

Transforming Rail in Virginia

- On May 5, Governor Ralph Northam announced the Commonwealth has come to an agreement with Norfolk-Southern to improve rail reliability and increase passenger service to Southwest Virginia, known as the Western Rail Initiative. The agreement includes both an increase of existing service and expansion of service to the New River Valley.

Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

- On April 8, Governor Ralph Northam announced the hiring of DJ Stadtler as the Executive Director of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority. DJ Stadtler served as an Executive Vice President at Amtrak for the past 12 years and has extensive experience in the rail industry.
- The next VPRA meeting will be held on May 24.
- Additional information on VPRA can be found at: <http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/vpra/board-meetings/>

Virginia Statewide Rail Plan

- The 2022 Statewide Rail Plan is DRPT's update to Virginia's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)-compliant State Rail Plan, a process that must take place every four years to maintain Federal rail funding eligibility.
- DRPT will be coordinating closely with Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) and other stakeholders to ensure a high quality of outreach and a robust level of feedback from all stakeholders involved.
- Representatives from each MPO will be included in the same stakeholder tier to allow for coordinated outreach sessions with all interested MPO representatives.
- DRPT expects that this coordination will commence in mid-May 2021, with a focus on Plan visioning and guiding principles.
- Additional outreach opportunities will be available later in 2021 and through the Plan's expected completion date in the spring of 2022.

FY22 Six Year Improvement Program

- Draft SYIP was released on April 20th and a virtual public meeting was held on May 3rd in Richmond.
- Highlights of the Draft SYIP for the Richmond TPO area include:
 - GRTC
 - Operating Assistance - \$11.9M
 - Capital –
 - 30 replacement buses
 - 19 replacement vans
 - Pulse Station Enhancements
 - Technical Assistance –
 - Dedicated Lane Study
 - Neighborhood Transit Center Study
 - Next BRT Alternatives Study
 - O&M Facility
 - Commuter Assistance Program – RideFinders
 - Human Service Transportation
 - Hanover DASH
 - Vehicle Purchases – Goochland CARES, Heart Havens, Chesterfield CSB, St. Joseph's Villa