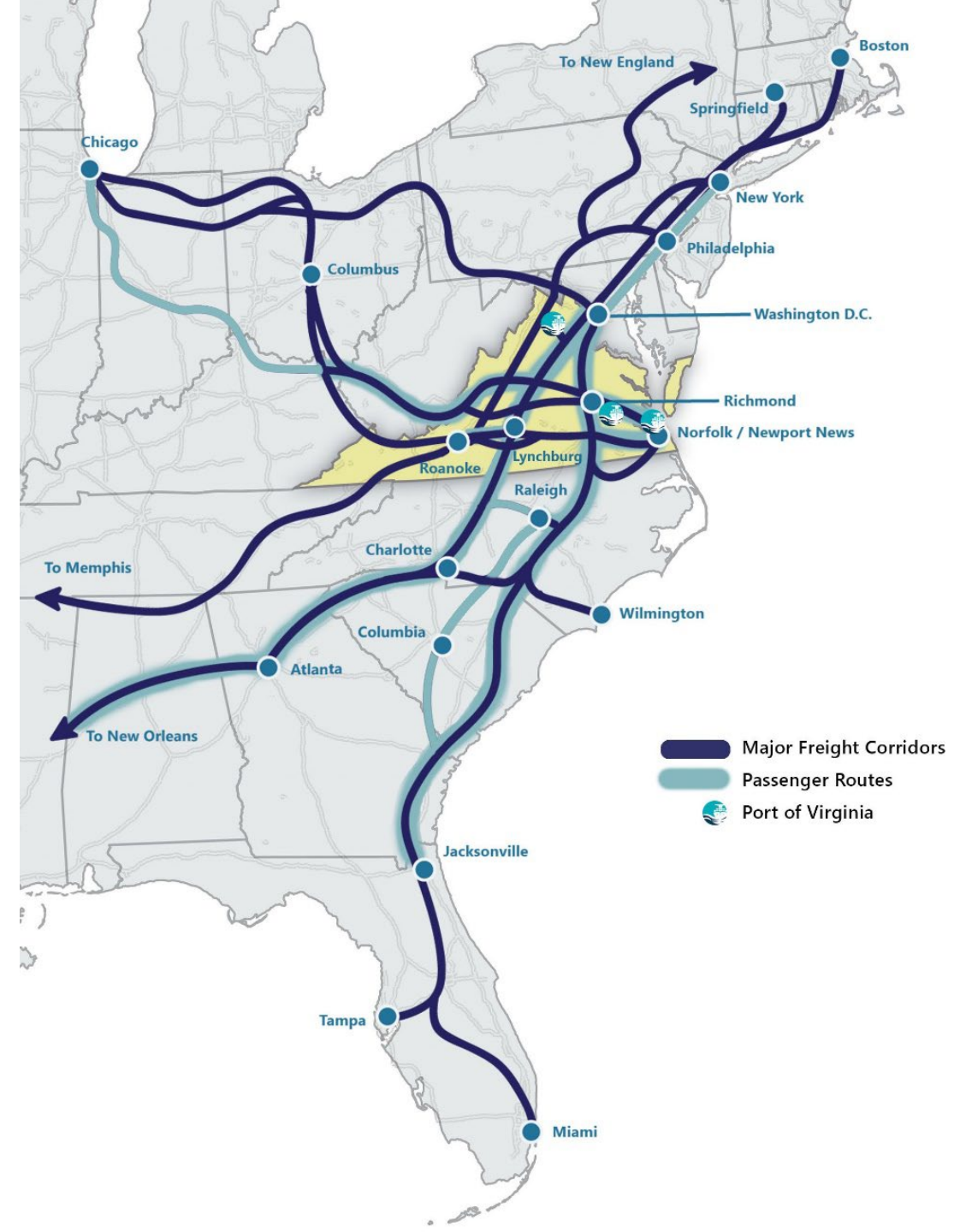


February 1, 2022

Railroad Safety: Agency Roles & Responsibilities



Agencies with Safety Roles & Responsibilities

- Federal Railroad Administration
 - State Corporation Commission
- National Transportation Safety Board
- Federal Highway Administration
 - VDOT – FHWA Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety (130 Program)
- Host Railroads and Virginia owned ROW
 - CSX
 - NS
 - Shortlines (BBRR)
 - Virginia Passenger Rail Authority
- Operators
 - Virginia Railway Express
 - Amtrak
- Virginia Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation
- Virginia Passenger Rail Authority



Federal Railroad Administration

- **Promulgate and enforce rail safety regulations**, administer financial assistance programs, conduct research to improve safety/policy, rehab NEC passenger service, consolidate government support of rail transportation
- Office of Railroad Safety
 - Approx. 400 safety inspectors
 - Compliance and Enforcement of:
 - Grade Crossings
 - Hazardous Materials
 - Motive Power and Equipment
 - Operating Practices
 - Signal and Train Control
 - Track



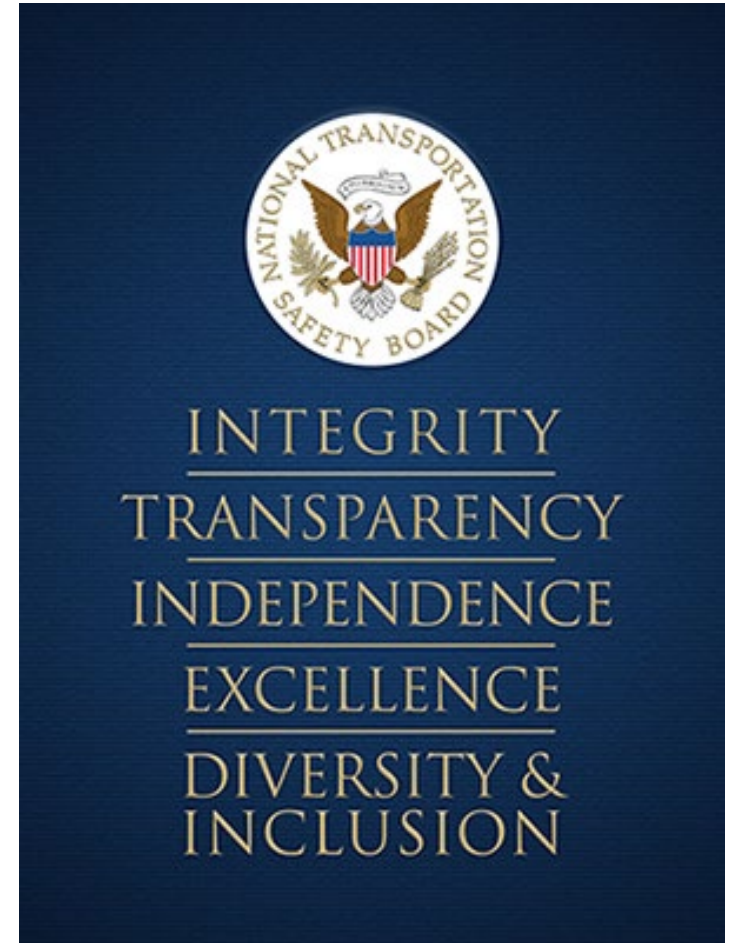
Virginia State Corporation Commission

- Railroad Regulation section works in concert with FRA to ensure safe operations of railroads.
 - Title 56, Chapter 13, of the Code of Virginia outlines SCC statutory authority
 - SCC is delegated responsibility from FRA
 - SCC does not have responsibilities beyond FRA authority
- SCC has 11 employees certified by the FRA under a state participation agreement.
 - 49 CFR Part 212
 - Delegates investigative and surveillance activities
- Railroad Regulation Section:
 - Investigates blocked rail crossings incidents
 - Receives constituent complaints
 - Conducts inspections per FRA regulations; FRA has enforcement authority
 - Conducts accident investigations
 - NTSB has the right to investigate - when NTSB shows up, then FRA/SCC will assist as needed.



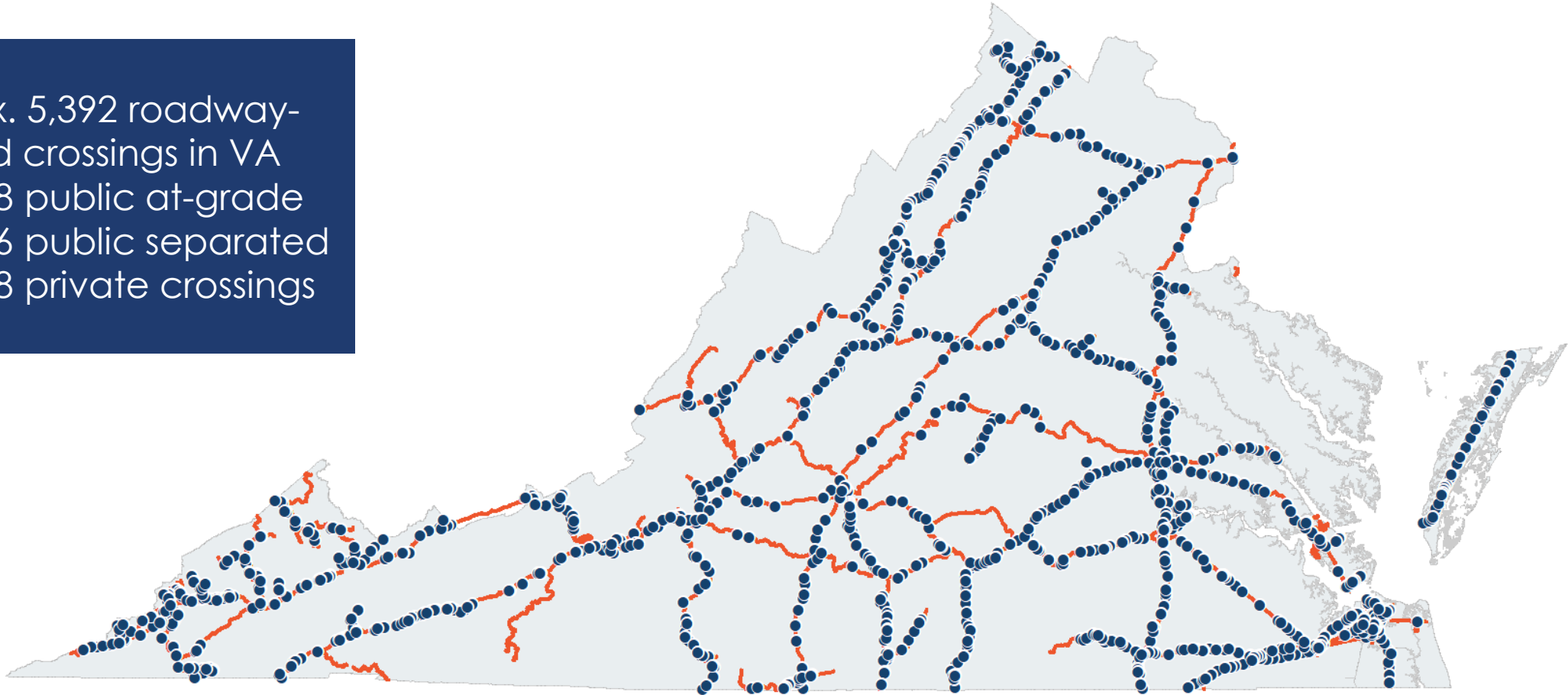
National Transportation Safety Board

- Legislative mandate to conduct independent accident investigations, advocate for safety improvements, and deciding pilots' and mariners' certification appeals
 - Investigate every civil aviation accident in the United States
 - **Investigate significant accidents in other modes of transportation (includes Railroads)**
 - FRA and SCC will assist as needed when NTSB take on an investigation



Highway-Rail Grade Crossings in Virginia

- Approx. 5,392 roadway-railroad crossings in VA
- 1,798 public at-grade
 - 1,176 public separated
 - 2,418 private crossings



Highway-Railroad Grade Crossings in Virginia

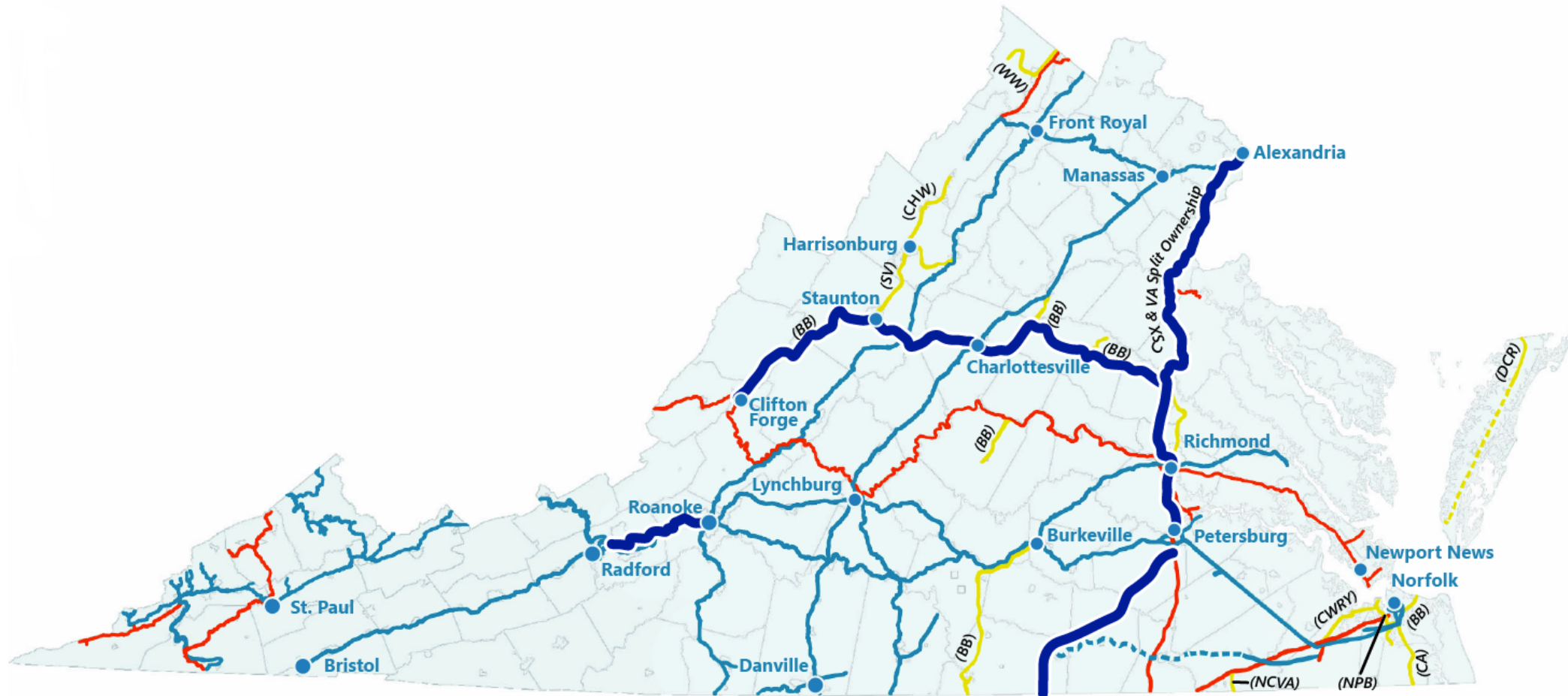
● Highway-Railroad Grade Crossing — Railroad — Highway

FHWA/VDOT: Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Program

- FHWA funding flows through VDOT for elimination of hazards at public railway-highway crossings in Virginia.
 - Installation of protective devices at crossings
 - Hazard elimination projects
 - The program averages \$4.4M annually in the FY22 SYIP
- FHWA has oversight of VDOT's program including:
 - Prioritization of projects
 - Evaluating measures of systemic safety improvements
- State Safety Action Plan – required by FRA, under development
 - VDOT lead agency (Section 130), w/DRPT, SCC, FHWA, FRA
 - Identify high-risk Xings and mitigation efforts



Host Railroads and Virginia ROW



Freight Routes in Virginia

- Norfolk Southern
- CSX Transportation
- Shortline
- Discontinued
- Cities/Towns

- DCR Delmarva Central Railroad
- BB Buckingham Branch Railroad
- CA Chesapeake & Albemarle Railroad
- CHW Chesapeake Western Railway
- Virginia Owned

- CWRV Commonwealth Railway
- NPB Norfolk & Portsmouth Belt Line Railroad
- NCVA North Carolina & Virginia Railroad
- SV Shenandoah Valley Railroad
- WW Winchester & Western Railroad

Host (Freight) Railroads

- Host Railroads must meet FRA guidelines
 - Maintain to a Track Safety Standard – affects speeds
 - Receive inspections and correct deficiencies
 - Respond to incidents
 - Protect workers
 - Safety responsibility and liability for freight operations
- Two Class I freight railroads host Amtrak Service in Virginia
 - CSX
 - Norfolk Southern
- Nine Shortline Railroads operate in Virginia

Class I RR's

- CSX Transportation
- Norfolk Southern

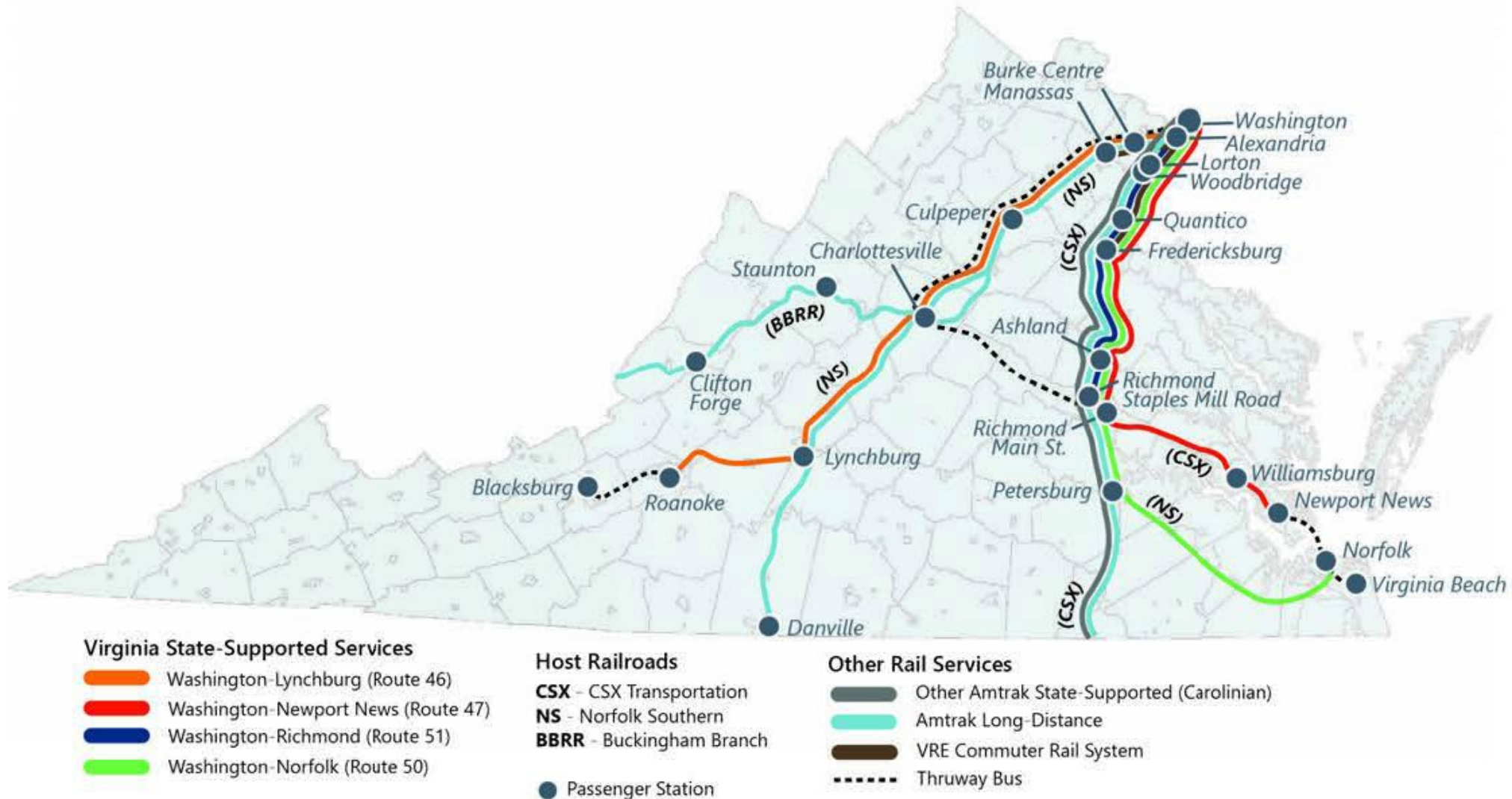
Shortline Railroads

- Buckingham Branch RR
- Chesapeake & Albemarle
- Chesapeake & Western
- Commonwealth Railway
- Delmarva Central RR
- North Carolina & Virginia RR
- Norfolk & Portsmouth Beltline
- Shenandoah Valley RR
- Winchester & Western RR

Virginia Owned ROW

- Virginia Passenger Rail Authority will **not** be a railroad or an operator
- RF&P Corridor (Segment 1)
 - CSX will maintain the railroad (until separation) to FRA safety standards
 - VPRA has right to contract asset maintenance after separation
 - Amtrak has First Right of Refusal for 10 years after separation
- S-line (Segment 2)
 - Currently abandoned ROW
 - VPRA has the right to contract asset maintenance
- Doswell to Clifton Forge (Segment 3)
 - Buckingham Branch will maintain the railroad to FRA safety standards
- Virginia Line (west of Salem, VA to New River Valley)
 - NS will maintain the railroad to FRA safety standards

Virginia Passenger Rail Network



Operators of Passenger Rail Service

- **Amtrak**
 - Must meet FRA safety requirements to provide service
 - Provides a System Safety Plan on behalf of the state sponsors with FRA
 - Virginia delegated responsibility to Amtrak (preferred solution by states, Amtrak, and FRA)
 - Assumes liability for incidents involving equipment, employees, and patrons
- **Virginia Railway Express**
 - Must meet FRA safety requirements to provide service
 - Maintains a System Safety Plan with FRA
 - Assumes responsibility for any losses or claims that arise due to their operations

VPRA & DRPT

- DRPT and VPRA often facilitate coordination between localities and the correct agency
- Funding agreements require that improvements are built to FRA standards
 - Application (grant) evaluation accounts for safety benefits in quantifying public benefits
- VPRA maintenance assignments will be held to FRA standards
 - Affects safety, but also speed and reliability of service
 - State employees trained in Railroad Worker Safety Training for inspections/site visits
- VPRA has responsibility for safety in SOGR and ADA compliance of VPRA owned station facilities/platforms
- Planning for railroads as a multimodal solution
 - Investments in infrastructure: economic development, state of good repair, and capacity
 - Investments in services: multimodal travel options

State Safety Oversight - Transit

- SSO responsibility established by 49 CFR 674
 - Each state with rail fixed guideway systems that are not subject to the regulatory authority of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is responsible for overseeing the safety and security program implementation of these rail fixed guideway systems.
- Hampton Roads Transit: TIDE Light Rail System
 - DRPT is the SSO
- Washington Metrorail Safety Commission: WMATA Metrorail
 - Interstate Compact (MD, DC, VA) is the SSO (§ 33.2-3101) enacted in 2017

Operation Lifesaver Virginia

- Administered by Virginia State Corporation Commission
- Public awareness campaign to reduce fatalities, injuries, and collisions at highway-rail crossings and trespassing on or near railroad tracks.



Railroad Safety

- *Always expect a train.
At any time. On any track.
In any direction.*
- Every *public* crossing has a blue sign with critical contact information to reach the responsible railroad and identify the specific crossing in the event of an emergency.

**REPORT PROBLEM
OR EMERGENCY
1-800-555-5555
X-ING 836 597 H
XYZ RAILROAD**

Thank you

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