

# The Case for Passenger Rail & Transforming Rail in Virginia

Danny Plaughter, Executive Director



# Who are Virginians for High Speed Rail?

We are non-profit coalition of citizens, businesses, localities, and community groups that educate and advocate for the expansion of fast, frequent, and reliable intercity rail service. We were founded in 1994 as a partnership between the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce and the Future of Hampton Roads.



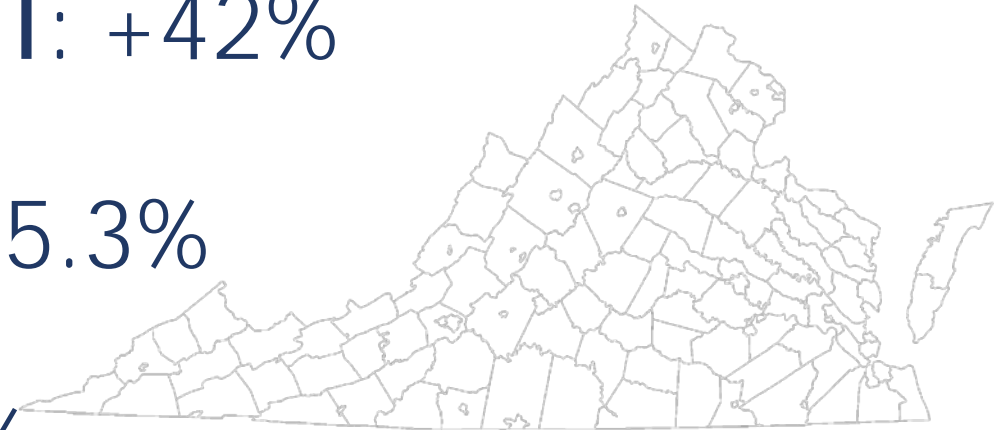
Virginia is changing and our  
transportation challenges are  
increasing



# Transportation in Virginia

## 1990-2019

- **Population:** +38%
  - 81% moving into Urban Crescent
- **Road Network:** +13.4% | **VMT:** +42%
- **Highways:** +13.3% | **VMT:** +75.3%
- **Flights:** -23.6% | **PPF:** +143.6%

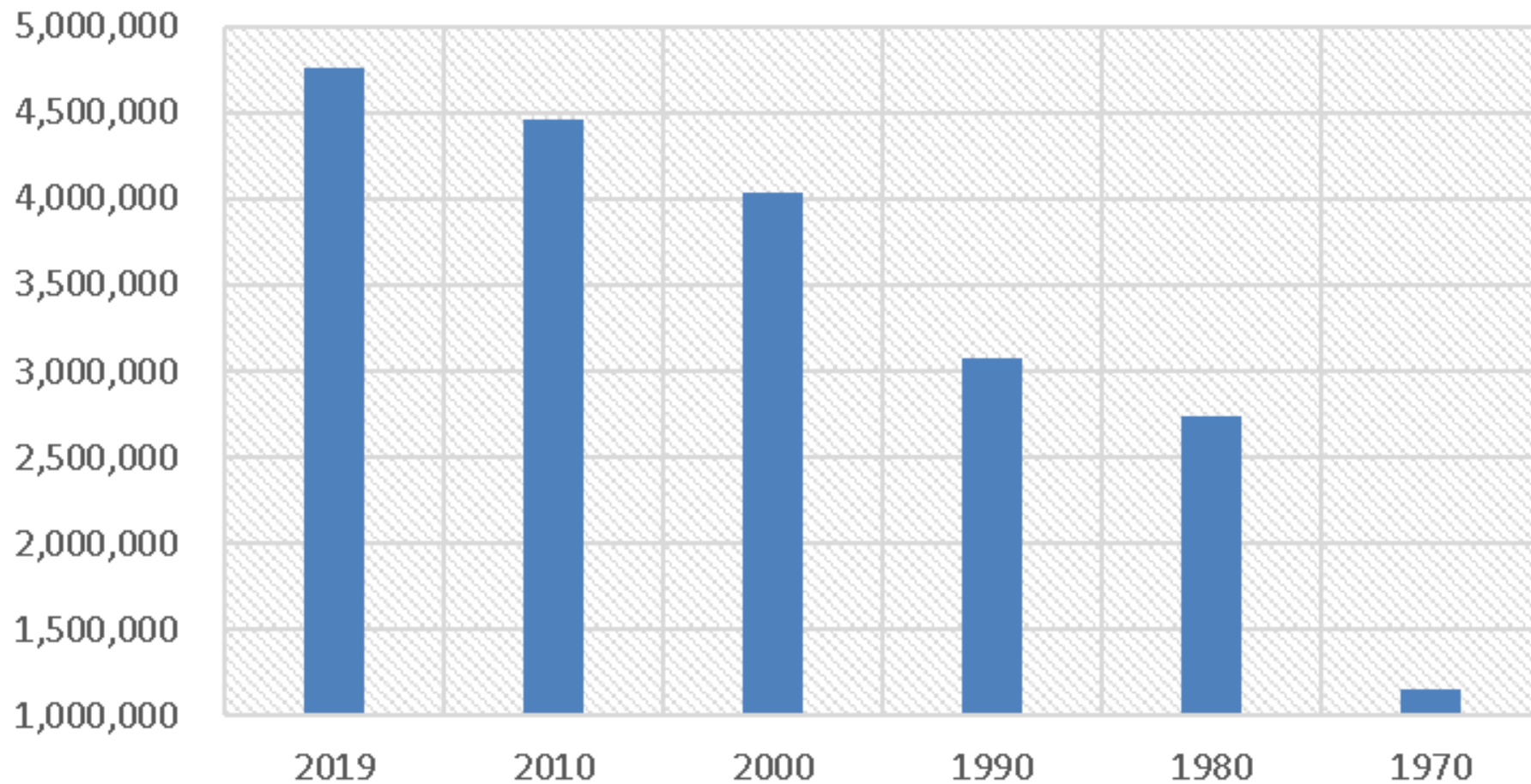








## VMT Per Virginia Interstate Lane Mile



# The cost to **pave** **our way back** to 2000

- We would need **1,002** additional interstate lane miles.
- Est. total cost: **\$44.3 billion**



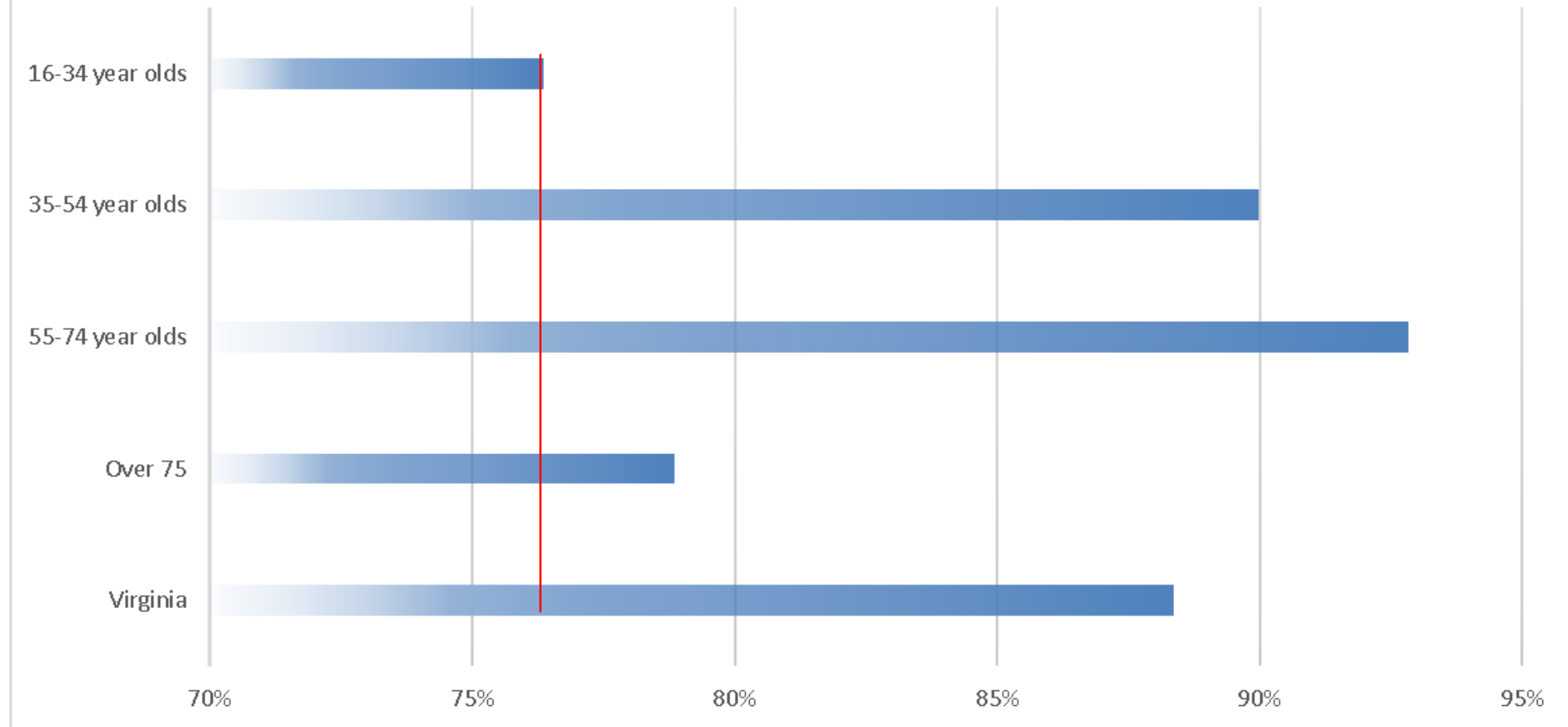
Young  
Virginians prefer





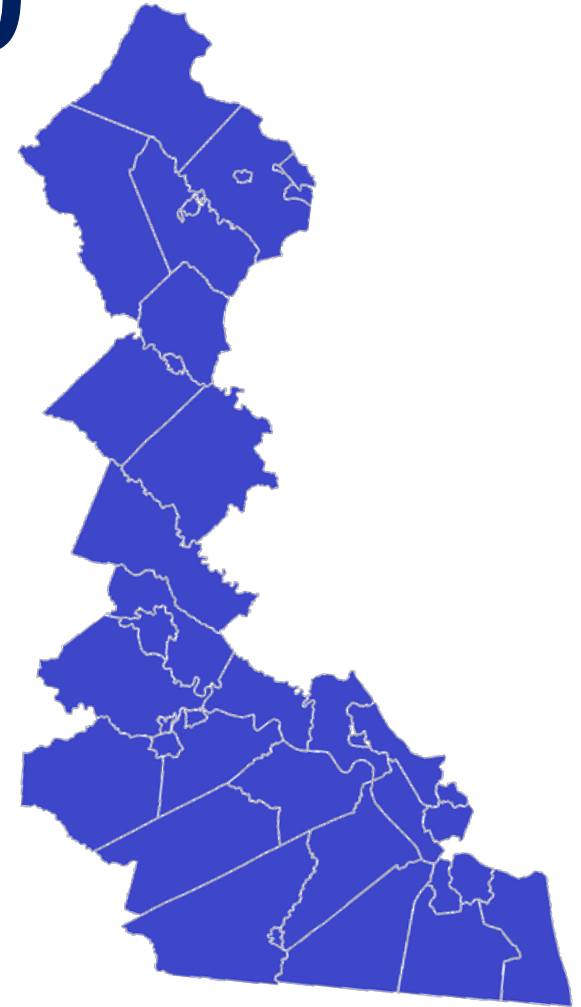
## DRIVERS LICENSES IN VA | 2019

ACCORDING TO US CENSUS & FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION DATA



# Virginia 2040

- **1.3 million** more Virginians;
- **1.1 million** are projected to move to the Urban Crescent.
- **7 million** Virginians will live on less than **1/3** of our state's landmass.



*"We've got to move more people, not more vehicles."*

Aubrey Layne, VA Secretary of Transportation - 2016

*"The I-95 Study analyzed many potential improvements to this critical corridor. It found that widening I-95 by one lane in each direction for 50 miles would cost \$12.5 billion. While the cost was staggering, the most sobering part of the analysis was that by the time construction was completed in 10 years, the corridor would be just as congested as it is today. That finding is what led Virginia to rail."*

Shannon Valentine, VA Secretary of Transportation - 2021





# Why Trains?

Because we've  
**tried** everything  
else....

And, passenger rail  
is **successful!**



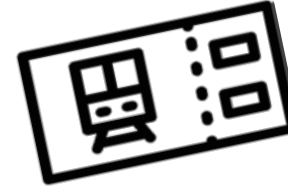


# Passenger Rail in Virginia is a **success!**

Since  
2004:



46 percent  
increase in  
passenger rail  
service



96 percent  
increase in  
ridership



6.8 million  
Virginians with  
new or expanded  
rail service



\$9.6 billion  
in economic  
benefits  
generated



1.47 million  
metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>  
not released



7.8 billion PMTs  
removed from  
our roadways



165 million  
gallons of fuel  
not used



What's Next?



**Virginians For  
High Speed Rail**



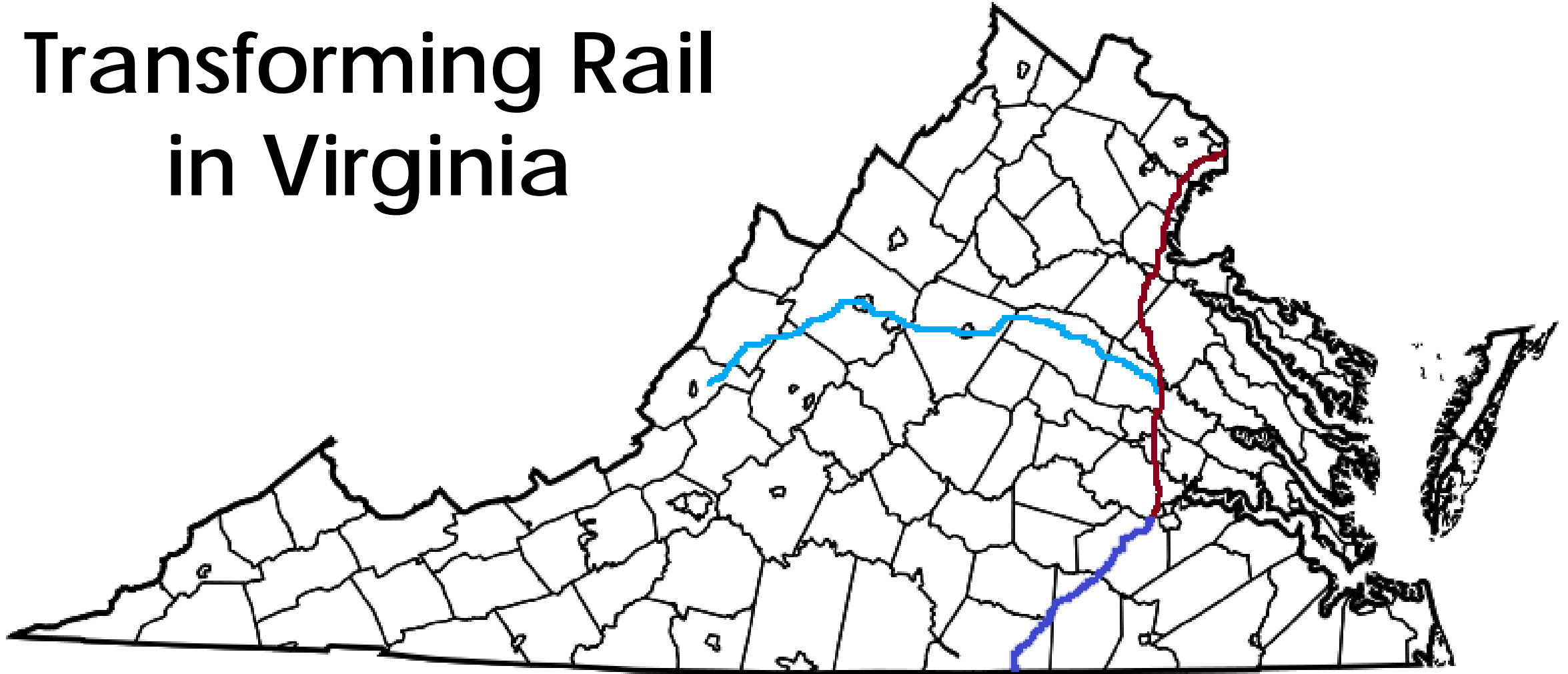
@VHSR



/VAHSR

VHSR.com

# Transforming Rail in Virginia



**Virginians For  
High Speed Rail**



@VHSR

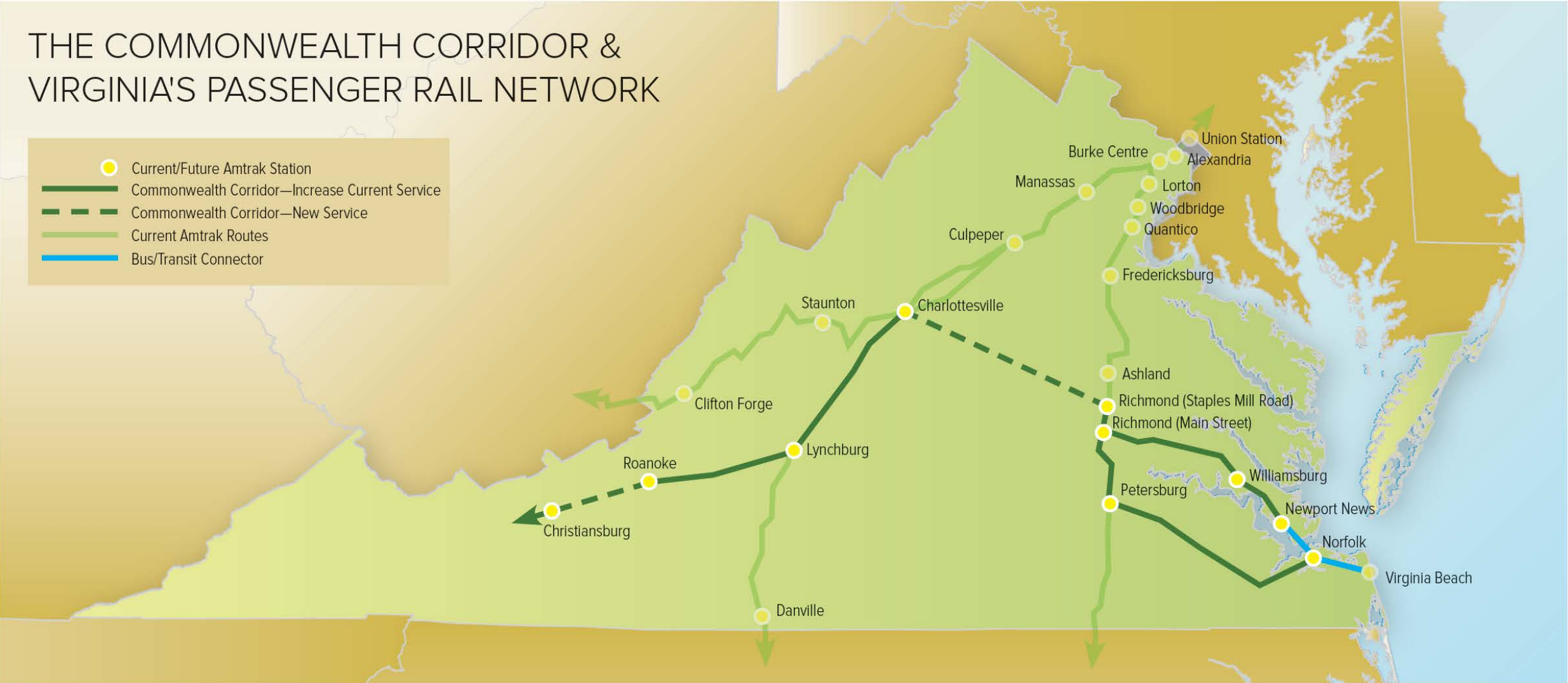


/VAHSR

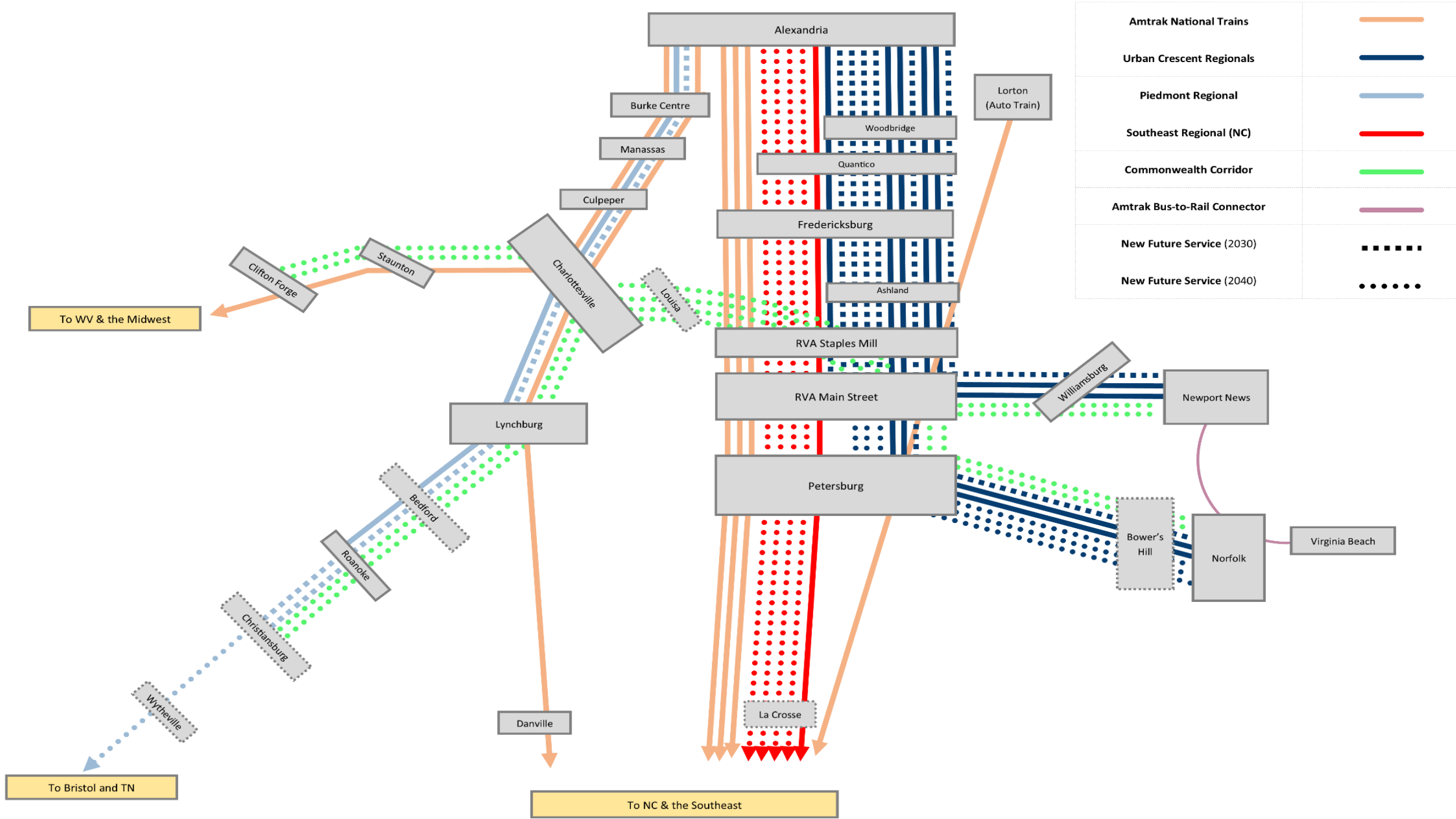
VHSR.com

# THE COMMONWEALTH CORRIDOR & VIRGINIA'S PASSENGER RAIL NETWORK

- Current/Future Amtrak Station
- Commonwealth Corridor—Increase Current Service
- - - Commonwealth Corridor—New Service
- Current Amtrak Routes
- Bus/Transit Connector







So, what does this mean for  
Richmond?



@VHSR



/VAHSR

VHSR.com

# Thank you!

# Questions?

Danny Plaughter  
executive director

[Danny@VHSR.com](mailto:Danny@VHSR.com)

804-461-8165

