

To better connect statewide Amtrak service to southwestern Virginia, the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRRA) began a feasibility study in Fall 2021 to examine station locations in the New River Valley (NRV).

INTRODUCTION

- May 5, 2021 - Governor of Virginia announced an agreement with Norfolk Southern to extend passenger rail service.
 - Located along the former Virginian Line from Roanoke to the NRV for the first time since 1979.
 - Began negotiations with Norfolk Southern Railway (NSR) for Virginia to purchase 28 miles of right-of-way and tracks in the Virginian Line from the Salem Crossovers west of Roanoke to Merrimac (Christiansburg).
 - Includes plans to increase and expand rail service to the NRV through infrastructure improvements, including a new passenger station and platform.

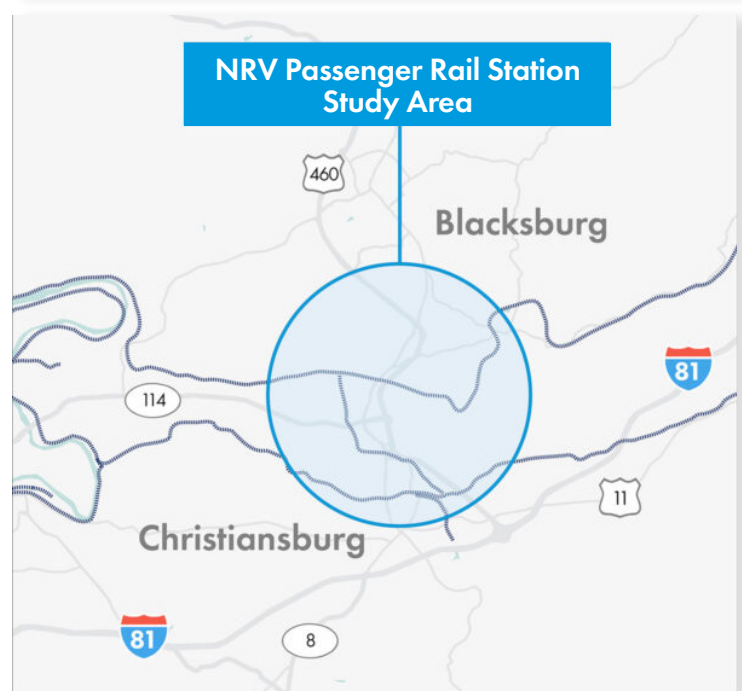
NEW RIVER VALLEY PASSENGER RAIL STATION AUTHORITY

- Established in 2021 by the Virginia General Assembly.
 - Assist the Commonwealth in creating and supporting passenger rail in the region.
 - Being formulated currently with the assistance of the New River Valley Regional Commission.

NRV PASSENGER RAIL STATION FEASIBILITY STUDY ELEMENTS

The NRV Passenger Rail Station Feasibility Study (the "Study") builds on previous work analyzing the development of a passenger rail station for the NRV region, and assesses station location opportunities that are now possible because of the Governor's May 2021 announcement. The Study process will include the following elements:

- Purpose and Need Statement
- Station Location Screening
- Station Concept Designs with Cost Estimation & Schedules
- Public Outreach
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Class of Action Determination
- Next Steps for the NRV Passenger Rail Station



NRV Passenger Rail Station Study Area

New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Fact Sheet

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- VPRA began a Feasibility Study in Fall 2021 to examine five potential station locations in and around the NRV. The Study included:
 - Potential passenger rail station locations are based on the previous studies in the region.
 - Reviewed the three existing NSR corridors in the Study Area.
 - The existing NSR lines currently operate freight trains only; the May 5, 2021 announcement permits Virginia to own and operate passenger rail service on the Virginian line.
 - After an initial screening, the four station locations shown on the Virginian line were considered feasible by the Study.
 - Due to its location on the N&W rail line, the fifth location (North Franklin East) was eliminated from consideration.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

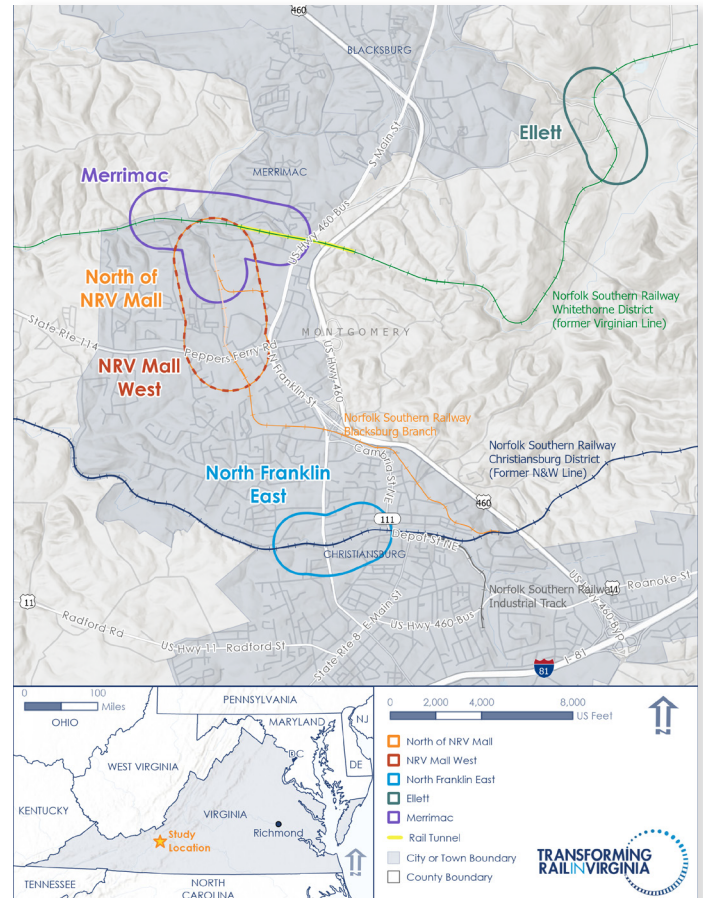
- Virtual Public Meetings on February 28, 2022 and March 1, 2022.
- Two online public surveys before and after the virtual meeting.

SCHEDULE

- Development 2016–2022
- NEPA Environmental 2022–2024
- Construction 2024–2026



Scan the QR code with your phone's camera app to be directed to the project website.



NRV Passenger Rail Station Study Area Locations

WHAT IS THE VPRA?

VPRA is a new, independent authority created by the Virginia General Assembly in 2020 that is responsible for delivering Transforming Rail in Virginia. The authority is dedicated to managing, funding, and growing passenger rail services and is partnering with intercity passenger rail operator Amtrak, commuter rail operator Virginia Railway Express (VRE), freight rail operator CSXT, and NSR to improve and expand operations. VPRA has the authority to own and acquire rail infrastructure. The authority is governed by a statewide, geographically diverse board. VPRA will not operate passenger trains and will work with Amtrak and VRE, which are represented on the VPRA Board of Directors.

PROJECT CONTACT

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VPRA and DRPT are committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. VPRA and DRPT will also provide reasonable accommodations and interpretive services for persons who require special assistance to participate in this public involvement opportunity as required by the ADA. For accommodations, additional information or to file a complaint, please contact Mike Mucha, our Title VI Compliance Officer, at 804.786.4440, 600 E. Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219 or visit our website at www.drpt.virginia.gov