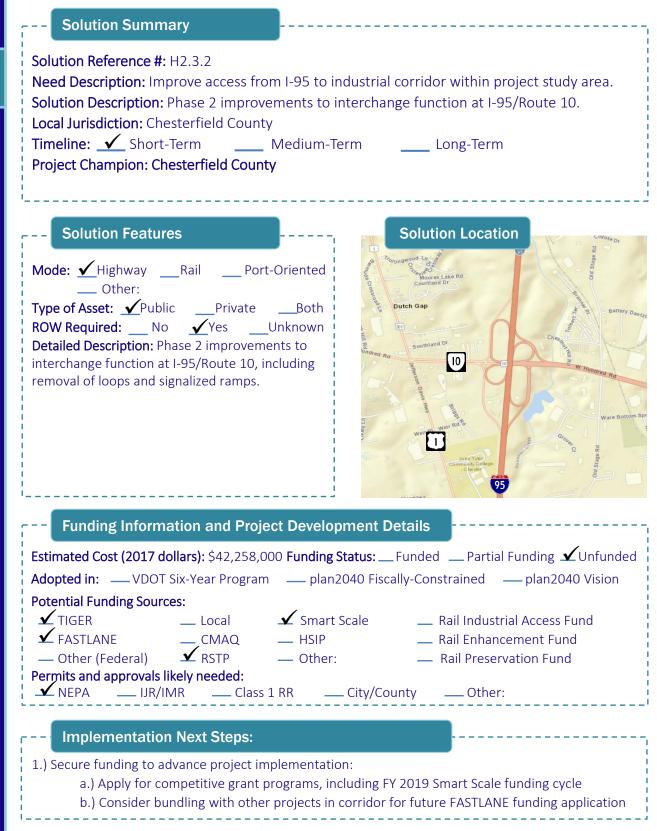
H2.3.1 : I-95/Route 10 Interchange (Phase 1)





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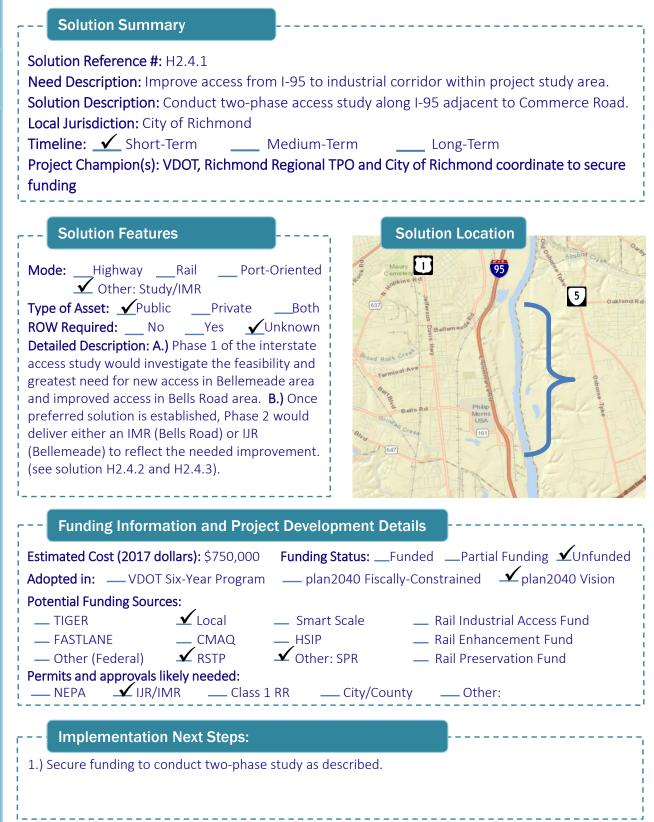
H2.3.2 : I-95/Route 10 Interchange (Phase 2)





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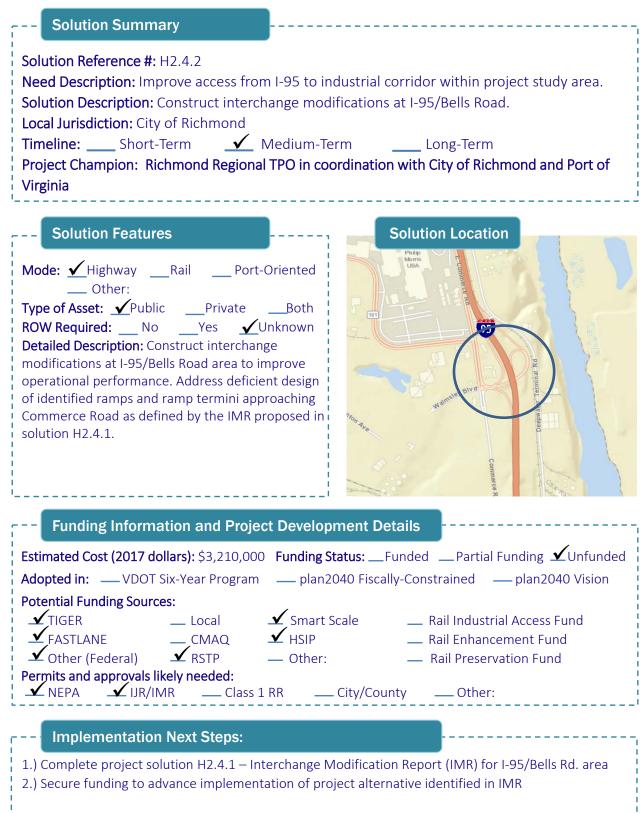
H2.4.1 : I-95 at Commerce Road Access Study





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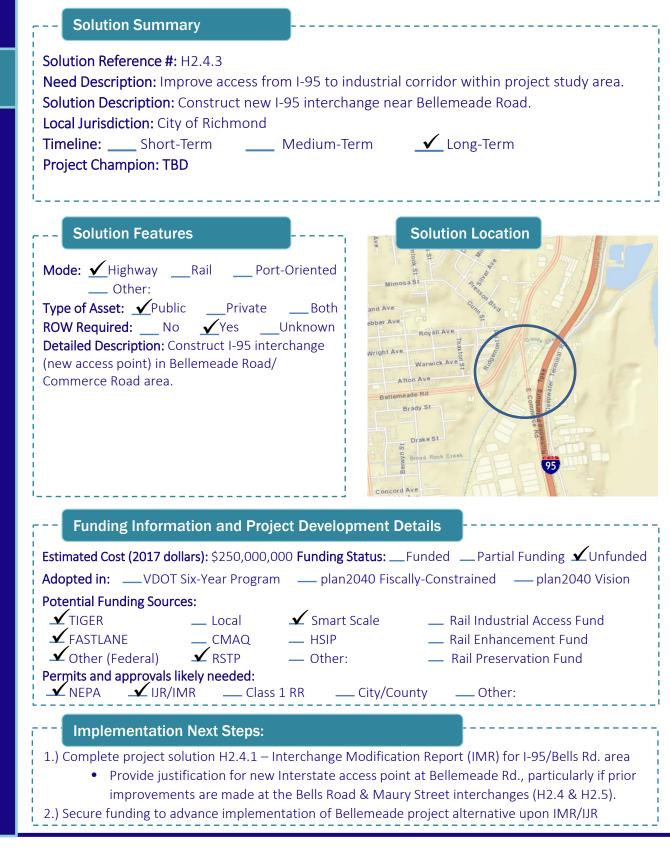
H2.4.2 : I-95/Bells Road Interchange Improvement





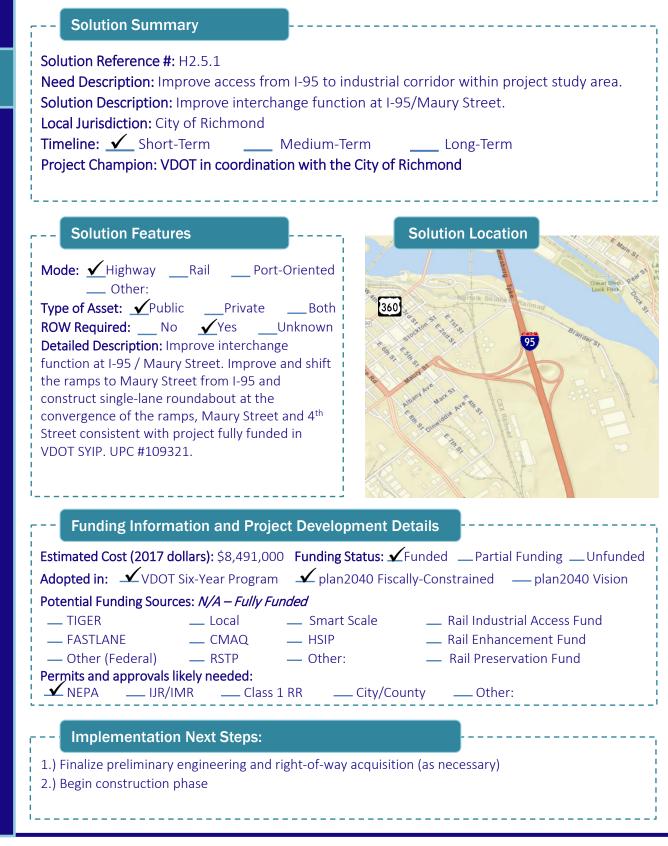
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H2.4.3 : I-95/Bellemeade Road New Interchange



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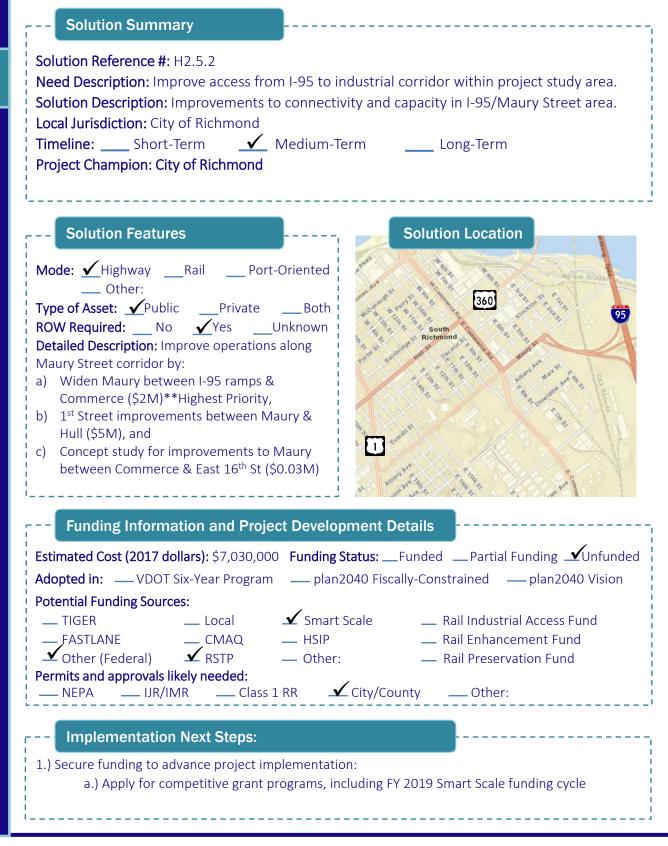
H2.5.1 : I-95/Maury Street Interchange Improvement





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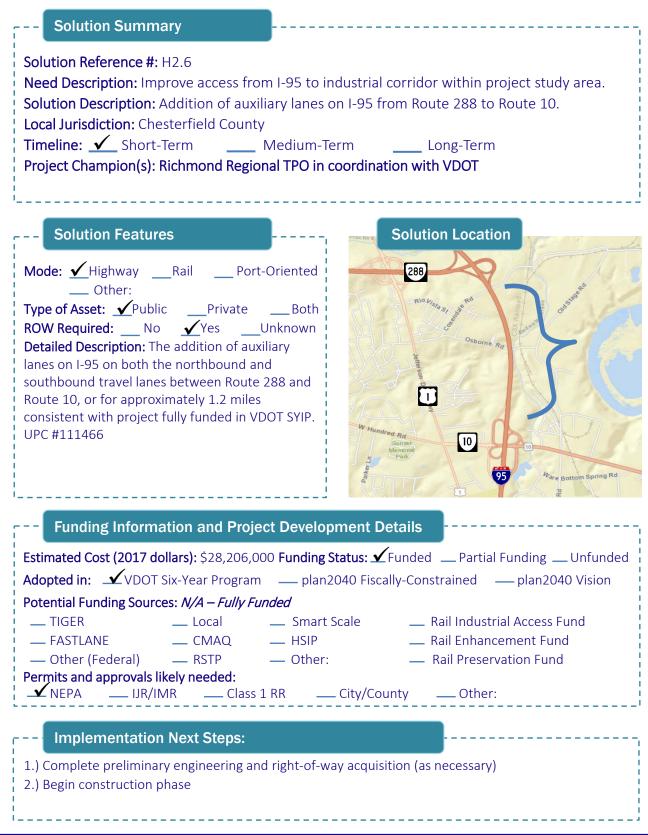
H2.5.2 : I-95/Maury Street Network Improvements





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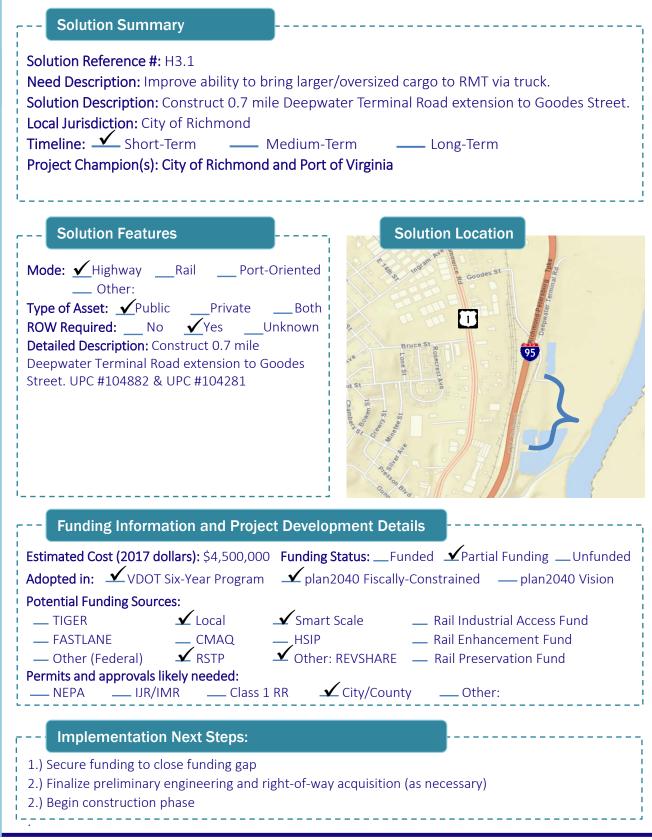






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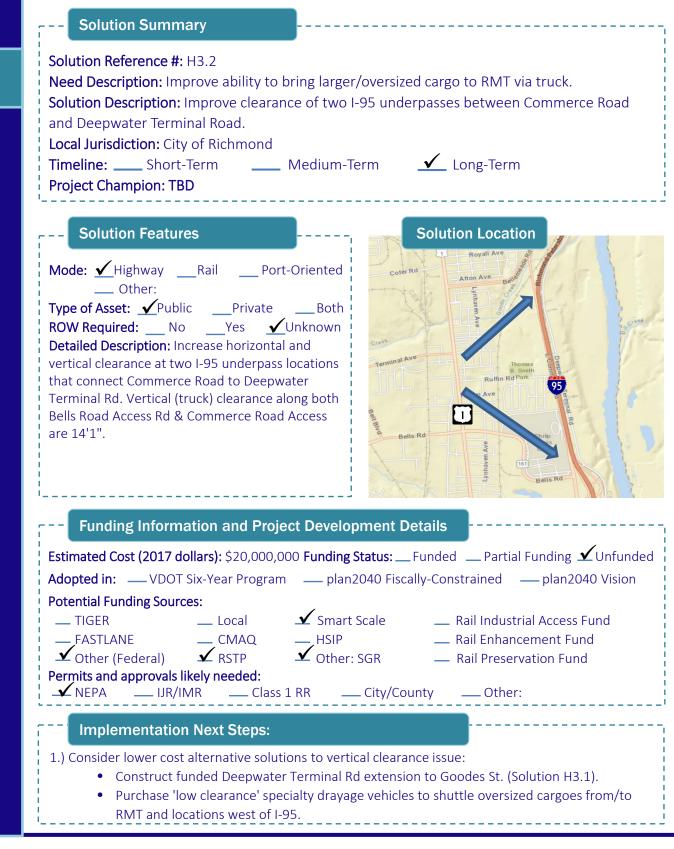
H3.1 : Deepwater Terminal Road Extension





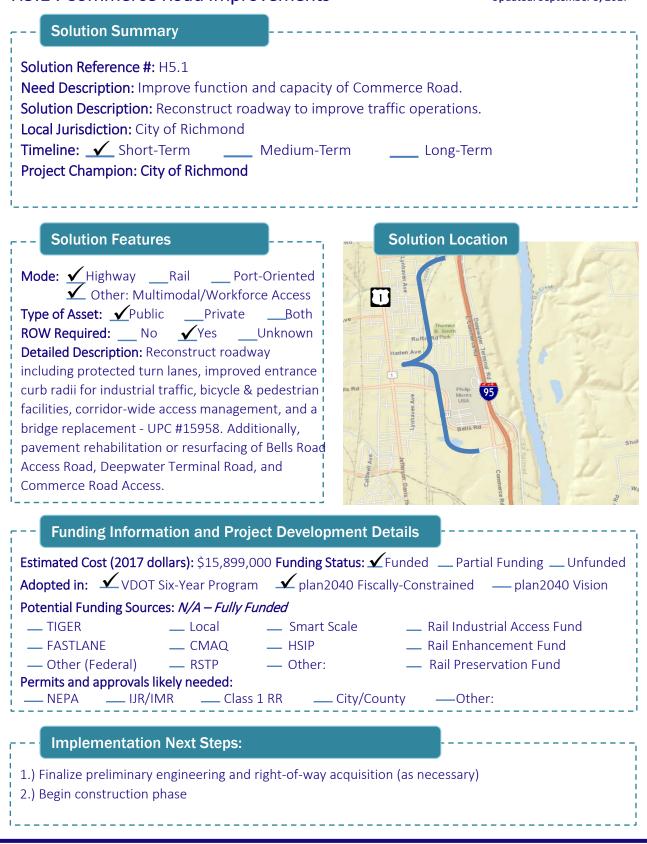
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H3.2 : Deepwater Terminal Access Improvements





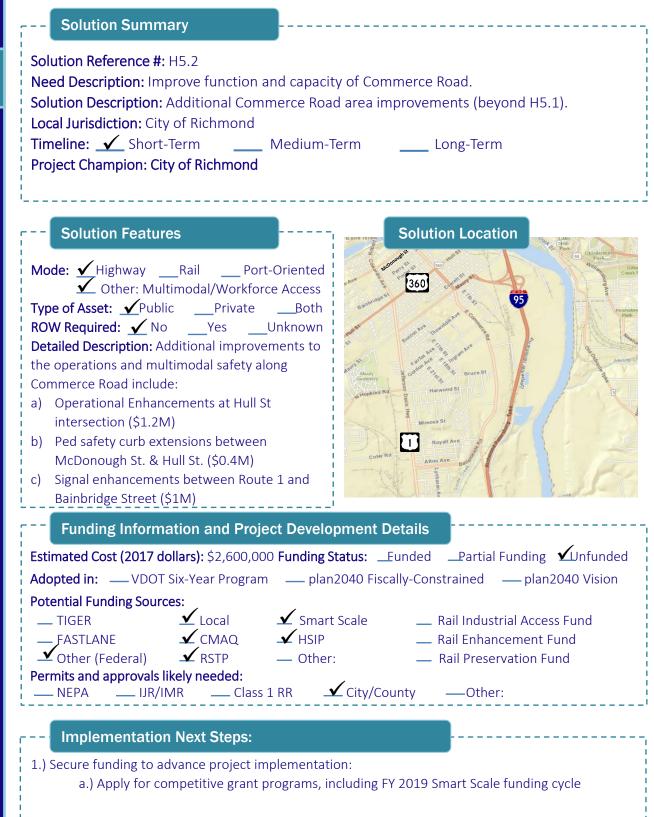
H5.1 : Commerce Road Improvements





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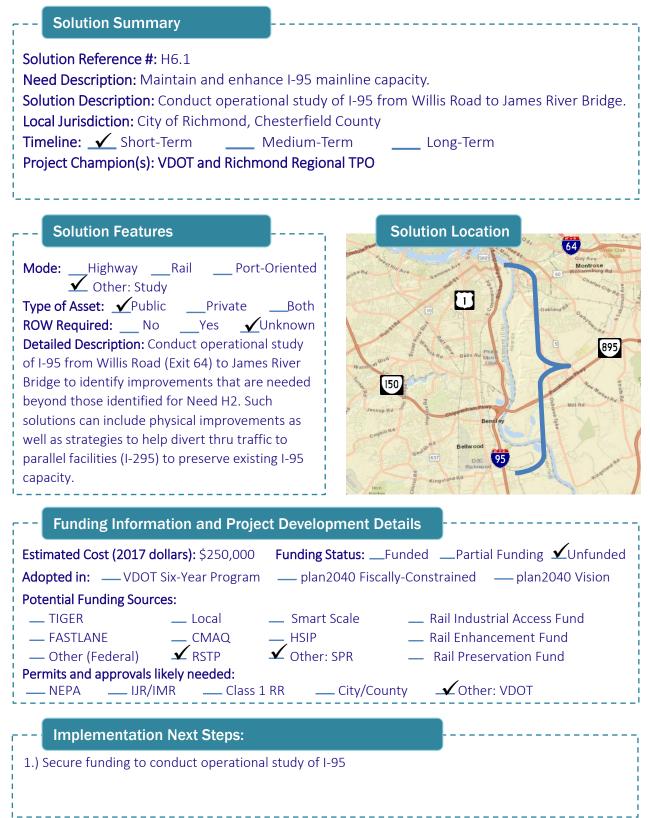
H5.2 : Commerce Road Improvements (Phase 2)





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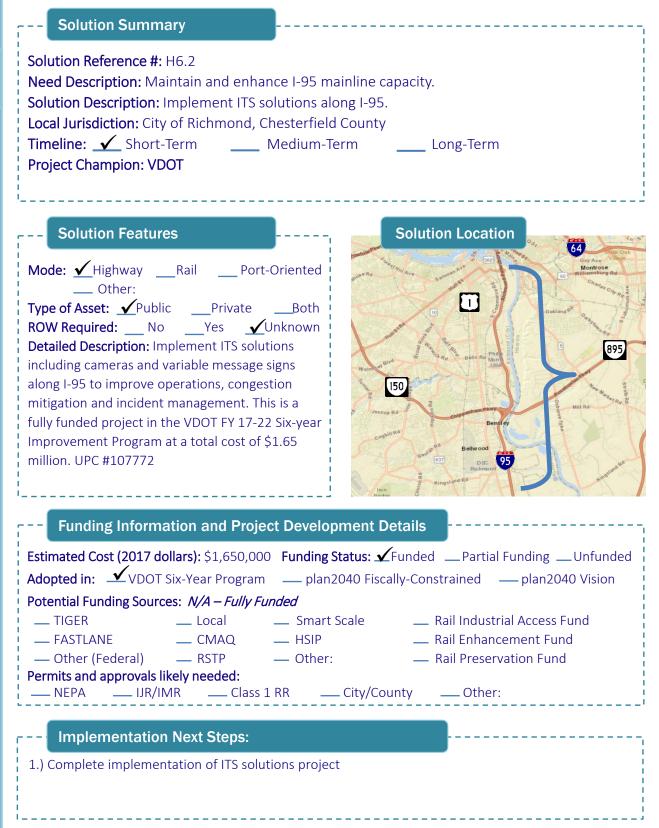






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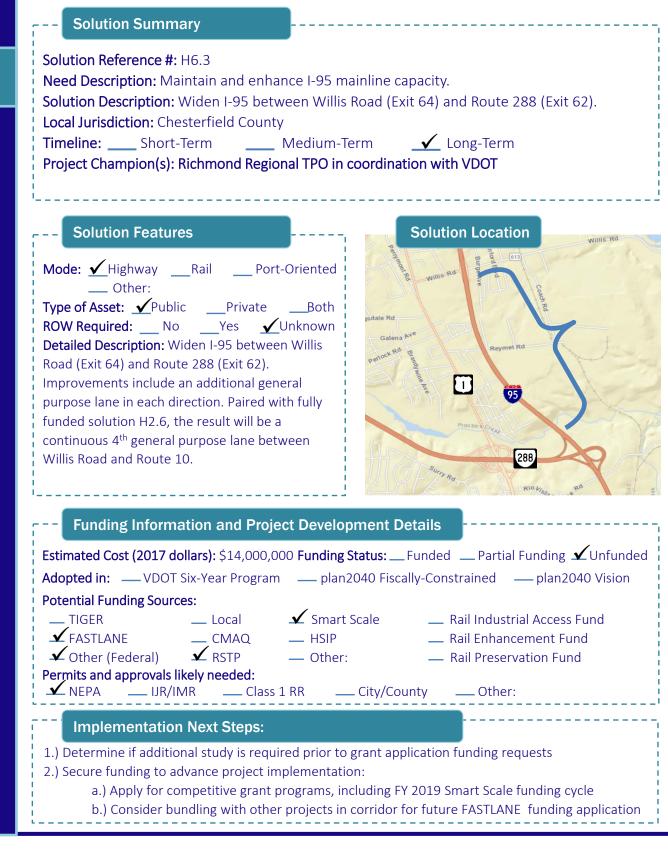
H6.2: I-95 ITS Improvements





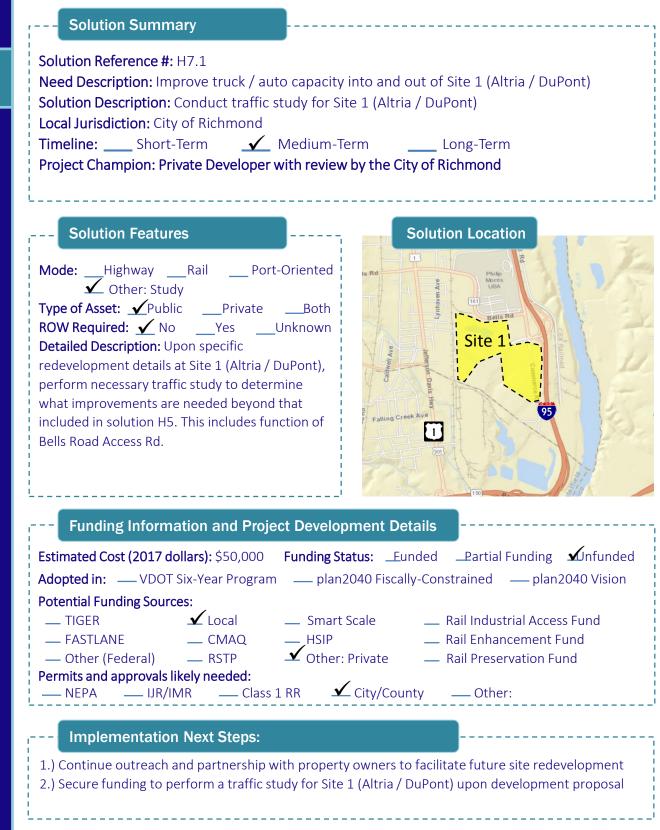
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H6.3 : I-95 Widening



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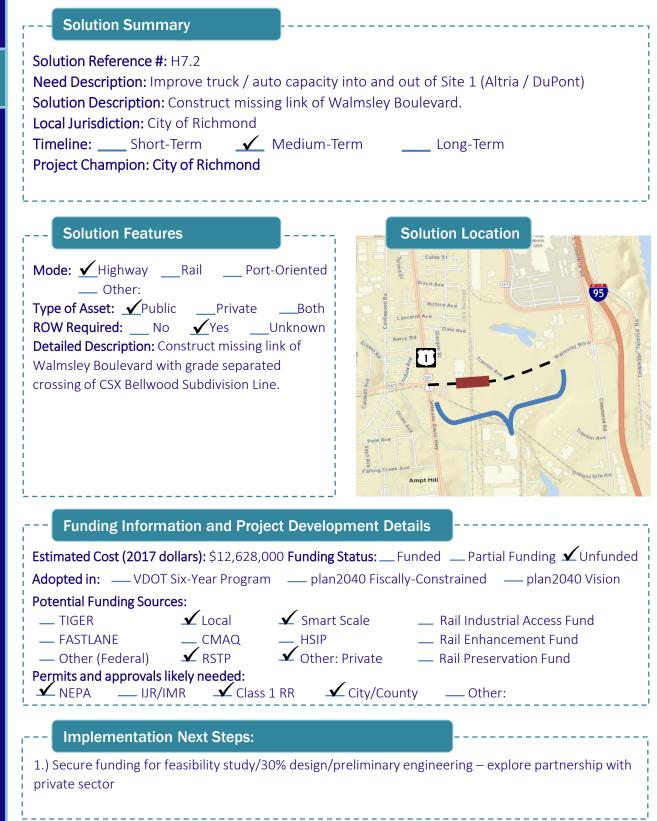
H7.1 : Traffic Study for Altria/Dupont Redevelopment





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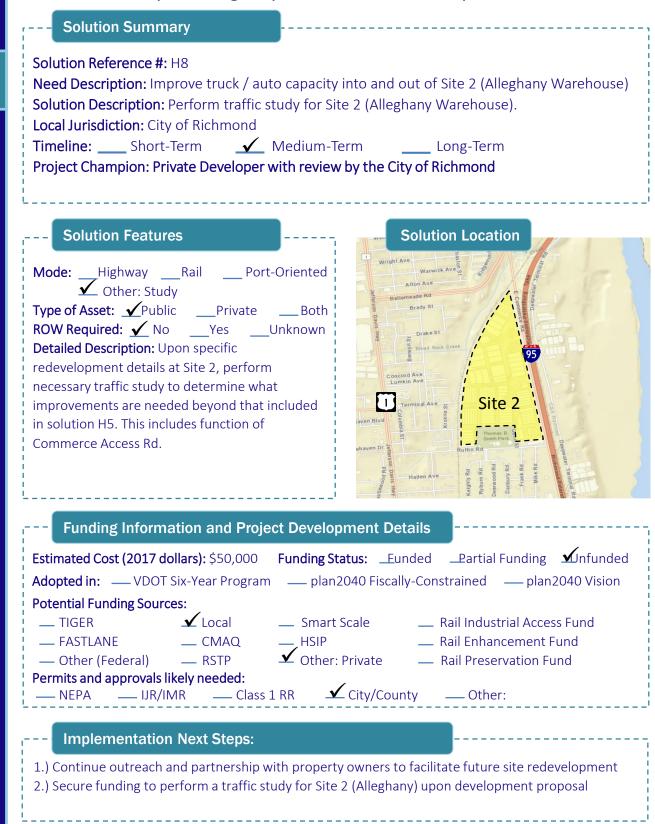
H7.2 : Walmsley Boulevard Extension





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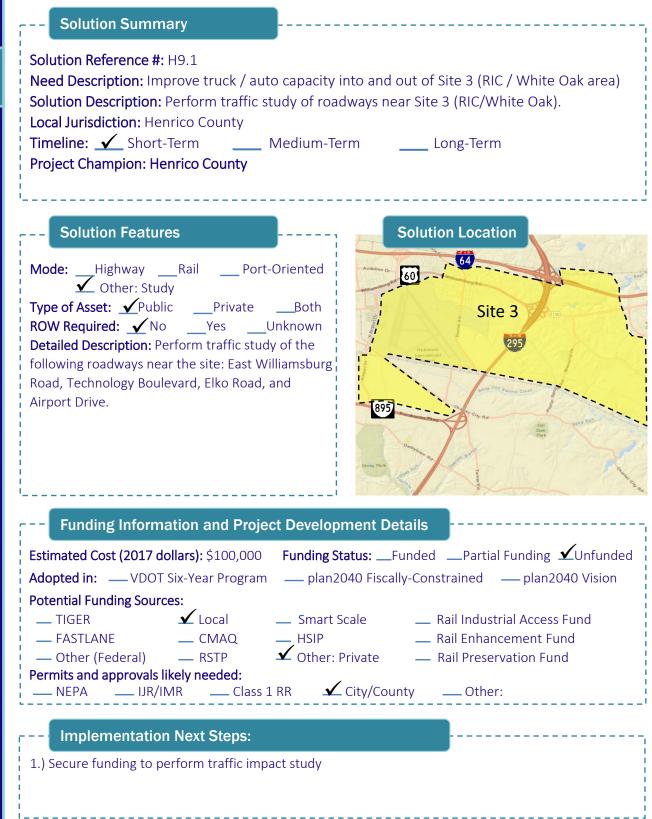
H8 : Traffic Study for Alleghany Warehouse Redevelopment Updated: September 5, 2017





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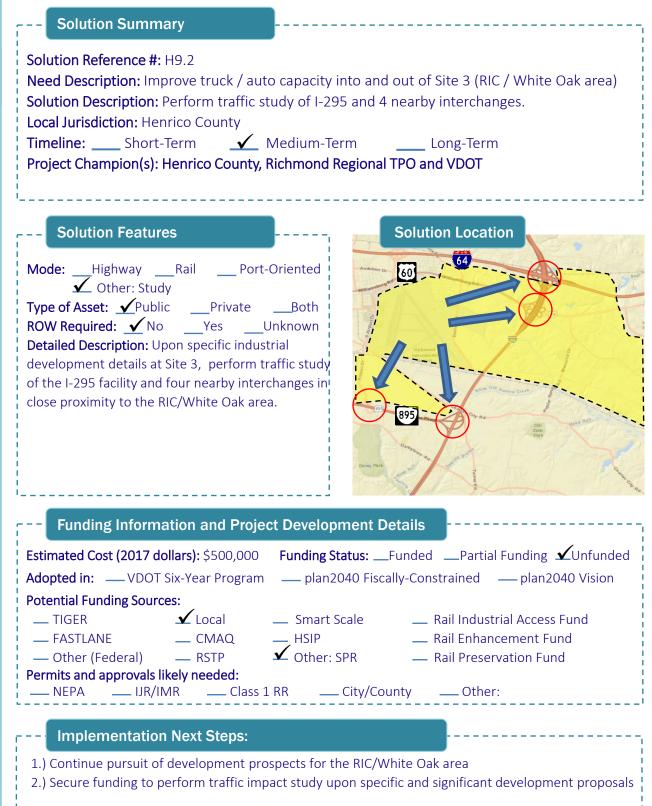






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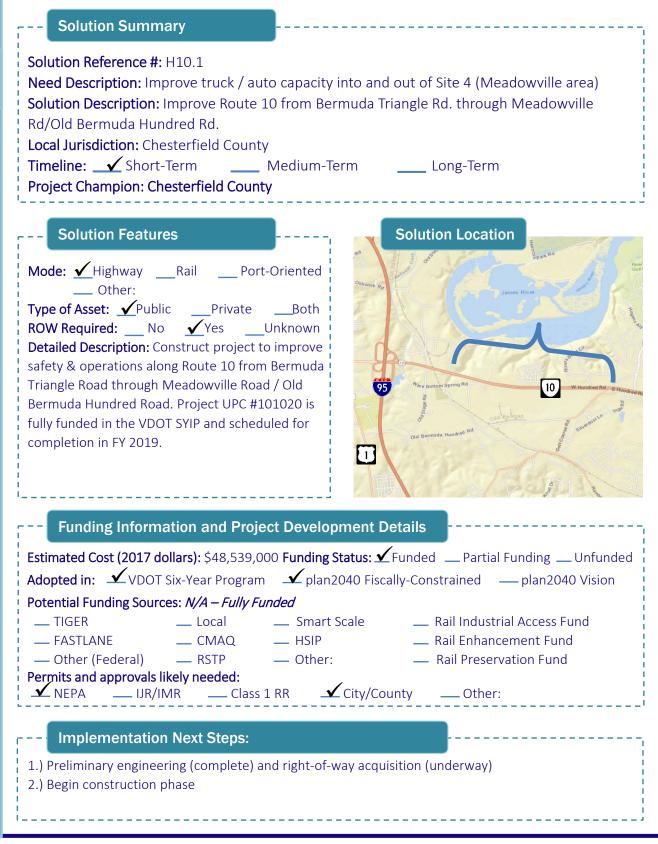
H9.2 : I-295 Interchanges Traffic Impact Study





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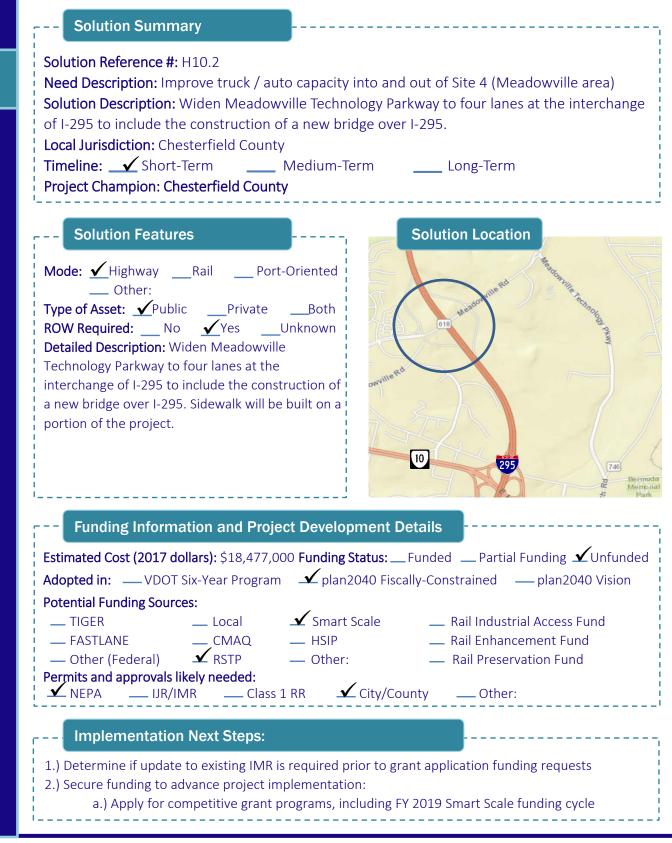
H10.1 : Route 10 Improvements





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H10.2 : Meadowville Technology Parkway Widening

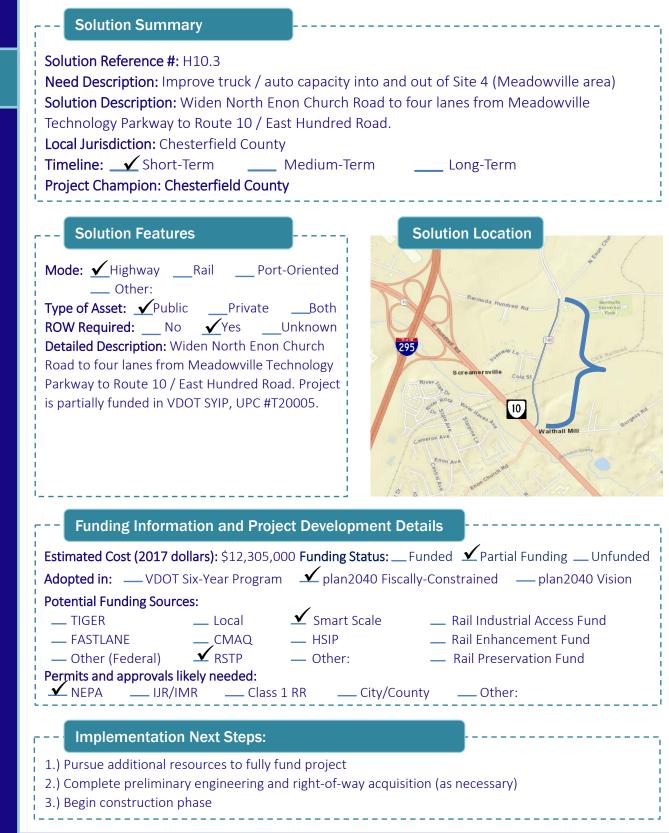




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H10.3 : North Enon Church Road Widening

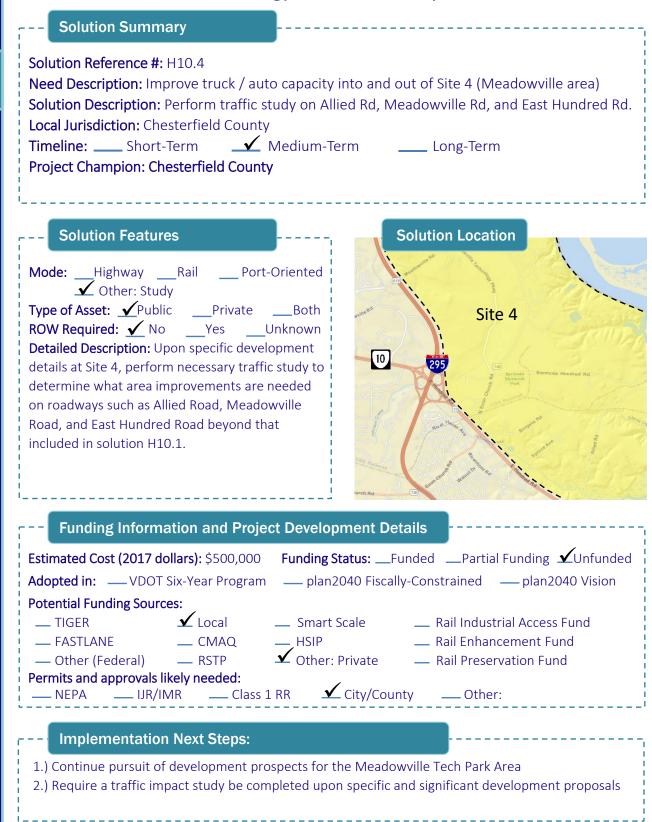
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COMMERCE CORRIDOR: Transportation, Connectivity,

Accessibility & Economic Opportunity Study

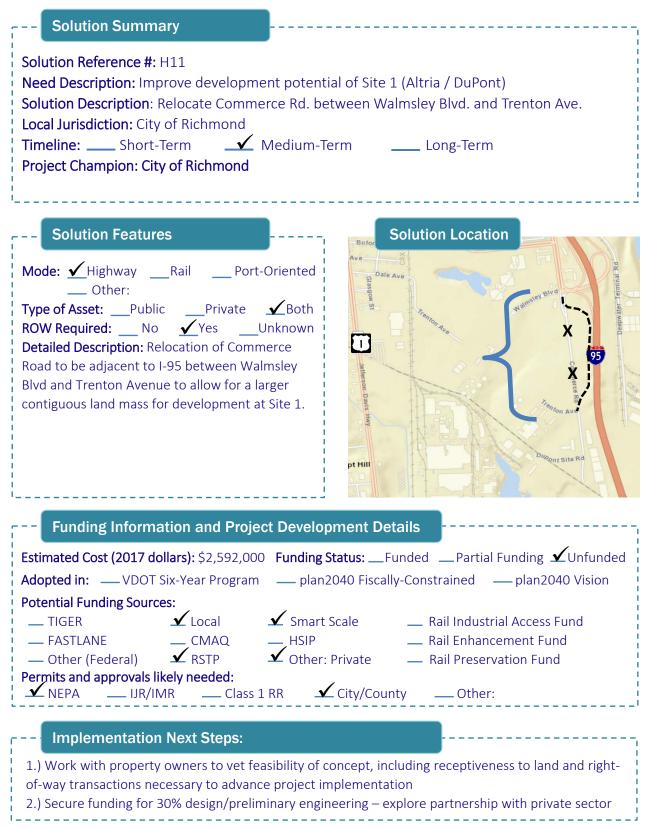
H10.4 : Meadowville Technology Park Traffic Study





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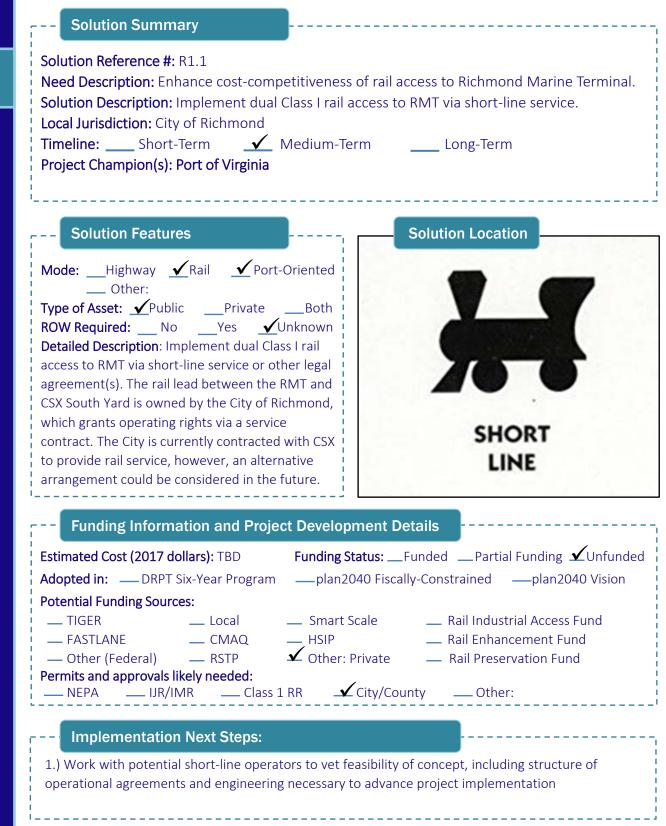
H11 : Commerce Road Realignment





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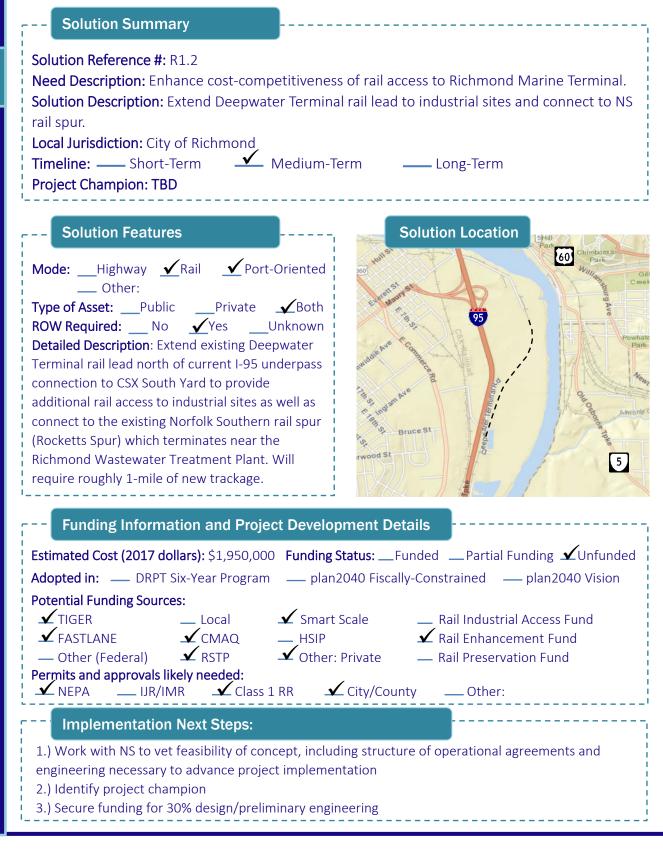
R1.1: Richmond Marine Terminal Short-Line Service





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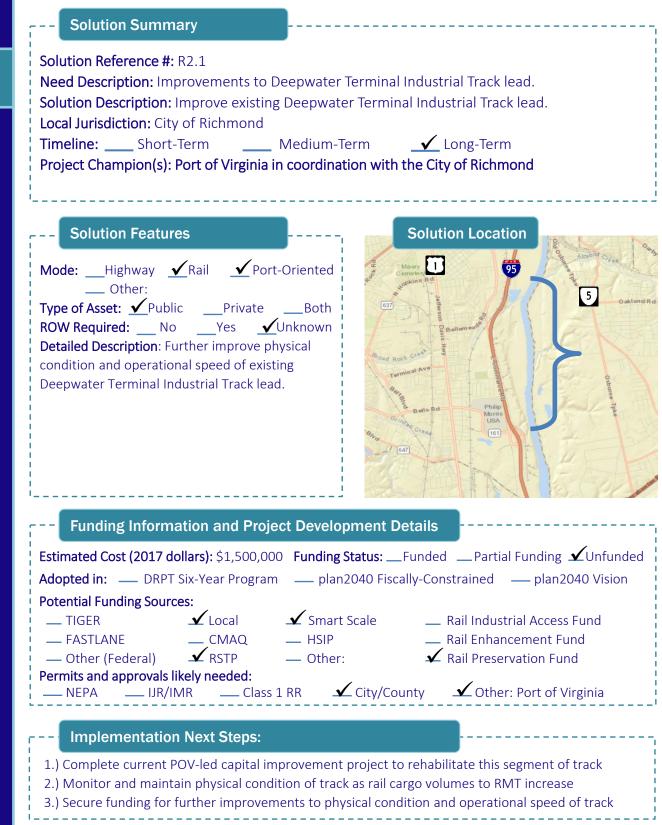
R1.2 : Deepwater Terminal Rail Lead Extension





Planning and Investment

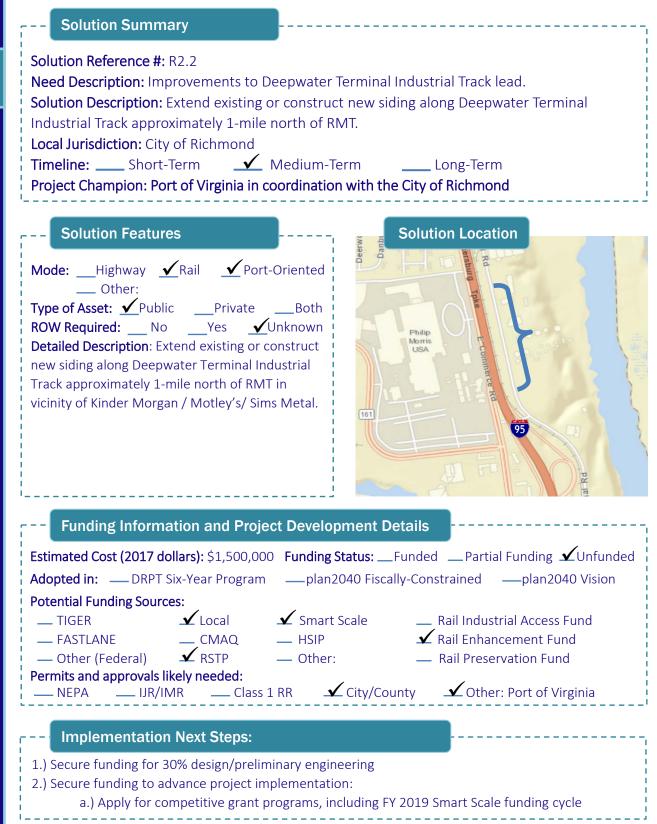
R2.1 : Deepwater Terminal Rail Lead Improvements





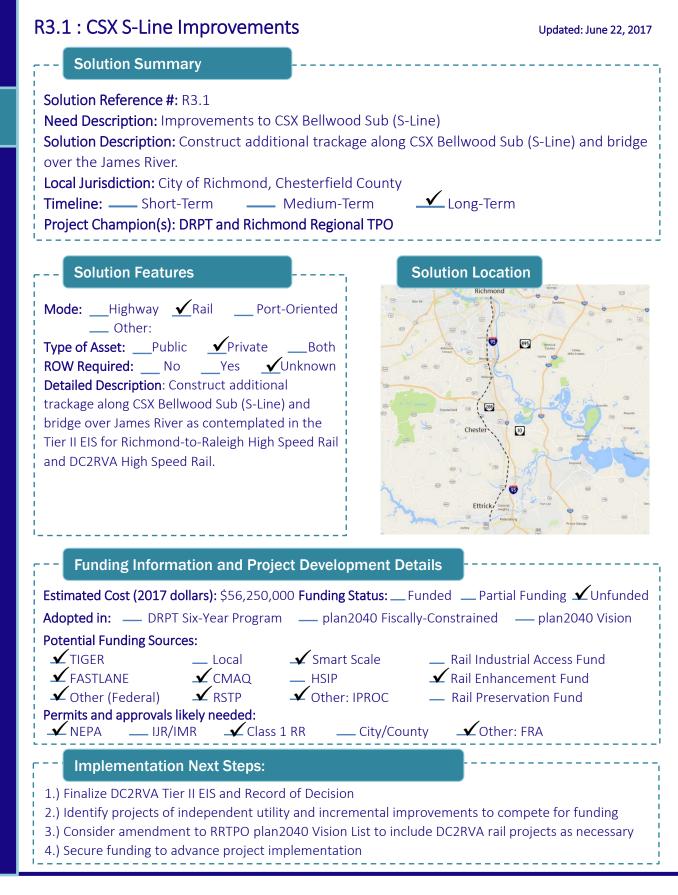
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R2.2 : Deepwater Terminal Industrial Track - New Siding

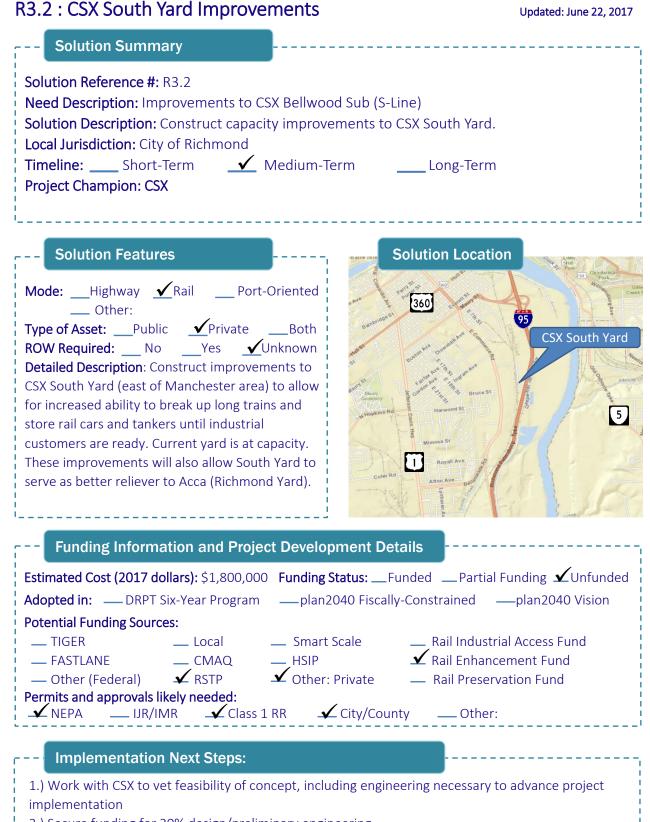




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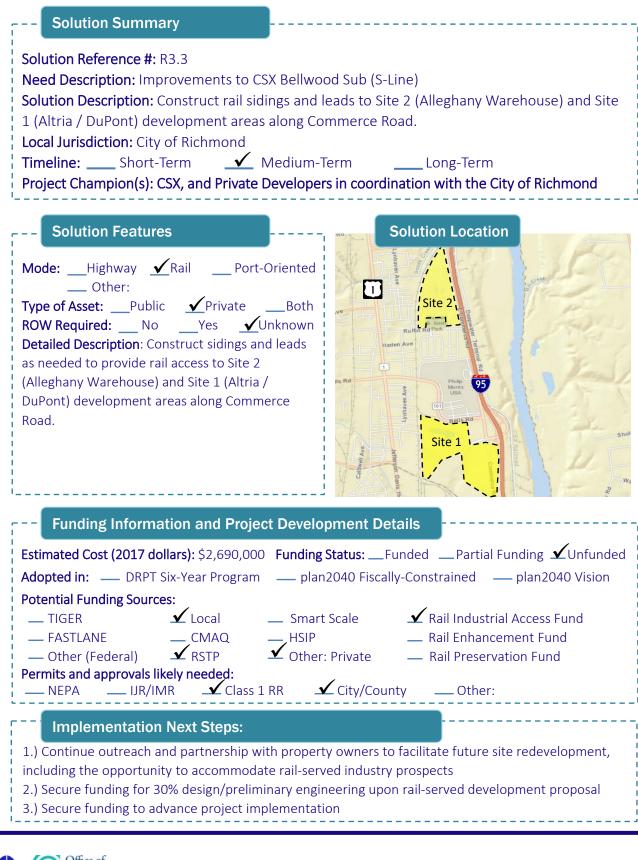


2.) Secure funding for 30% design/preliminary engineering

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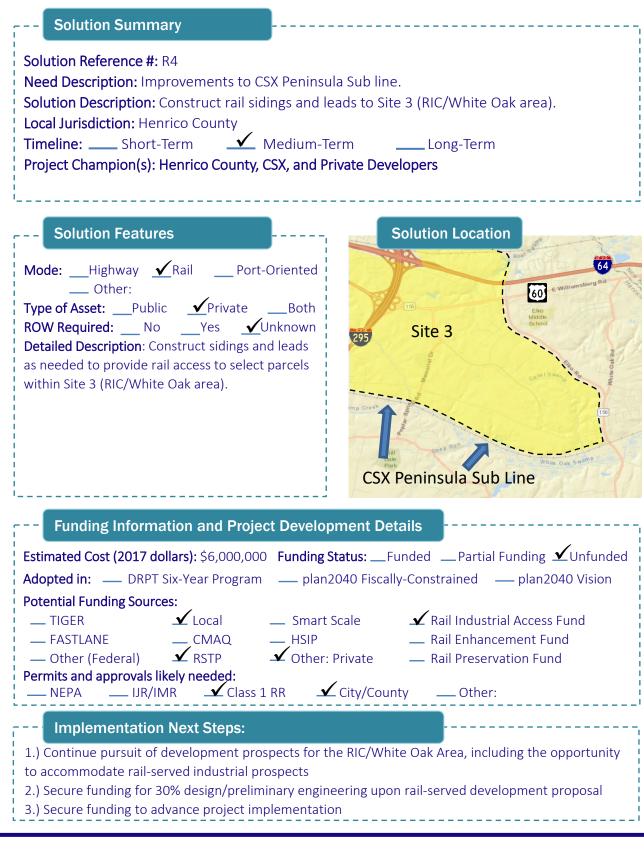


R3.3 : Rail Access to Commerce Road Development Sites Updated: September 5, 2017



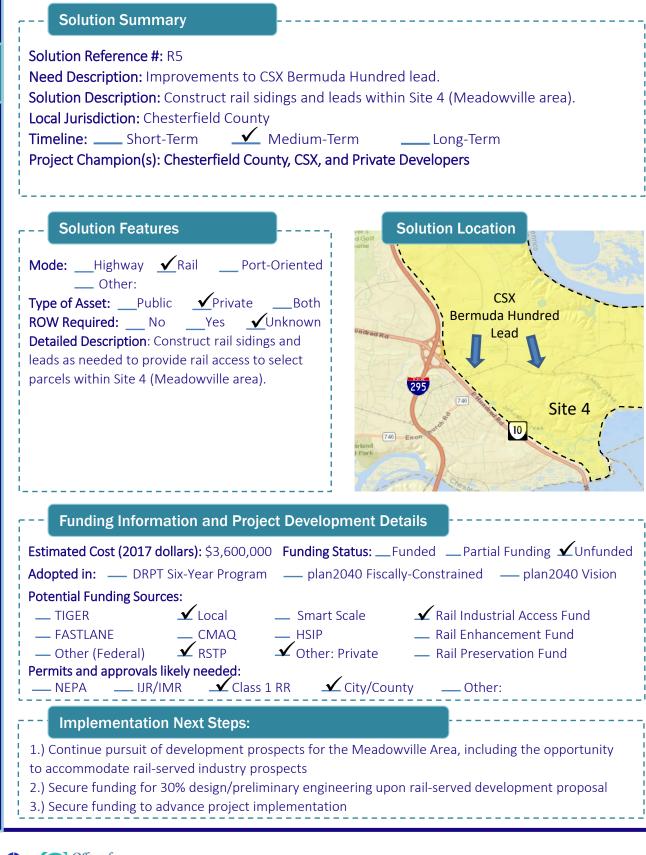
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R4 : Rail Access to RIC/White Oak Development Sites (CSX) Updated: June 22, 2017



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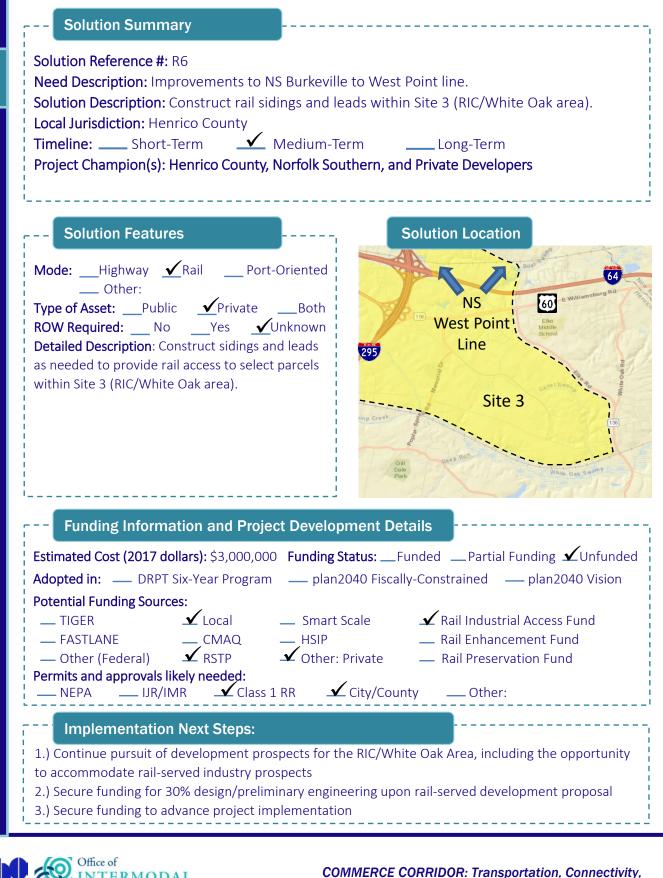
R5 : Rail Access to Meadowville Development Sites



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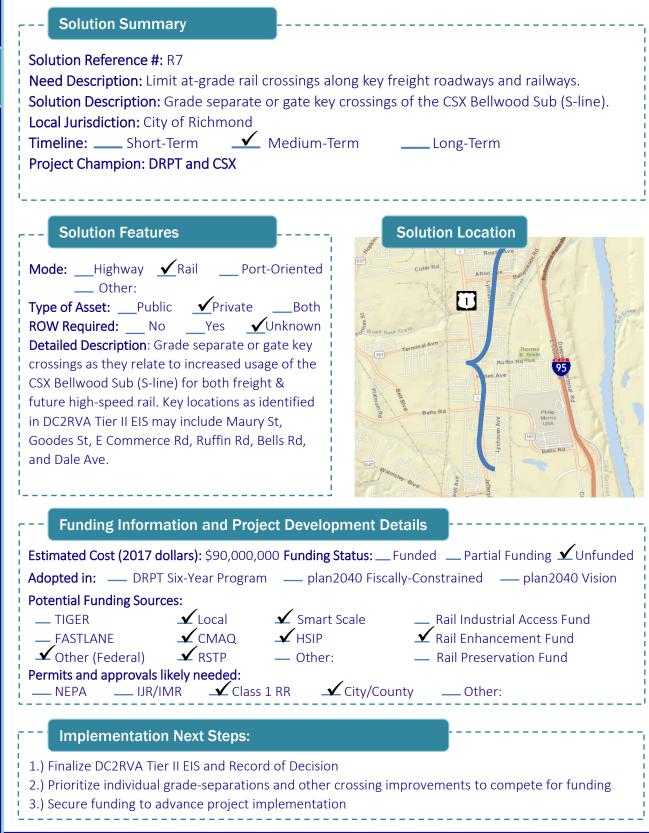
R6 : Rail Access to RIC/White Oak Development Sites (NS)

Accessibility & Economic Opportunity Study



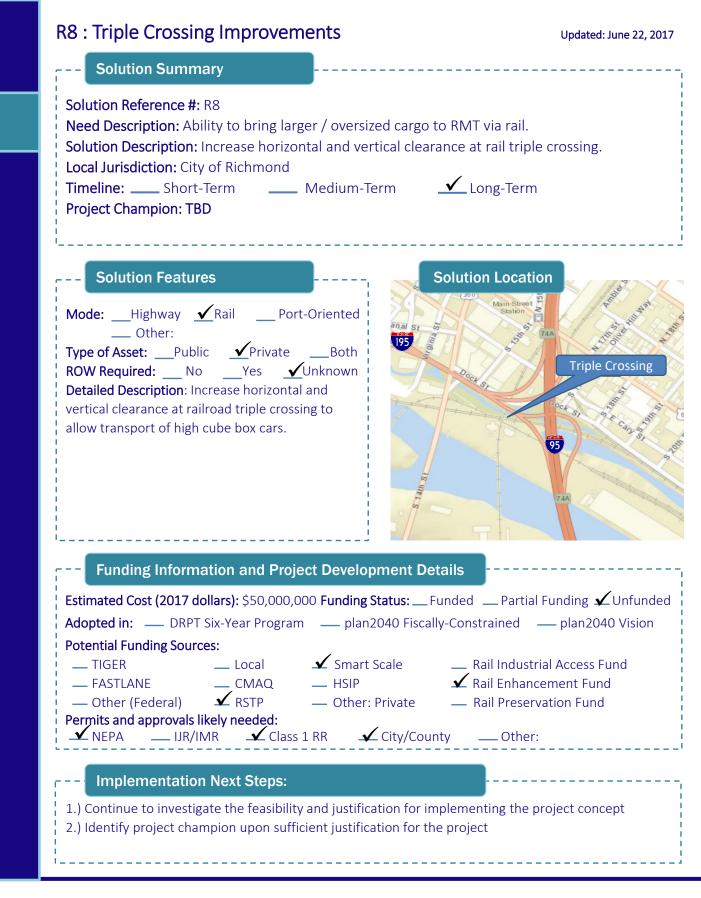
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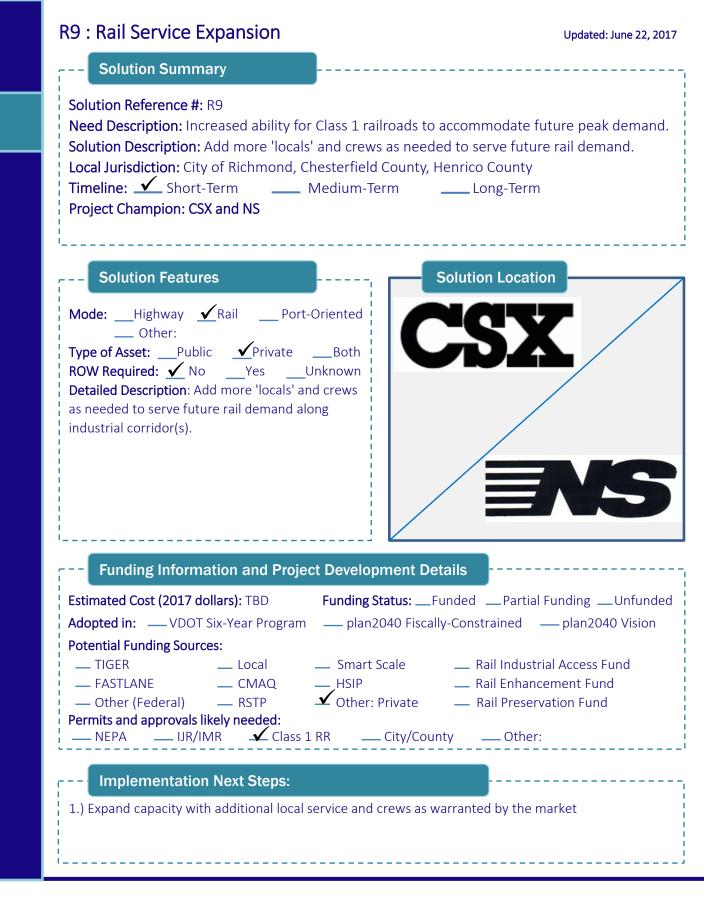


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P1.1: RMT Off-Hours Delivery Solutions





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P1.2 : RMT New Access Point Feasibility Study

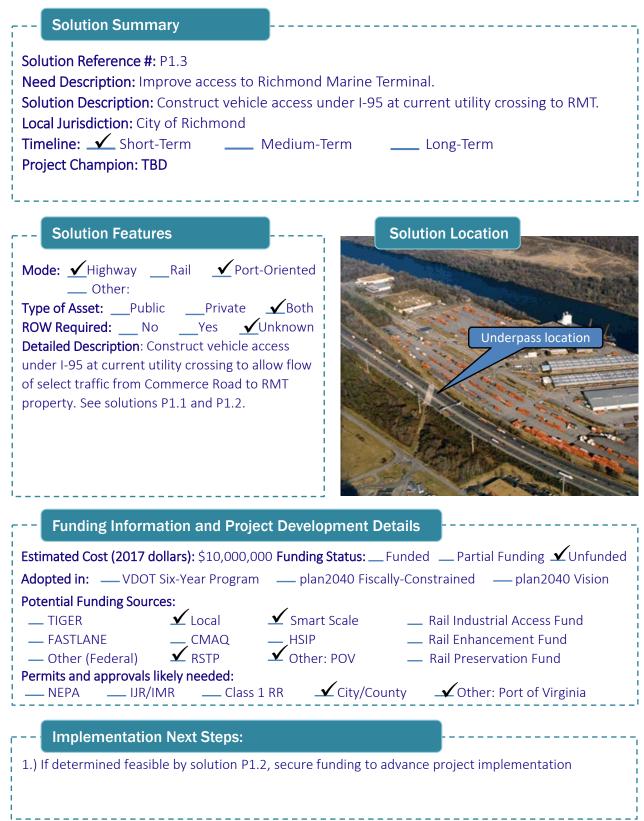


2.) If determined feasible, secure funding to advance project implementation of solution P1.3



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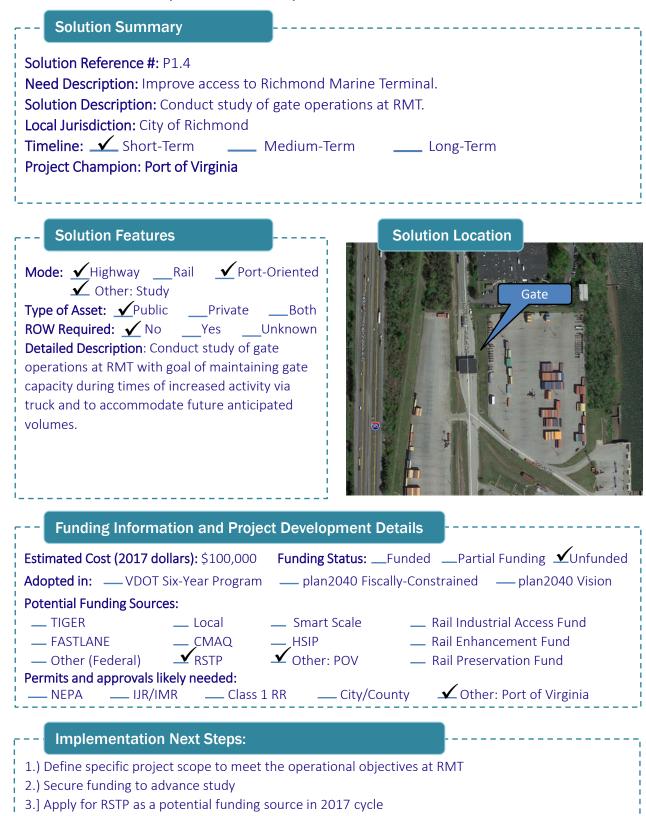
P1.3 : RMT New Access Point





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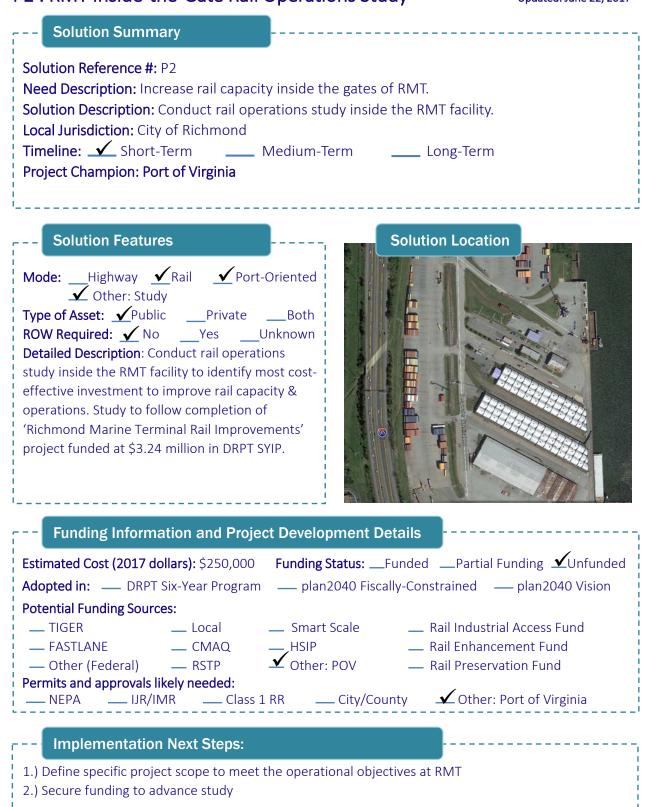
P1.4 : RMT Gate Operations Study





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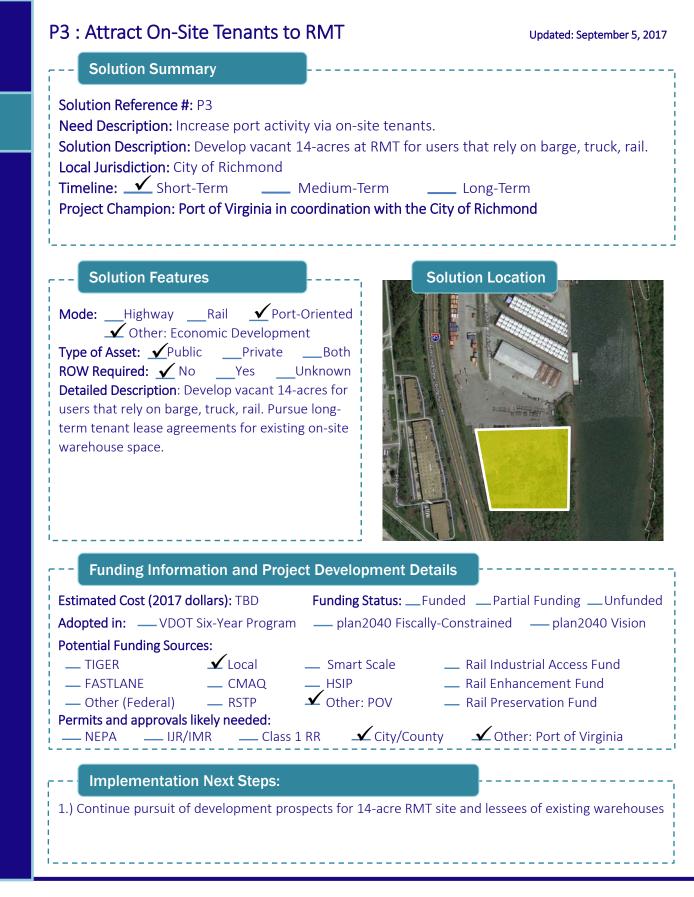
P2 : RMT Inside-the-Gate Rail Operations Study





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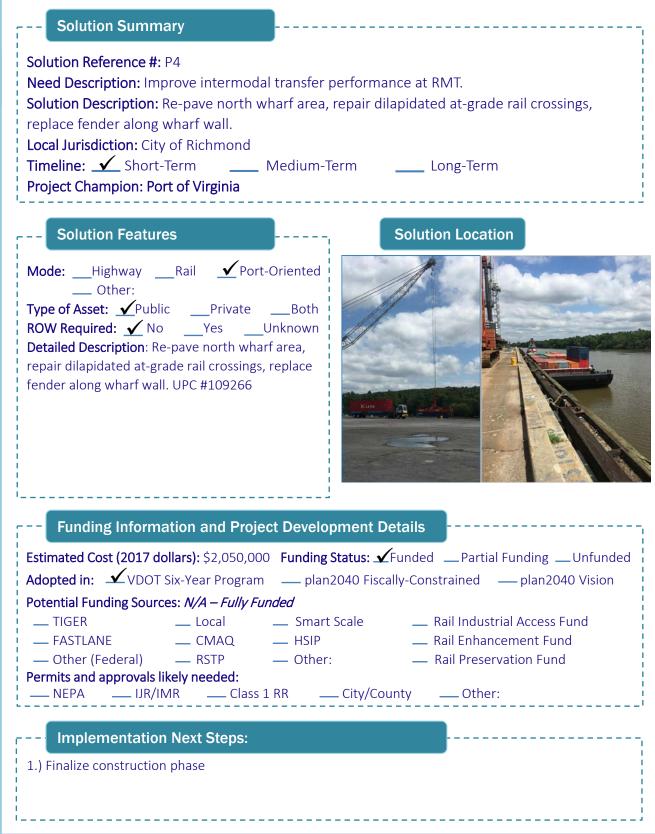
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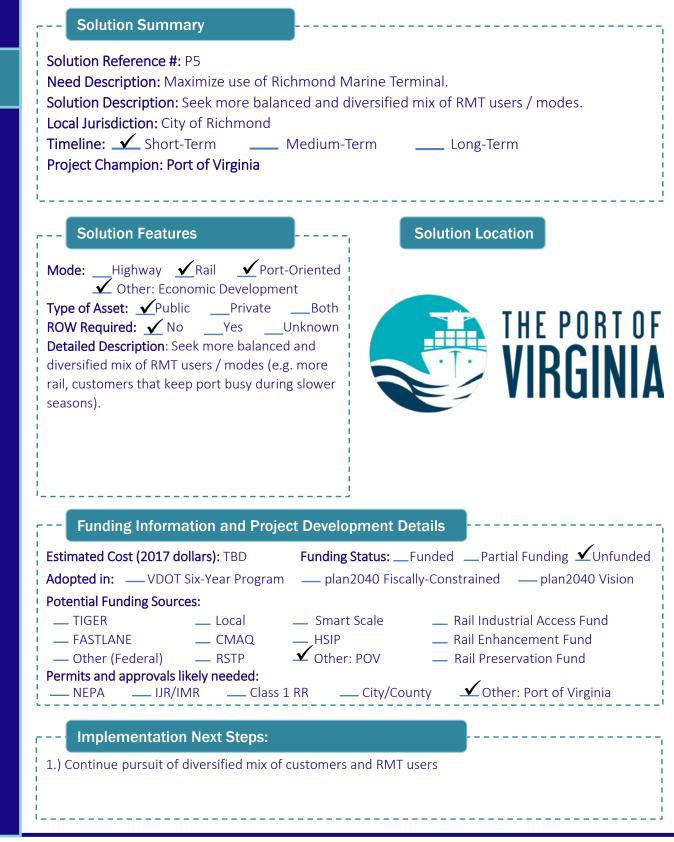
P4 : RMT Intermodal Transfer Improvements





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P5 : RMT Business Development and Diversification





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M1 : Image & Competitiveness of Commerce Corridor



Solution Features

Mode: ____Highway ____Rail ____Port-Oriented ✓ Other: Economic Development Type of Asset: ____Public ____Private ____Both ROW Required: 🖌 No 🔤 Yes 🔄 Unknown Detailed Description: Explore branding Commerce Corridor to improve image, recognition and competitiveness. Consider tax incentives and/or establishment of business association to encourage visual improvements in Corridor. Provide for services vital to businesses, including broadband connectivity, access to restaurants and amenities. Improve signage and wayfinding.

Solution Location



Funding Information and Project Development Details

Estimated Cost (2017 dollars): \$4,000,000 Funding Status: _____Funded _____Partial Funding 🖌 Unfunded Adopted in: — VDOT Six-Year Program — plan2040 Fiscally-Constrained — plan2040 Vision **Potential Funding Sources:** ✓ Local

______FASTLANE

- NEPA

___ CMAQ ✓ Other (Federal) — RSTP

— Smart Scale — HSIP ✓ Other: Private

— Rail Industrial Access Fund

- Rail Enhancement Fund
- Rail Preservation Fund

 $_$ Class 1 RR \checkmark City/County ___ Other:

Implementation Next Steps:

Permits and approvals likely needed:

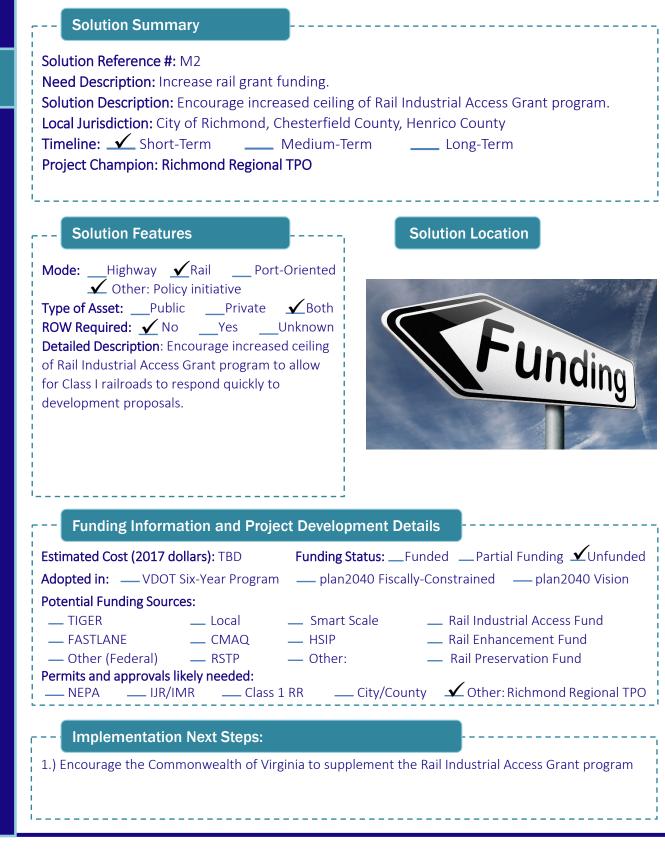
____ IJR/IMR

1.) Coordinate with private sector stakeholders and property owners to understand needs and opportunities of the Corridor from a marketing, visual improvement, and services perspective 2.) Secure funding to advance project implementation



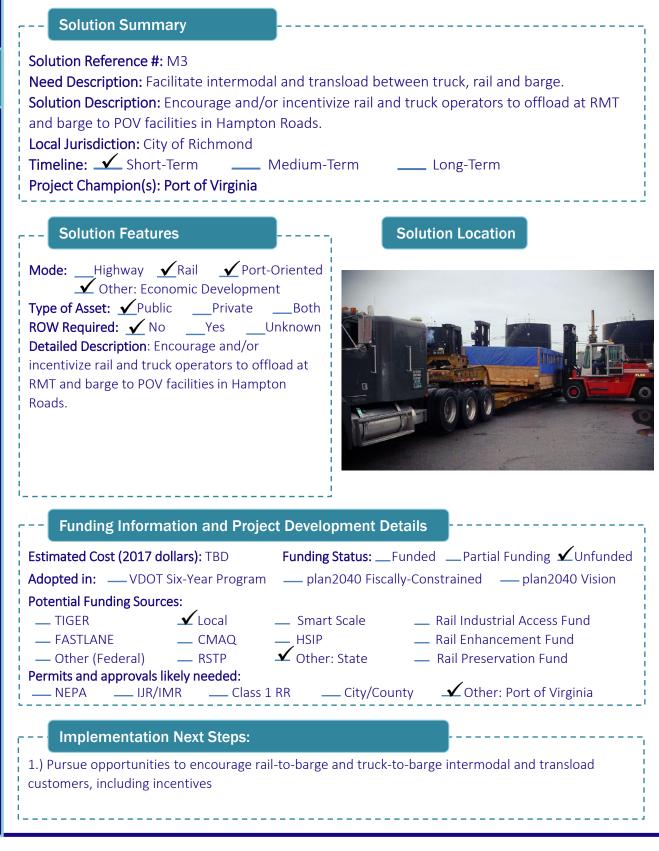
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M2 : Rail Industrial Access Grant Program Expansion



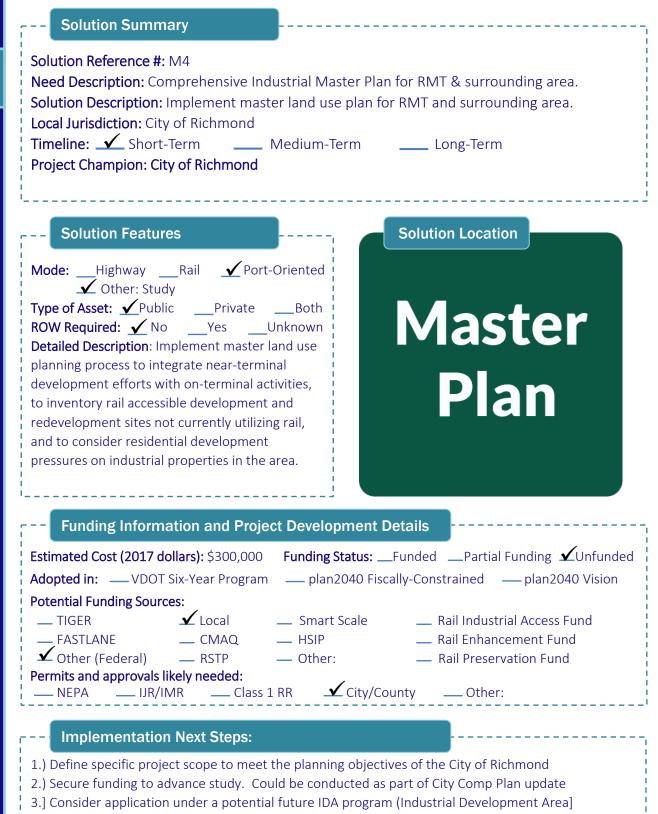
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M3 : Intermodal Business Development and Incentives



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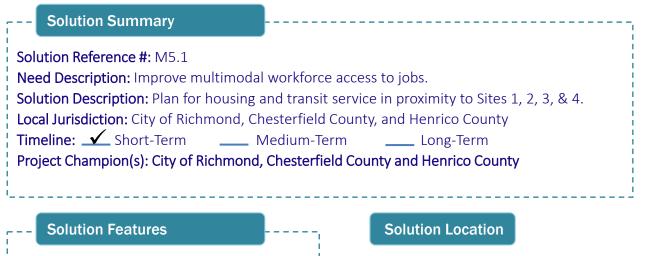
M4 : RMT & Commerce Road Area Land-Use Plan





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M5.1 : Local Initiatives for Workforce Access to Jobs



Mode: __Highway __Rail __Port-Oriented ✓ Other: Transit/Multimodal Type of Asset: ✓ Public __Private __Both ROW Required: ✓ No __Yes __Unknown Detailed Description: Led by each respective local jurisdiction independently to plan for housing and / or transit service in proximity to the four sites of future increased job activity: Site 1 (Altria/DuPont), Site 2 (Alleghany Warehouse), Site 3 (RIC/White Oak area), and Site 4 (Meadowville area).



Estimated Cost (2017 dollars): TBD		Funding Status:	_FundedPartial Funding 🖌 Unfunded
Adopted in:VDOT	Six-Year Progra	m — plan2040 Fisc	ally-Constrained — plan2040 Vision
Potential Funding Sour	ces:		
TIGER	🖌 Local	Smart Scale	Rail Industrial Access Fund
— FASTLANE ✓ Other (Federal)	CMAQ	— HSIP	— Rail Enhancement Fund
🖌 Other (Federal)	— RSTP	— Other:	— Rail Preservation Fund
Permits and approvals	likely needed:	/	
— NEPA	IMR Clas	ss 1 RR ✔ City/Co	ountyOther:

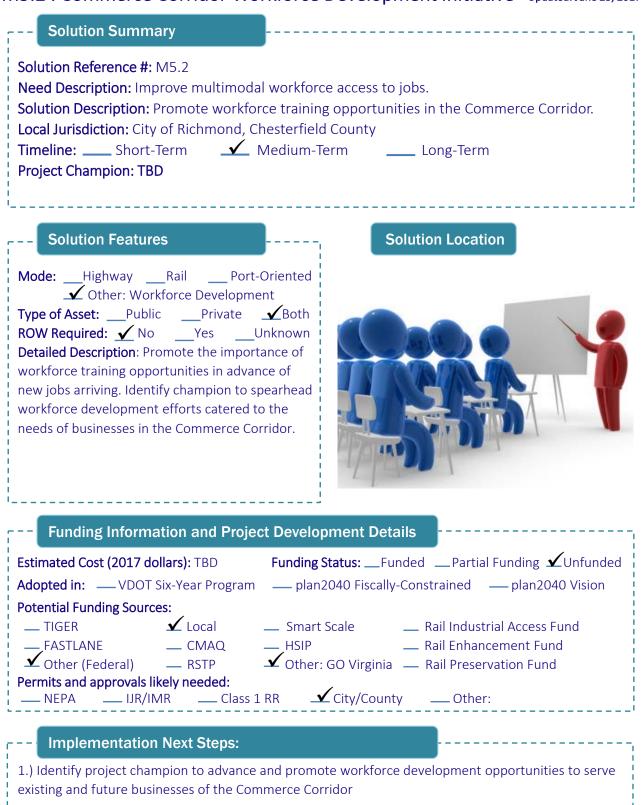
1.) Consider implementation of routes identified in Richmond Regional Transit Vision Plan

- 2.) Complete implementation of Richmond Transit Network Plan in City of Richmond
- 3.) Continued development of GRTC Transit Development Plan for Henrico and Chesterfield Counties



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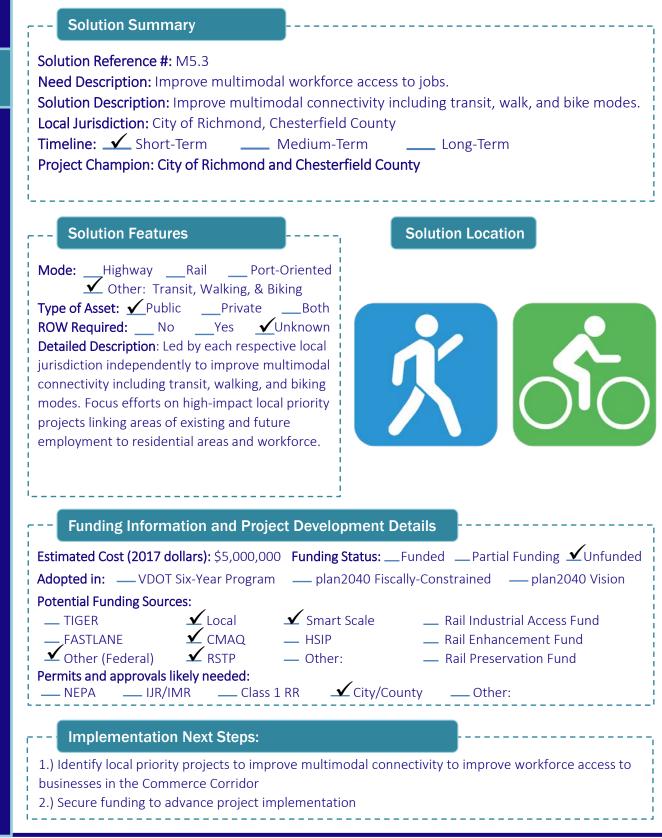
M5.2 : Commerce Corridor Workforce Development Initiative Updated: June 23, 2017





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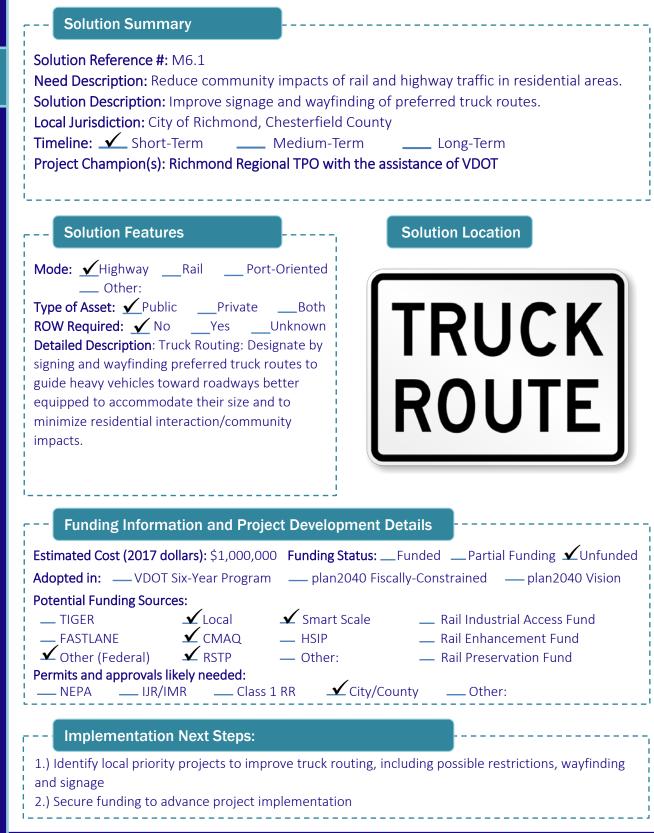
M5.3 : Multimodal Connectivity to Jobs





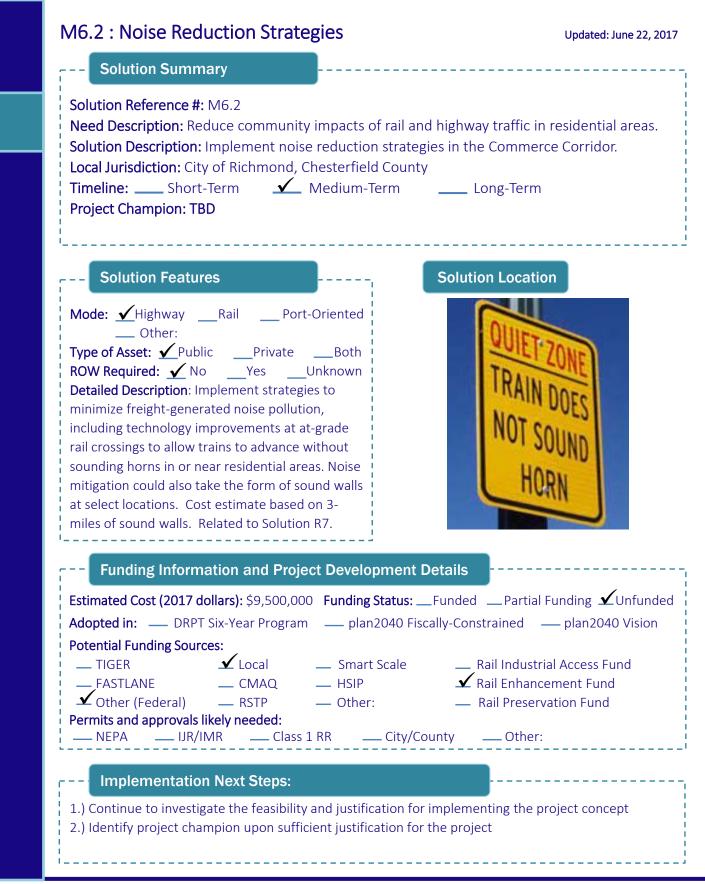
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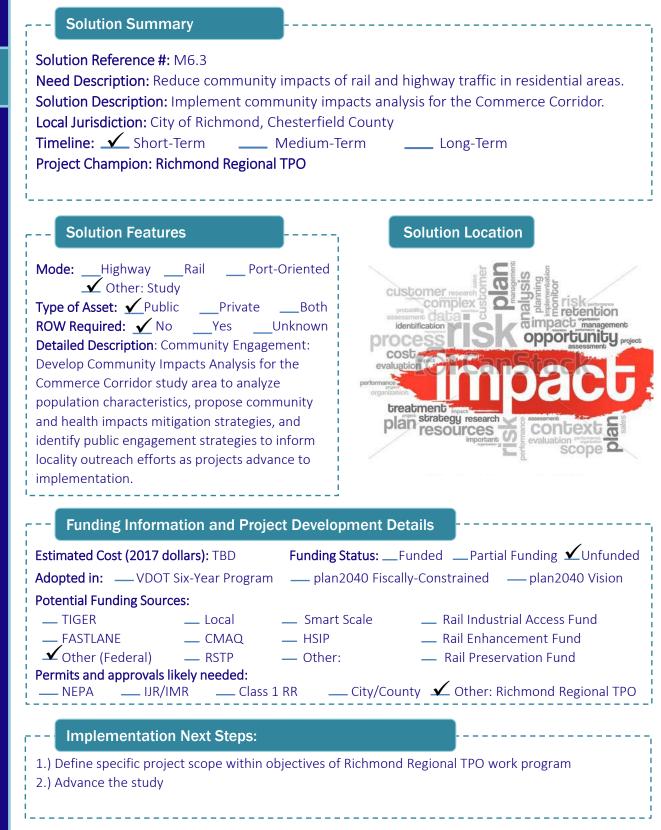


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