

VIRGINIA

STATEWIDE RAIL PLAN

2022



VPRA Board

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FRA Requirements



- Statewide Rail Plan every four years (last SRP adopted by CTB 2018)
- FRA-approved plan makes states eligible for Federal rail funding
- To contain data points/metrics that can be replicated and compared plan to plan and state to state
- To show a four year and a twenty year planning horizon

DRPT is the FRA-recognized State Rail Transportation Authority/Rail Plan Approval Authority. FRA allows states to create a Plan that works for the individual state and coordinates with existing statewide transportation plans.

2018 Plan

- Followed FRA document format
- Contains all FRA-required metrics for freight and passenger rail
- Expanded Economic Impact of Rail section with freight shipper flow data
- Station Stop Policy created
- Adopted by CTB, aligns with VTRANS
- Pre-VPRA, TRV, and COVID-19

2022 Plan

- Will use a new easy-to-follow format that tells the story of rail transportation in Virginia
- To develop specific freight and passenger rail policies to guide DRPT and VPRA decisions
- In conjunction with statewide transportation plans, will show how future rail projects can move through the implementation pipeline
- Ability to include TRV and post-COVID effects in 4- and 20-year assumptions
- Will still contain all FRA-required metrics for freight and passenger rail, and will be presented to CTB for adoption

Aligns with

DRPT's Mission To 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

VTRANS Vision/Goals



Goals

VTrans Vision
Good for business, good for communities, and good to go.



Objectives

State Rail Plan Vision
Virginia's rail network is a valuable asset that grows the economy, relieves congestion, saves lives, improves air quality, and saves money. Continued investment in rail infrastructure will ensure the mission and vision of the Commonwealth's transportation network is achieved.



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.



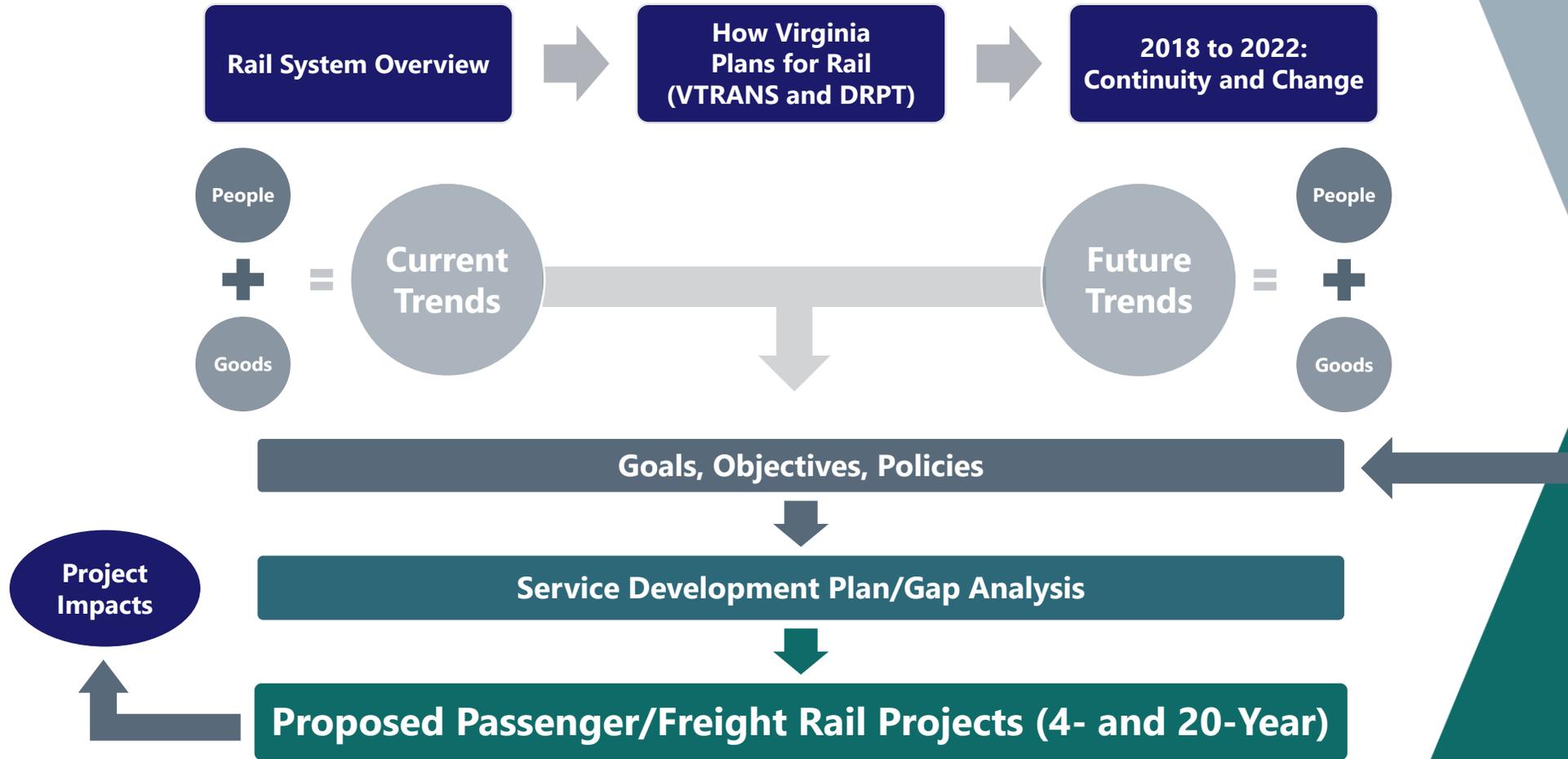
Rail Planning Policy Topics

- Planning in partnership with VPRA
- Freight rail preservation and access
- Amtrak and VRE fare pricing policy
- Service expansion/development
- Station development and station-area development
- Rail-banking, abandonment, discontinuances for trails and other adjacent uses

DRPT expects these will be the major topics of discussion throughout Plan preparation process, and that feedback through the Plan's public and stakeholder involvement process will help to inform the policies.



Plan Structure



Vision Statement:
The Statewide Rail Plan will provide long-term guidance for Virginia's transportation secretariat to ensure that the Commonwealth's rail needs for both people and goods are addressed, funding and policies for future rail investments are consistent across administrations, and that rail transportation continues to be a safe and economical mode choice.

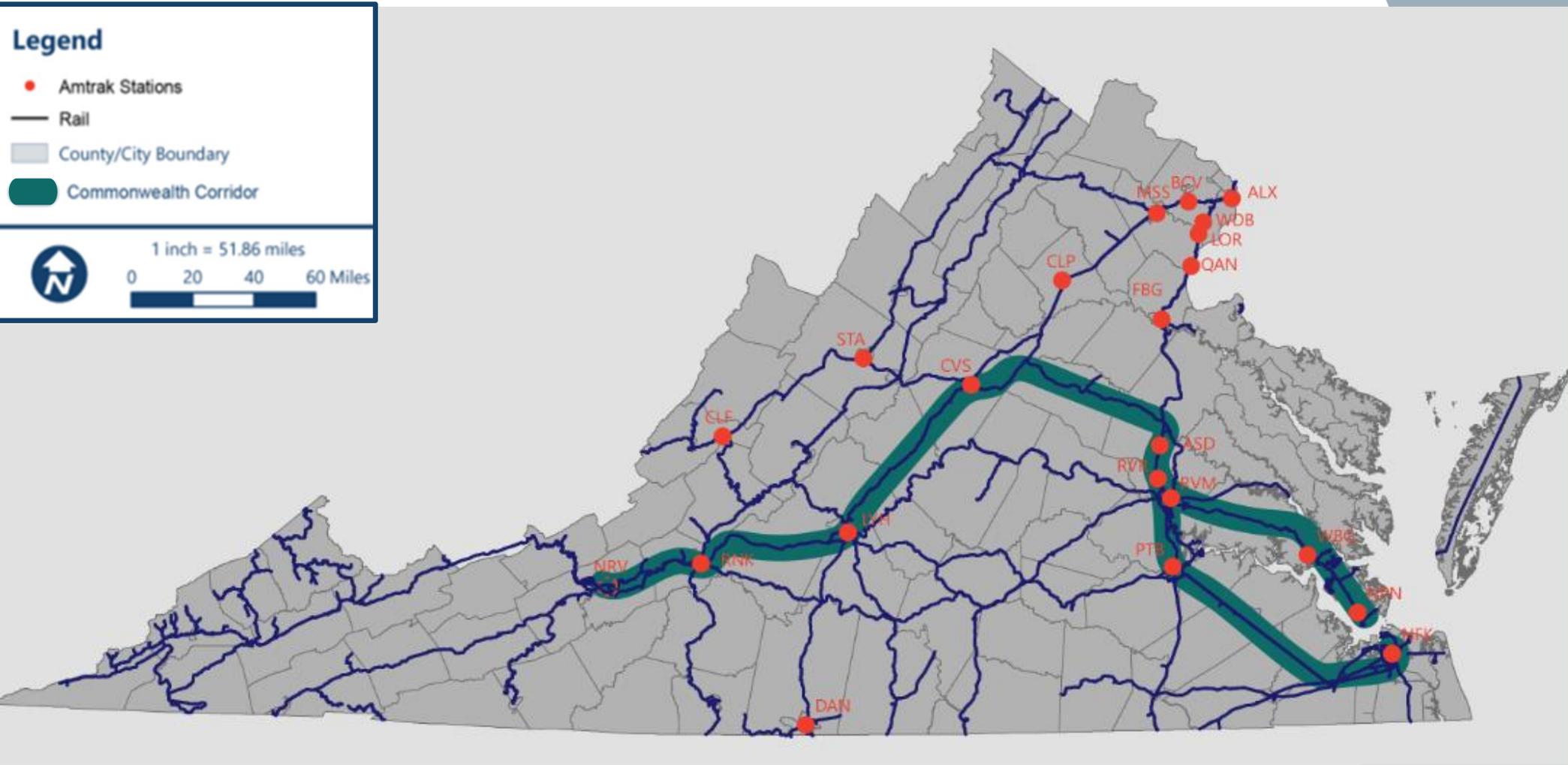
HJ 55 Commonwealth Corridor

- Required study of the feasibility of cross-state passenger rail service from Hampton Roads, through Richmond and Charlottesville, west to the New River Valley using part of the Buckingham Branch Railroad
- Will examine how service could integrate with service on the I-81/US-29 and I-95 corridors
- Opportunity to develop the Commonwealth's passenger rail corridor expansion policies
- Public outreach to be integrated with overall SRP outreach

Deadline for delivery to General Assembly: Beginning of 2022 GA session

DRPT will also conduct a **Bristol rail extension study** as a result of the budget amendment for Roanoke / NRV extension.

The Commonwealth Corridor



Statewide Service Plan

- A component of this Rail Plan
- Synthesizes existing service plans:
 - TRV Phase I and II service on the RF&P Corridor
 - I-81/U.S. Route 29 Corridor service proposals
 - VRE/MARC Run-through service plan proposal
 - Other intercity service, like the Virginia Breeze bus
- To incorporate passenger rail policies developed through the SRP process
- Incorporates demand/demographic data
- Delivers a statewide service concept for medium-term and long-term horizons



Plan Outreach Timeline

- Initial Scoping Meetings May 2021
- Draft Projects Outreach: Fall 2021
- Commonwealth Corridor Outreach: Summer and Fall 2021
- Final Projects Outreach: Spring 2022





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