VIRGINIA
STATEWIDE RAIL PLAN
2022

VPRA Board
September 28, 2021
Agenda

1  Overview and Development Process
2  Executive Summary
3  Policy Recommendations
4  Initial Freight Findings
Plan Development Process

Initial Scoping/Visioning Meetings: May 2021

Draft Projects List: Fall 2021

Project Refinement and Service Development Plan Completion: Winter 2021

Final Plan Adoption: Spring 2022

Individual stakeholder meetings held as-requested throughout the Plan development.
Plan Overview

- Aligns with goals/objectives of VTrans.
- Virginia’s last SRP was adopted by the CTB in 2018.
- The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) requires each state to update its SRP every four years.
- Necessary to apply and receive federal rail funding for passenger and freight projects.
- Includes 4-year and 20-year horizons.
- Data points/metrics can be compared plan to plan and state to state.
- Requires close coordination with VPRA.
Statewide Rail Plan and VTrans

- **VTrans** is Virginia’s multimodal transportation plan that lays out overarching vision, goals, and needs adopted by the CTB.

- **DRPT’s Statewide Rail Plan** serves as an implementation plan for rail projects that address mid-term and long-term VTrans needs.
Plan Structure

- Rail System Overview
- How Virginia Plans for Rail (VTRANS and DRPT)
- 2018 to 2022: Continuity and Change

Project Benefits
- Vision, Goals, Objectives, Policies
- Service Gap Analysis
- Proposed Passenger/Freight Rail Projects (4- and 20-Year)
Plan Executive Summary

- Vision, Goals, Objectives
- Where is Freight Going?
- Where are People Going?
- How Virginia Plans for Rail
- Virginia Rail System Overview
  - 2018 to 2022 – What’s Changed?
  - Infrastructure Maps
  - Ridership and freight usage and trends
- General Assembly Studies Results
## Policies to Develop/Update

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Recent Changes to Inform Rail Planning Policies
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SUPPORT FUNCTIONS NEW TO VPRA / BORROWED INITIALLY FROM DRPT

- Communications
- Administration
- Legal (AG)
- Finance / Procurement
- Human Resources
Policy Next Steps

• Result will be DRPT Rail Plan policies that can apply statewide for freight, passenger, and multimodal issues.

• VPRA and partner agencies may build upon policies relevant to their activities with more specifics.

➢ VPRA input necessary.

➢ Policies will ultimately be adopted by CTB and many (especially those that are passenger-related) are to be carried out by VPRA.
Businesses are more likely to use freight rail if . . .

• Goods that they produce/use are easily transported by freight rail
• Facilities are close to a rail line
Online Dashboard of Potential Trip Generators

Dashboard: Data Axle Review (0.5 Mile)
Map displaying filtered businesses (Data Axle) within 0.5 mile of rail currently shipping by rail or with rail potential

Number of Businesses within 0.5 Miles of Spurs: 2.5k
Number of Businesses Statewide within 0.5 Miles of Spurs: 2.3k

Total Sales within 0.5 Miles of Spurs: 63.2B
Total Sales Statewide within 0.5 Miles of Spurs: 63.2B

Total Employees within 0.5 Miles of Spur: 128.5k
Total Employees Statewide within 0.5 Miles of Spur: 128.5k
Freight Rail
Trends and Forecasts by Commodity Type

GOAL
Identify drivers of growth for freight rail services at the commodity level

STRATEGY
Analyze recent trends in commodity movements by rail and commodity-level forecasts for the movement of goods by rail

Compare commodity-type movement patterns with previous SRPs
  • Explain growth / decline at the commodity level and/or at the origin-destination level
  • Identify which goods are most likely to be moved by rail
  • Tonnage down/carloads up trend continues
Comparing Tonnage to Carloads

Total tonnage moved by rail in Virginia has decreased by 13% between 2012 and 2017 (19.6 million tons).

Sources: 2012 and 2017 Transearch Data
Note: CAGR = Compound Annual Growth Rate
Next Steps

- Project identification, additional outreach to railroads/localities for rail projects.

- Service Development Plan Draft/ Service Gap Analysis. Vetting project list.

- Please visit the Virginia Statewide Rail Plan hub site, accessible through DRPT’s main page.

drpt.virginia.gov/rail/planning/