



VIRGINIA

STATEWIDE RAIL PLAN

2022

VPRA BOARD MEETING

July 21, 2022

Presentation Purpose

Overview/Update on Process

Roles and Responsibilities Focus

Passenger and Freight Policy Framework

Upcoming Outreach

Plan Overview

- Aligns with goals/objectives of VTrans.
- Virginia's last Rail Plan was adopted by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (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.



Virginia Statewide Rail Plan

Chapter Format Follows FRA Guidelines

Chapter 1: Role of Rail in Statewide Transportation

- 1.1**
Multimodal Transport Goals
- 1.2**
Analysis of Rail's Role in State Transportation System
- 1.3**
Intermodal Connections
- 1.4**
Description of State's Authority for Funding Sources and Allocation
- 1.5**
Summary of Freight and Passenger Rail Services

Chapter 1: Role of Rail

Chapter 2: Virginia's Existing Rail System

- | CHAPTER 2.1 | CHAPTER 2.2 | CHAPTER 2.3 |
|---|--|--|
| 2.1.1
Existing Systems, Operations, and Performance | 2.2.1
Demographic and Economic Growth Factors | 2.3.1
Rail Service Needs and Opportunities |
| 2.1.2
Major Freight and Passenger Terminals and Intermodal Stations | 2.2.2
Freight Demand and Growth by Type of Service | |
| 2.1.5
Statement on Public Rail Financing in State | 2.2.5
Rail Congestion Trends | |
| 2.1.6
Programs and Projects to Improve Safety of Rail | 2.2.6
Highway and Airport Congestion Trends | |
| 2.1.7
Analysis of Rail's Economic and Environmental Impacts | 2.2.7
Land Use Trends | |

Chapter 2: Existing Rail System

Chapter 3: Passenger Rail Improvements and Investments

- 3.1**
Introduction
- 3.2**
Virginia Region
- 3.3**
Southeast Corridor
- 3.4**
Passenger Rail
- 3.5**
Virginia Railway Express
- 3.6**
Concepts from Stakeholder Outreach

Chapter 3: Passenger Rail Improvements and Investments

Chapter 4: Freight Rail Improvements and Investments

- 4.1**
Introduction
- 4.2**
Class 1 Railroad Improvements
- 4.3**
Shortline Railroads Past and Future
- 4.4**
Port-Rail Improvements
- 4.5**
Highway-Rail Crossing and
- 4.6**
State-Sponsored Rail Investments
- 4.7**
Concepts from Stakeholder Outreach

Chapter 4: Freight Rail Improvements and Investments

Chapter 5: Virginia's Rail Service and Investment Plan

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 5.1
Virginia DRPT Rail Vision | 5.5
Passenger Elements |
| 5.2
Program Coordination | 5.6
Freight Elements |
| 5.3
Rail Agency | |
| 5.4
Program Elements | |

Chapter 5: Rail Service and Investment Plan

Chapter 6: Public Involvement and Coordination

- 6.1**
Stakeholder Engagement
- 6.2**
Input and Feedback
- 6.3**
Consensus Building
- 6.4**
State Rail Planning Coordination

Chapter 6: Public Involvement and Coordination

Plan Development Process

Initial Scoping/Visioning Meetings: May 2021

Draft Projects List: Fall-Winter 2021-Spring 2022

Refine Policy Framework, 2nd Round Meetings: Summer-Fall 2022 ← WE ARE HERE

Final Plan Adoption: Winter 2022

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

Complementary Missions

Mission: Facilitate and improve the mobility of the citizens of Virginia and to promote the efficient transport of goods and people in a safe, reliable, and cost-effective manner.



Mission: Sustain, improve, identify, encourage, and promote an increase in passenger rail capacity, services and ridership to ameliorate traffic congestion and promote economic development.

Rail Transportation in Virginia

The **Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)** and the **Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA)** are the two agencies charged with managing rail planning and investment of public funds in rail transportation in the Commonwealth.

DRPT

- Statewide, corridor, and long range planning efforts, which help direct the VPRA in its investment and implementation of service and infrastructure
- Freight Programs

VPRA

- Owns Virginia rail assets
- Oversees passenger rail project planning, rail right of way acquisitions, environmental work, engineering design, construction, and service operations in partnership with stakeholders

Roles and Responsibilities

Activity	Rail	
	Freight	Passenger
Funding Administration	DRPT	TO VPRA
Corridor/Station Planning	DRPT	TO VPRA
Statewide Planning	DRPT	
Programming/SYIP	DRPT	TO VPRA
Policy Setting	DRPT	TO VPRA
Design/Construction	FREIGHT RAILROADS	NEW VPRA
ROW Ownership/Asset Management	FREIGHT RAILROADS	NEW VPRA
Operations Oversight/Service	FREIGHT RAILROADS	NEW VPRA

Passenger Rail Planning: Which Agency?

	Answer	
	Yes	No
Question 1 Does it involve an existing passenger train route or station?	VPRA	Go to Question 2
Question 2 Does it involve a future passenger train route or station project with <u>signed agreements</u> governing implementation (e.g., Transforming Rail in VA)?	VPRA	Go to Question 3
Question 3 Does it involve a future passenger train route or station project with a Federal NEPA Record of Decision or other <u>Federal action</u> governing implementation?	VPRA	DRPT

Rail Plan Policy Framework Guided By



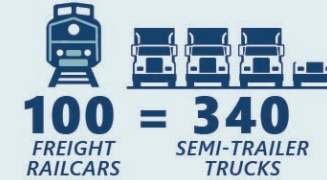
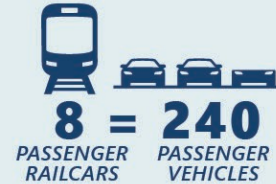
VTrans Goals, 2022

Investments in Virginia's Rail Network

Benefits of Investments in Virginia's Rail Network

RELIEVE CONGESTION

\$296M ANNUAL IN CONGESTION SAVINGS
\$85M ANNUAL PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE SAVINGS



TRAVEL SAFE

\$84M SAVED FROM REDUCING CRASH-RELATED ACCIDENTS, INJURIES, AND DEATHS



Shipping by rail avoids about **1.5 billion miles** of truck travel in Virginia



Passenger travel by rail avoids about **266 million miles** of personal driving in Virginia

BREATHE EASIER

2.4M TONS OF CO₂ EMISSIONS AVOIDED
(6% OF TOTAL IN VIRGINIA PER YEAR)



On average, railroads are **four times** more fuel efficient than trucks



Moving freight by rail instead of truck generates **75% less** greenhouse gas emissions



The total estimated level of rail service in Virginia in 2019 was about **21 billion ton-miles**

SAVE MONEY



\$2.1 BILLION
in annual benefits

\$ about 10 cents per ton-mile of rail use



\$171 MILLION
in annual benefits

\$ about 42 cents per passenger-mile of rail use

Benefits are largely derived from savings from diverting freight and passengers from highways to rail and includes congestion savings and crash reduction benefits and do not account for total economic benefit associated with job creation, tourism, tax generation, etc.

Policy Framework: Investments in Virginia's Rail Network

Freight and passenger rail transportation is a safe and efficient mode of transportation, which compliments Virginia's multimodal network and a generator of economic growth opportunities. Investments in rail infrastructure and equipment with public funds will:

- Promote Safety
- Improve network reliability, resiliency, and multimodal connections
- Save tax payer time and money through congestion mitigation
- Reduce GHG emissions

The Commonwealth will prioritize the preservation of rail right-of-way for rail and transportation use while facilitating proposals for co-located recreational uses as appropriate

Policy Framework: Stations

Multimodal Connections

Stations are a gateway to communities and create opportunities for **multimodal connections**, including passenger rail, intercity bus, transit, rider-share, bike, and pedestrian access.

Improvement Priorities

Virginia investments in passenger rail stations will support achieving compliance with the **Americans with Disability Act** design standards, maintaining a **state of good repair**, and partnering with stakeholders to fund **capacity** improvements, **new stations**, and other improvements which support multimodal access, equity, and a positive **customer experience**.

Serves Unique Community Needs

Planning for passenger rail stations should recognize stations are a **regional transportation asset** to serve **unique community needs through community consensus** within a multimodal transportation network.

Location Decisions

Station location decisions should consider service levels appropriate to population of the region, existing stations within the region, multimodal connectivity, and statewide service planning goals.

Funding Partnerships

The Commonwealth will **partner with regions to support a funding strategy for station needs** that considers potential local, state, and federal funding, plus appropriate match. Support could be in the form of technical assistance to pursue a federal grant, or incremental funding (subject to availability) to close a project funding gap. The strategy will help to guide decisions by the Commonwealth for state funding.

Policy Framework: Freight

The Commonwealth will invest in improved freight rail operations and infrastructure, acknowledging the many benefits, such as efficient and expedient movement of goods, congestion reduction, road maintenance reductions, job growth, new business development, and pollution reduction that freight rail provides to Virginia's citizens

The Commonwealth will invest in the rail freight network to support rail transportation alternatives that complement the Virginia highway system and create economic opportunities for the Port of Virginia and the localities served by freight railroads.

The Commonwealth, through the Statewide Rail Plan, will work with freight railroads and other stakeholders to carry out a three-pronged approach for optimizing freight rail in the state:

- Reach out to existing industries poised for mode shift to rail
- Encourage economic development efforts toward industries that can make use of freight rail and locations at rail-served sites
- Coordinate with partner agencies to preserve and develop strategically located intermodal facilities with the goal of increasing rail mode share to the Port of Virginia to alleviate roadway congestion

Interactive Story Map

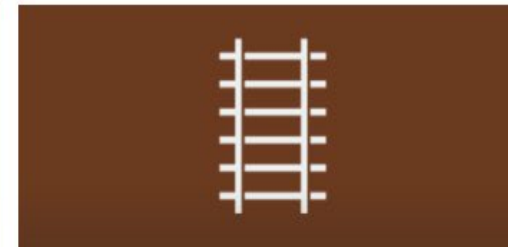
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Collection

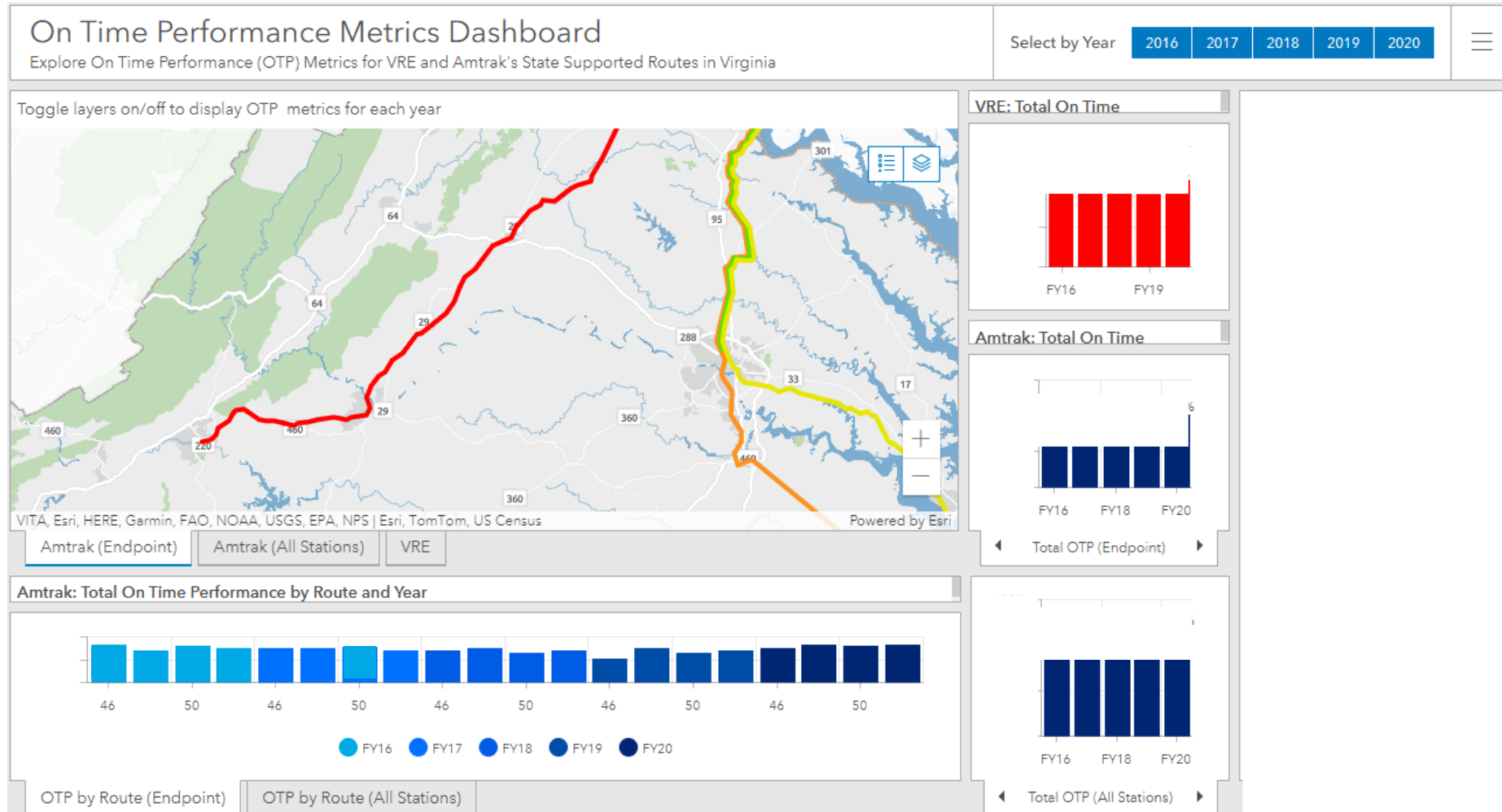
2022 Virginia Statewide Rail Plan

Virginia's rail network is a valuable asset that grows the economy, relieves congestion and saves taxpayer money. Continued investment in rail infrastructure will ensure the mission and vision of the Commonwealth's transportation network is achieved.

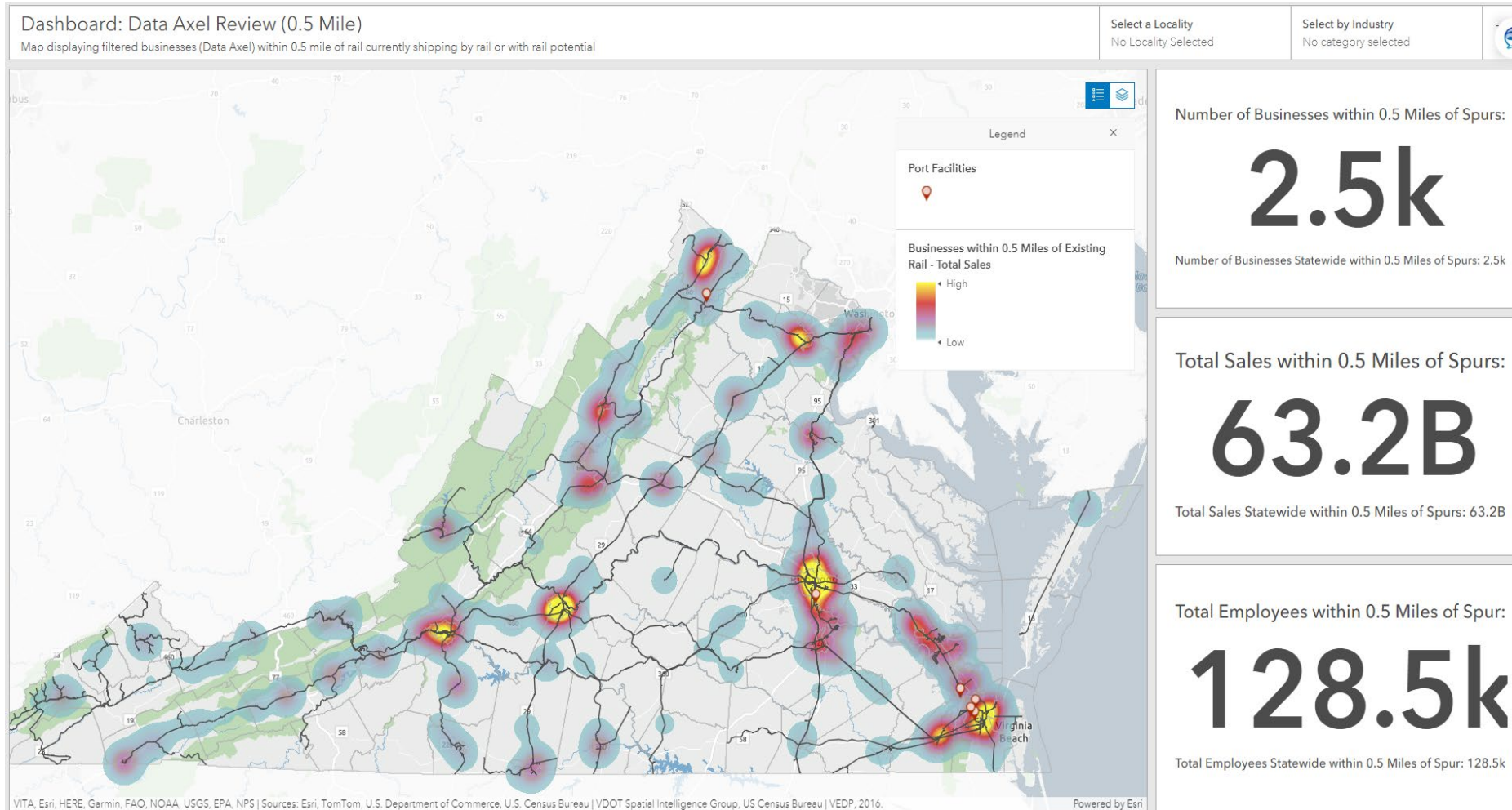
Get started



Passenger Rail Dashboards



Freight Rail Dashboards



Rail Plan Next Steps

Summer: Refine Rail Plan Policy Framework and Freight Plan

September: Virtual Public/Stakeholder Meetings

December: CTB to Adopt Plan

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