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.
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
- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Rail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Freight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Administration</td>
<td>DRPT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corridor/Station Planning</td>
<td>DRPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statewide Planning</td>
<td>DRPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programming/SYIP</td>
<td>DRPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy Setting</td>
<td>DRPT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design/Construction</td>
<td>FREIGHT RAILROADS</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROW Ownership/Asset Management</td>
<td>FREIGHT RAILROADS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations Oversight/Service</td>
<td>FREIGHT RAILROADS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Passenger Rail Planning: Which Agency?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does it involve an existing passenger train route or station?</td>
<td>VPRA</td>
<td>Go to Question 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does it involve a future passenger train route or station project with signed agreements governing implementation (e.g., Transforming Rail in VA)?</td>
<td>VPRA</td>
<td>Go to Question 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does it involve a future passenger train route or station project with a Federal NEPA Record of Decision or other Federal action governing implementation?</td>
<td>VPRA</td>
<td>DRPT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rail Plan Policy Framework Guided By

VTrans Goals

GOAL: Economic Competitiveness and Prosperity

GOAL: Accessible and Connected Places

GOAL: Safety for All Users

GOAL: Proactive System Management

GOAL: Healthy Communities and Sustainable Transportation Communities

VTrans Goals, 2022
### Benefits of Investments in Virginia’s Rail Network

**Relieve Congestion**
- $296M Annual in Congestion Savings
- $85M Annual Pavement Maintenance Savings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8 = 240</th>
<th>100 = 340</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passenger Railcars</td>
<td>Passenger Vehicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freight Railcars</td>
<td>Semi-Trailer Trucks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Freight Rail</th>
<th>Passenger Rail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$2.1 Billion</strong> in annual benefits</td>
<td><strong>$171 Million</strong> in annual benefits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

**VSRP22**
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multimodal Connections</th>
<th>Stations are a gateway to communities and create opportunities for <strong>multimodal connections</strong>, including passenger rail, intercity bus, transit, rider-share, bike, and pedestrian access.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improvement Priorities</td>
<td>Virginia investments in passenger rail stations will support achieving compliance with the <strong>Americans with Disability Act</strong> design standards, maintaining a <strong>state of good repair</strong>, and partnering with stakeholders to fund <strong>capacity</strong> improvements, <strong>new stations</strong>, and other improvements which support multimodal access, equity, and a positive <strong>customer experience</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serves Unique Community Needs</td>
<td>Planning for passenger rail stations should recognize stations are a <strong>regional transportation asset</strong> to serve <strong>unique community needs through community consensus</strong> within a multimodal transportation network.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location Decisions</td>
<td><strong>Station location decisions</strong> should consider service levels appropriate to population of the region, existing stations within the region, multimodal connectivity, and statewide service planning goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Partnerships</td>
<td>The Commonwealth will <strong>partner with regions to support a funding strategy for station needs</strong> 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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

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.
Passenger Rail Dashboards

On Time Performance Metrics Dashboard
Explore On Time Performance (OTP) Metrics for VRE and Amtrak’s State Supported Routes in Virginia

Select by Year: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

VRE: Total On Time

Amtrak: Total On Time

Amtrak: Total On Time Performance by Route and Year

OTP by Route (Endpoint) OTP by Route (All Stations)

Powered by Esri
Freight Rail Dashboards

Dashboard: Data Axel Review (0.5 Mile)
Map displaying filtered businesses (Data Axel) 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
- Total Sales within 0.5 Miles of Spurs: 63.2B
- Total Employees within 0.5 Miles of Spur: 128.5k

Legend:
- Port Facilities
- Businesses within 0.5 Miles of Existing Rail - Total Sales:
  - High
  - Low

Source:
- U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau;
- U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration.

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Rail Plan Next Steps

- Summer: Refine Rail Plan Policy Framework and Freight Plan
- September: Virtual Public/Stakeholder Meetings
- December: CTB to Adopt Plan
VIRGINIA
STATEWIDE RAIL PLAN
2022

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