



# Fairfax Rail Improvement Projects

Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting #2  
November 20, 2025



# Presenters



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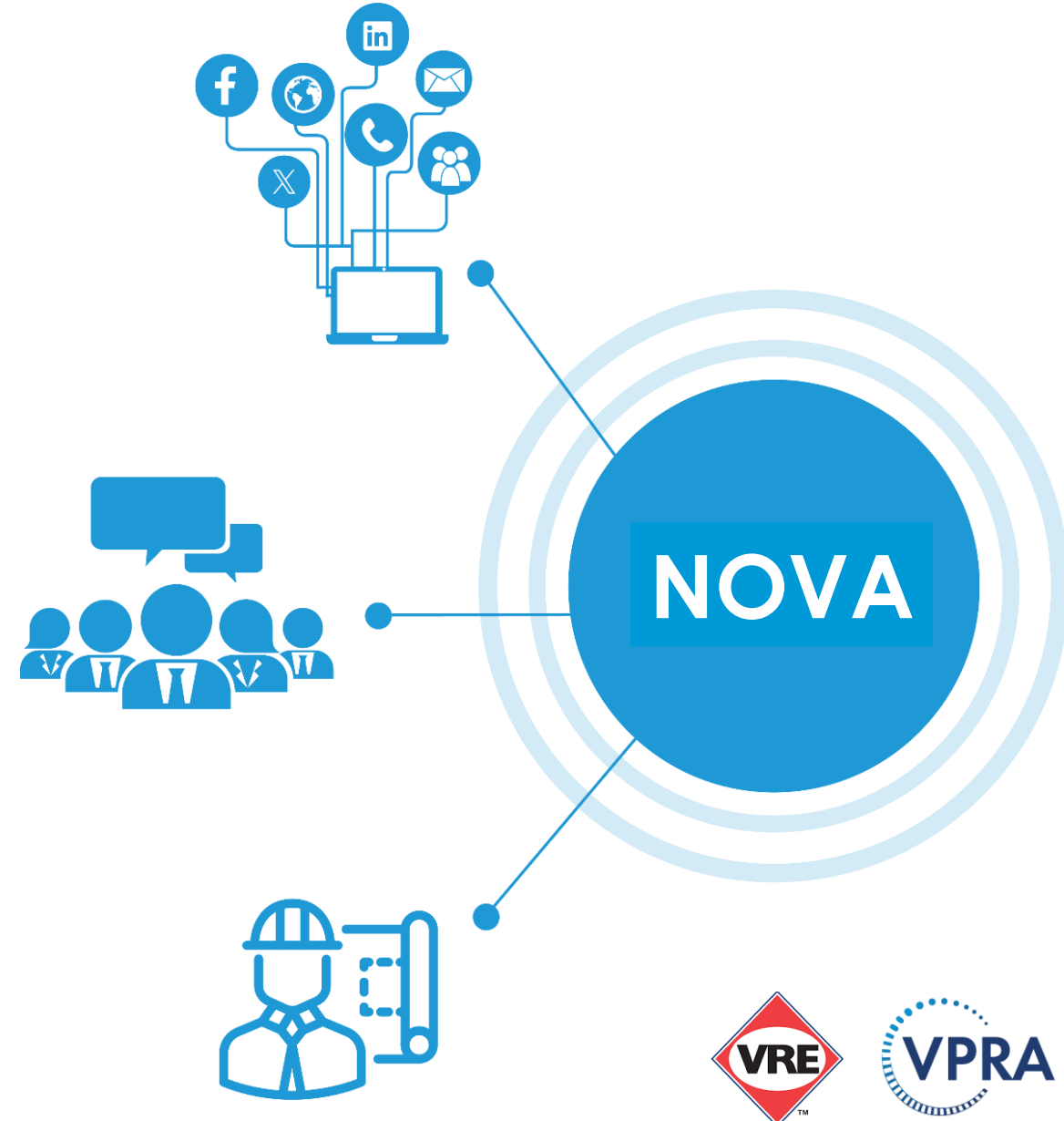
# Today's Agenda

1. Welcome
2. VPRA and VRE Overview
3. Fairfax County Projects Updates
4. What to Expect During Construction
5. Franconia to Lorton Third Track
6. Franconia-Springfield Bypass
7. Franconia-Springfield VRE Station Improvements
8. Service Impacts
9. Q&A



# Community Advisory Group (CAG)

- Sounding board for community questions, concerns, and impacts.
- Represent the diverse interests in Northern VA
  - Residents
  - Business owners
  - Property manager
  - Special interest groups
  - NoVA agencies
  - Elected officials
  - Other key stakeholders
- Quarterly meetings (more often, as needed)
- Virtual Meetings
- Site walks/tours





# Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) Overview

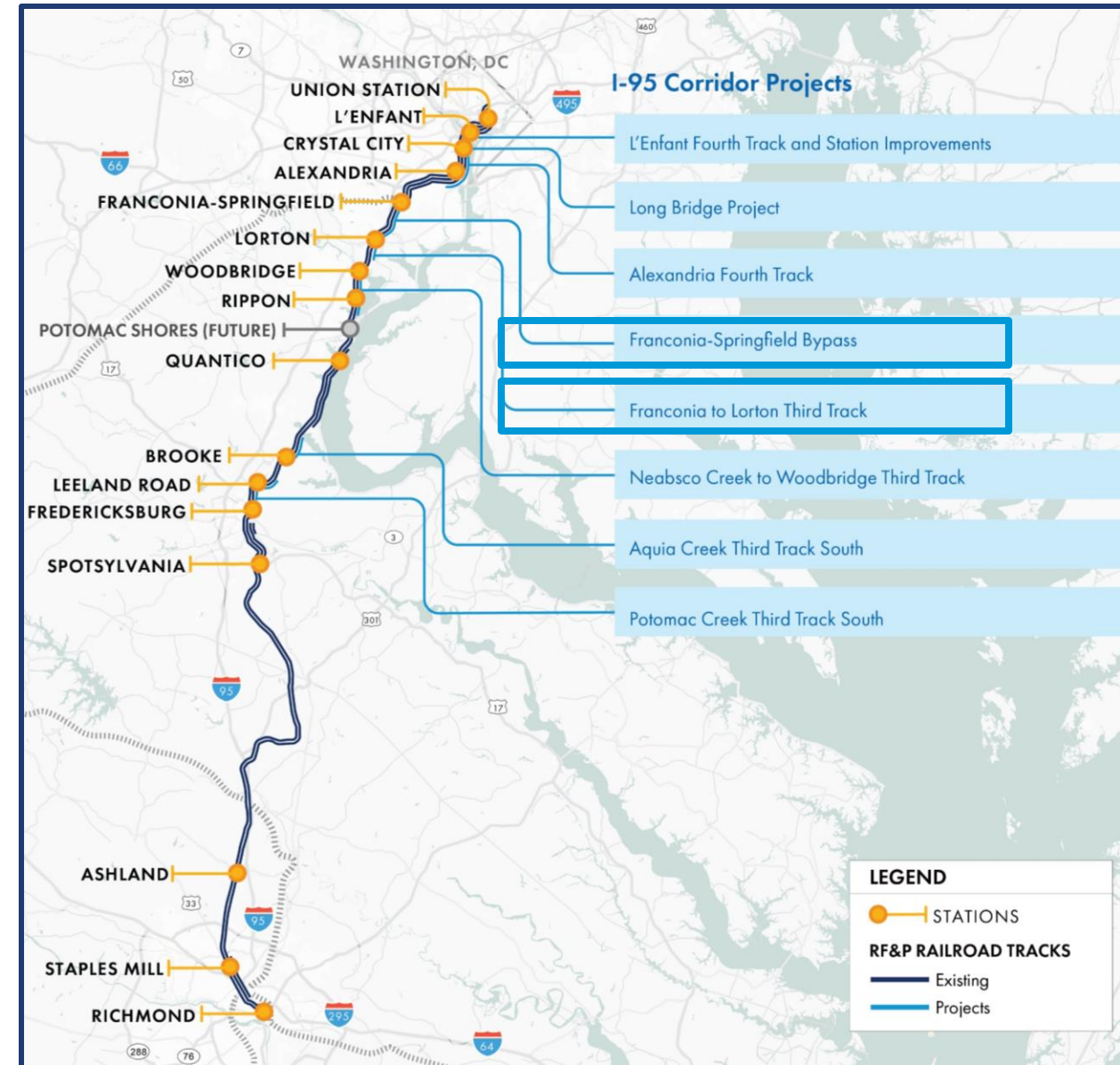
- Created in 2020 by the General Assembly
- Responsible for expanding and promoting passenger and commuter rail
  - Manages passenger rail in VA
  - Designs, builds, finances, and maintains rail facilities
- Partners with Amtrak, Norfolk Southern, CSX Transportation (CSXT), and Virginia Railway Express (VRE) to operate passenger and commuter rail service



# TRV Capital Program: DC to Richmond

**11 projects** unlock new passenger rail service and set the stage for future service expansion

- **Two new Amtrak** and **three new VRE roundtrips** (including late night & weekend service)
- **Future capacity** for an **additional three new Amtrak roundtrips** and **two additional VRE roundtrips**



# Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Overview

- VRE is a commuter rail system operating on existing railroad tracks
  - 82 miles of leased track
  - 2 lines – Fredericksburg and Manassas
  - 16 trains daily on each line
  - 19 stations
  - 5 stations connecting to Metrorail
  - 12,000 daily passenger trips
- VRE connects Northern Virginia communities with Washington, D.C. urban core commercial centers





# Fairfax County Projects

## Franconia to Lorton Third Track

Adding a third mainline track along one of the most heavily traveled parts of the rail corridor between Washington, D.C. and Richmond, VA

## Franconia-Springfield Bypass

Adding a rail bridge to allow passenger trains to cross over the existing CSXT freight tracks and serve passenger platforms on both sides of the tracks

## Franconia-Springfield VRE Station

VRE is improving its Franconia-Springfield Station in conjunction with the VPRA projects. Included are longer platforms and a new pedestrian tunnel





# Fairfax County Projects

## Construction locations and expected start dates

Construction Began: August 2025

- Utility relocations at various points along Third Track corridor
- Preliminary CSX construction activities, north of VRE station and Franconia Road, near Fleet Drive



# Fairfax County Projects Updates

## **Design & Permitting Advancing**

Final design nearing completion; permits secured for early construction activities

## **Construction Underway**

Crews active along the corridor; clearing, access roads, and staging are currently in progress

## **Shoofly Work**

Temporary tracks to be installed soon; increased flagging and horn activity expected

## **Drainage Installation**

Drainage to support future track and wall work is beginning soon

## **Ravenworth Interlocking Relocation**

Infrastructure being relocated to improve operations

## **Community Outreach Expanding**

Engagement with HOAs and residents near Darby Lane and Barry Road; preconstruction surveys ongoing

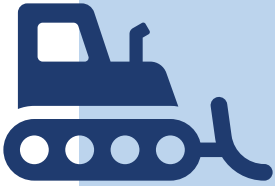
# What to Expect During Construction



New traffic pattern along Newington Road to facilitate RR bridge construction and road widening. Lane closures under Lorton Road RR bridge



Multiple construction crews active on multiple shifts throughout project corridor



Increased construction truck traffic throughout Franconia, Springfield, Newington, and Lorton adjacent to the railroad corridor



Platform closures and potential train schedule adjustments due to construction activities along the railroad corridor

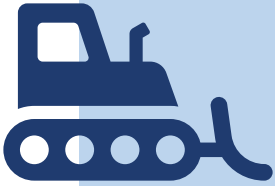
# What to Expect During Construction



Construction and utilization of a 'shoofly,' i.e. temporary track onto which trains are diverted



Installation of a retaining wall along the railroad tracks near Barry Road



Grading and retaining wall construction at the tracks behind Loisdale Estates



Relocation of the sanitary sewer line and installation of a new culvert at Barry Road cul-de-sac



# Fairfax County Projects: Community Outreach

## Previous Outreach:

- Neighborhood tabling in Windsor Estates and Loisdale Estates
- Door-to-door flyers and direct mail
- Right of Way Acquisition Public Meeting
- Supervisor Briefings



## Upcoming Outreach:

- Door-to-door flyers and direct mail
- Continued quarterly Community Advisory Group meetings



Ongoing coordination with WMATA, VDOT, Fairfax County, and other stakeholders



# Shoofly Tracks: What, Why & How

## What is a shoofly?

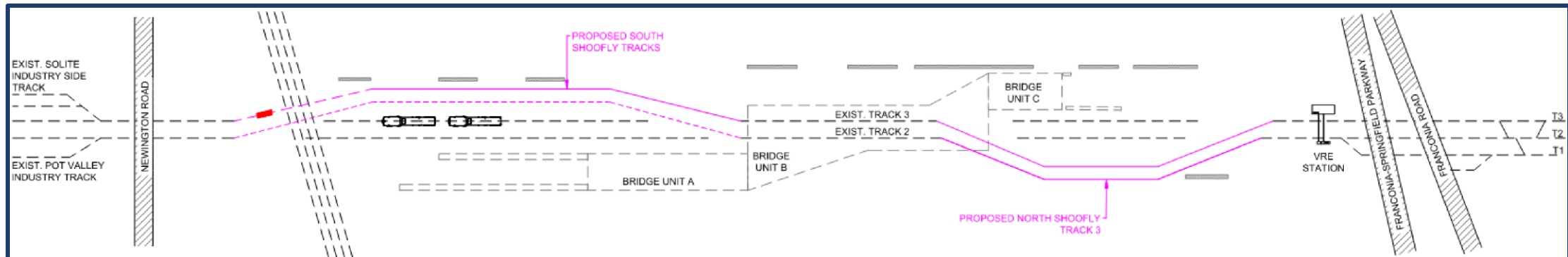
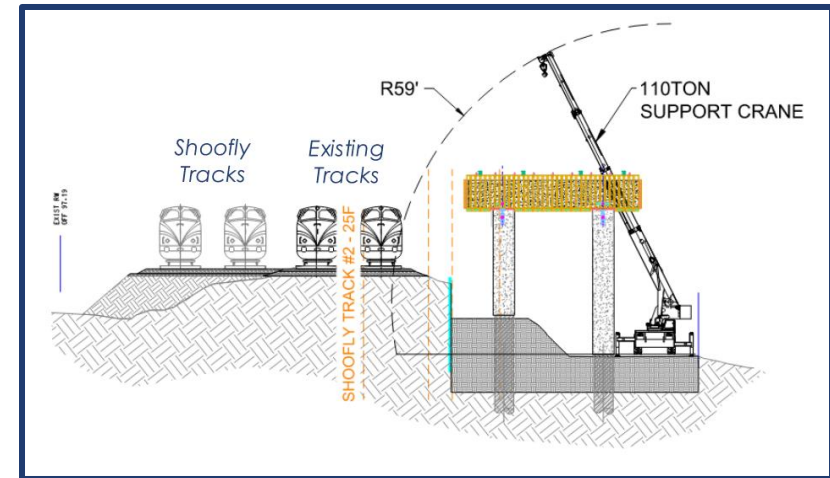
- Temporary tracks constructed to divert rail traffic around active construction work zones
- Allows work to proceed without interrupting train operations and minimizing night work

## Why is a shoofly important?

- Minimizes service disruption
- Shortens construction schedule
- Supports strategic phasing of improvements
- Ensures safety of train crew and construction workers

## Where are we using them?

- In key locations:
  - Franconia-Springfield Bypass
  - Newington Road
  - Pohick Creek





# Construction Disruption Awareness



Construction sign with contact information posted outside project limits

## Depending on your location, you may notice:

- Trucks delivering construction materials
- Distant construction noise near the railroad tracks

## Excavators and Bulldozers:

- This type of machinery produces noise levels similar to a lawnmower

## Jackhammers and Drills:

- These tools can reach noise levels comparable to a motorcycle or chainsaw

## Trucks and Dump Trucks:

- These vehicles generate engine and back-up alarm sounds similar to a lawnmower

# Safety in the Work Zone

All construction work adjacent to active tracks must be done under the supervision of a CSXT flagger who coordinates train movements through the construction zone

## Roadway worker protection

- Ensure safety when crews work near active tracks
- Help maintain train operations during construction
- Required by federal and railroad safety regulations

## What It Means for the Community

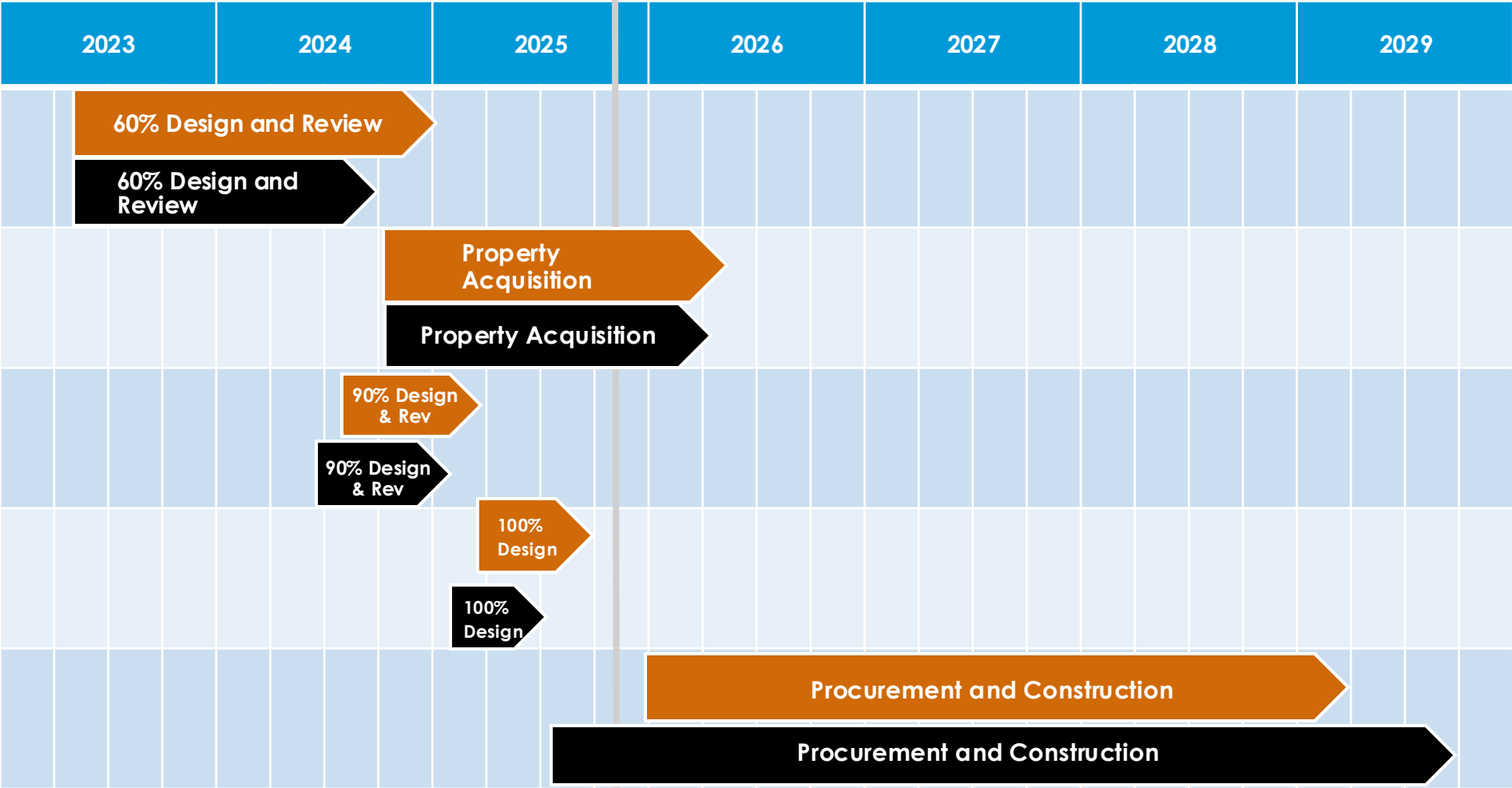
- Audible warning required to alert crews about train movement
- More train horns during construction
- Horn activity will return to normal once work zones are no longer needed



Photo source: [www.railpros.com](http://www.railpros.com)



# Project Schedules: Third Track and Bypass



## Next Steps:

### Franconia to Lorton Third Track

- Permitting
- Pre-construction activities

### Franconia-Springfield Bypass

- Permitting
- Pre-construction activities
- Construction of grading and retaining walls
- Construction access from Barry Rd and Newington Rd
- No lane closures expected
- Possible access via other properties/routes for future construction activities
- Begin shoofly construction in early 2026

Note: VRE's Franconia-Springfield Station construction to begin in Summer 2026.



# Franconia to Lorton Third Track

- Add six miles of a third mainline track
- Create a continuous third track corridor between Alexandria and Lorton
- Construct railroad bridges over Newington Road and Lorton Road and other infrastructure to accommodate the additional third track





# Railroad Bridge Improvements

## Newington Road

- Construct a new railroad bridge adjacent to the existing railroad bridge
- Remove and replace the existing railroad bridge

## Accotink Creek

- Construct a new railroad bridge adjacent to the existing railroad bridge


## Pohick Creek

- Construct a new railroad bridge adjacent to the existing railroad bridge
- Remove and replace the existing railroad bridge


## Lorton Road

- Construct a new railroad bridge adjacent to the existing railroad bridges



 **STATION**

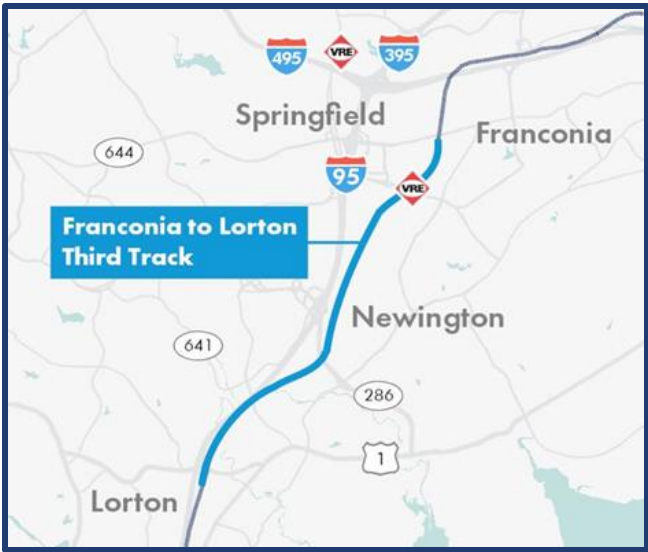
**Neighborhood**

 Bridge Location



# Progress Updates: Franconia to Lorton Third Track

- Field crews are now active in the corridor, with the Early Works Package (EWP) underway
- Residents may notice increased activity, including track and signal equipment installation



Recently Completed	Ongoing	Upcoming
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 100% design in the comment resolution phase</li><li>• Plats finalized for right-of-way (ROW) acquisition</li><li>• EWP drainage and grading completed</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appraisals and ROW acquisition in progress</li><li>• Invitation-for-Bid (IFB) package development underway</li><li>• Coordination with CSX on signals and trackwork</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EWP track construction to begin Jan 2026</li><li>• EWP signal cutover and special trackwork by Mar 2026</li><li>• Construction mobilization for mainline work</li></ul>



# Franconia to Lorton Third Track Early Works Package

## What is the Early Works Package?

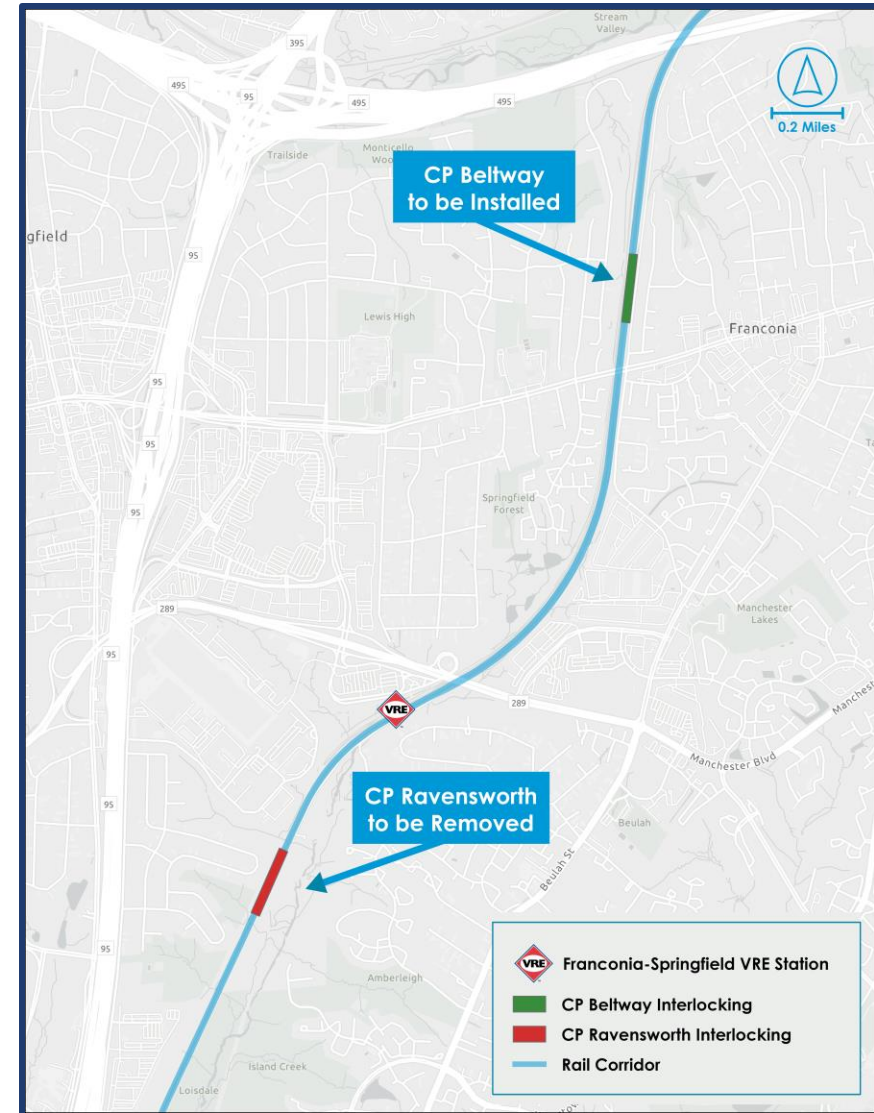
- VPRA and CSX are actively working to remove the Ravensworth interlocking (near Jerome Street and Darby Lane) and install a new interlocking called CP Beltway (near Fleet Drive, north of Franconia Road)

## What is an interlocking?

- A rail junction where tracks merge and split to allow trains to move from one track to another

## Why is the interlocking being relocated?

- Safety improvements
- Operational efficiency
- Shoofly construction

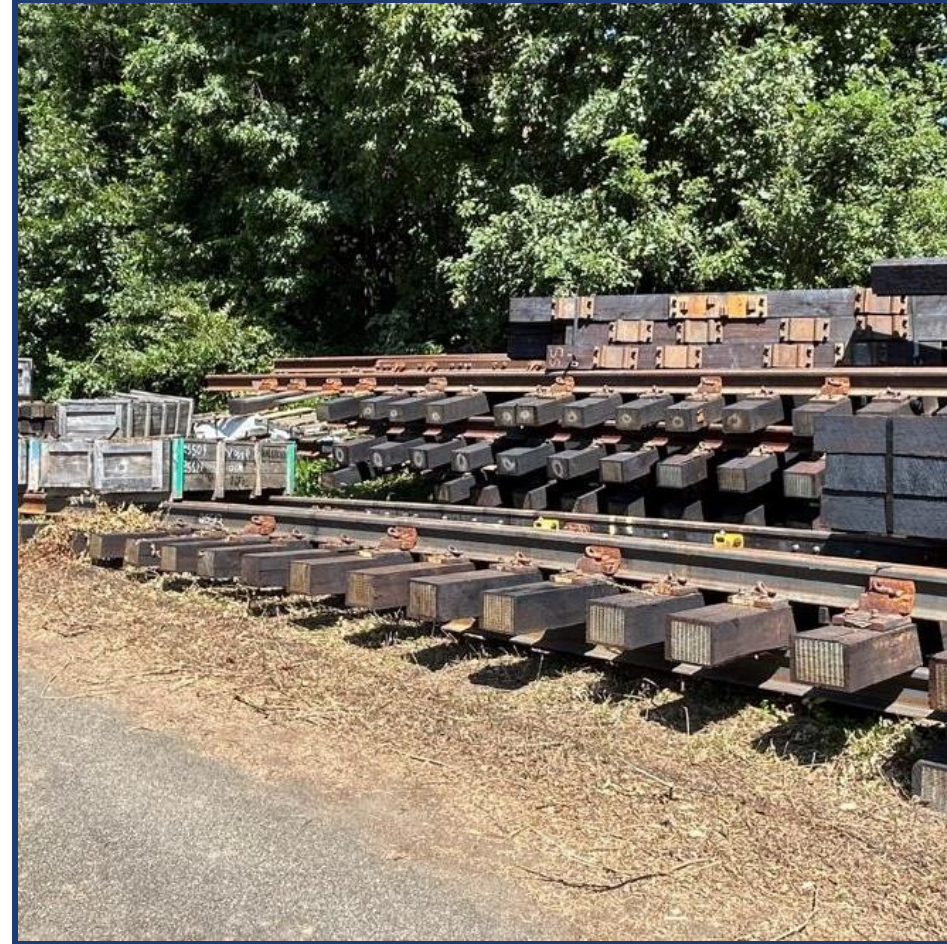




# Franconia to Lorton Third Track Early Works Package



Grading completed at new CP Beltway.



Track panels delivered to the new CP Beltway site by CSX.



# Franconia to Lorton Third Track Early Works Package



Crews marked out location of new signal equipment at new CP Beltway. Nearby slope was seeded to prevent erosion.



New signal house equipment delivered to the new CP Beltway site by CSX.



# Franconia to Lorton Third Track Early Works Package



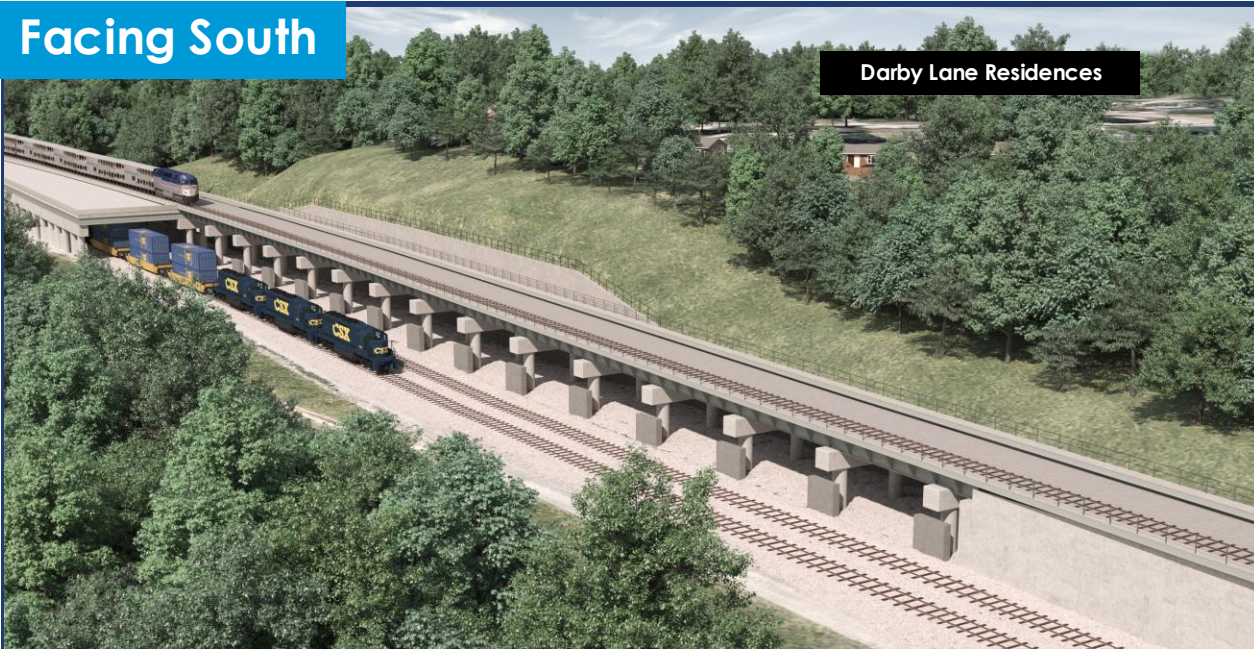
New stone and erosion control materials added around a drainage pipe to help stabilize area near new CP Beltway.



An old signal structure was removed, and crews installed the foundation for a new one at new CP Beltway.



# Franconia-Springfield Bypass



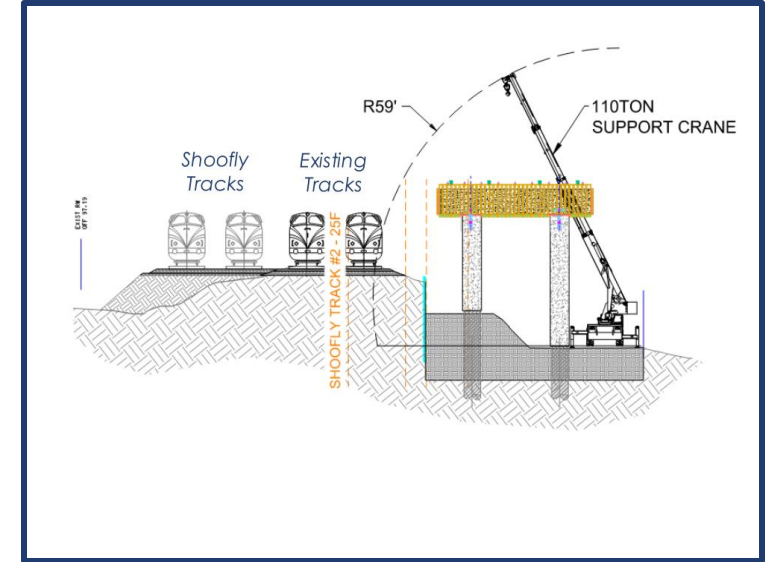
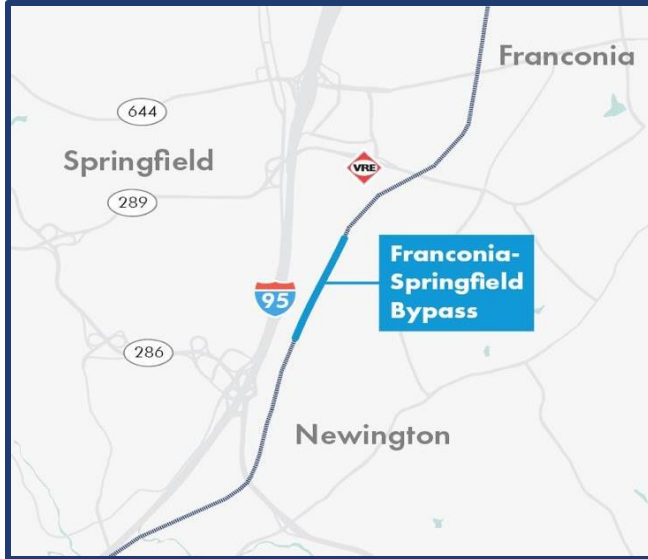
North of Bypass: New Passenger Track West of CSXT Tracks



South of Bypass: New Passenger Track East of CSXT Tracks



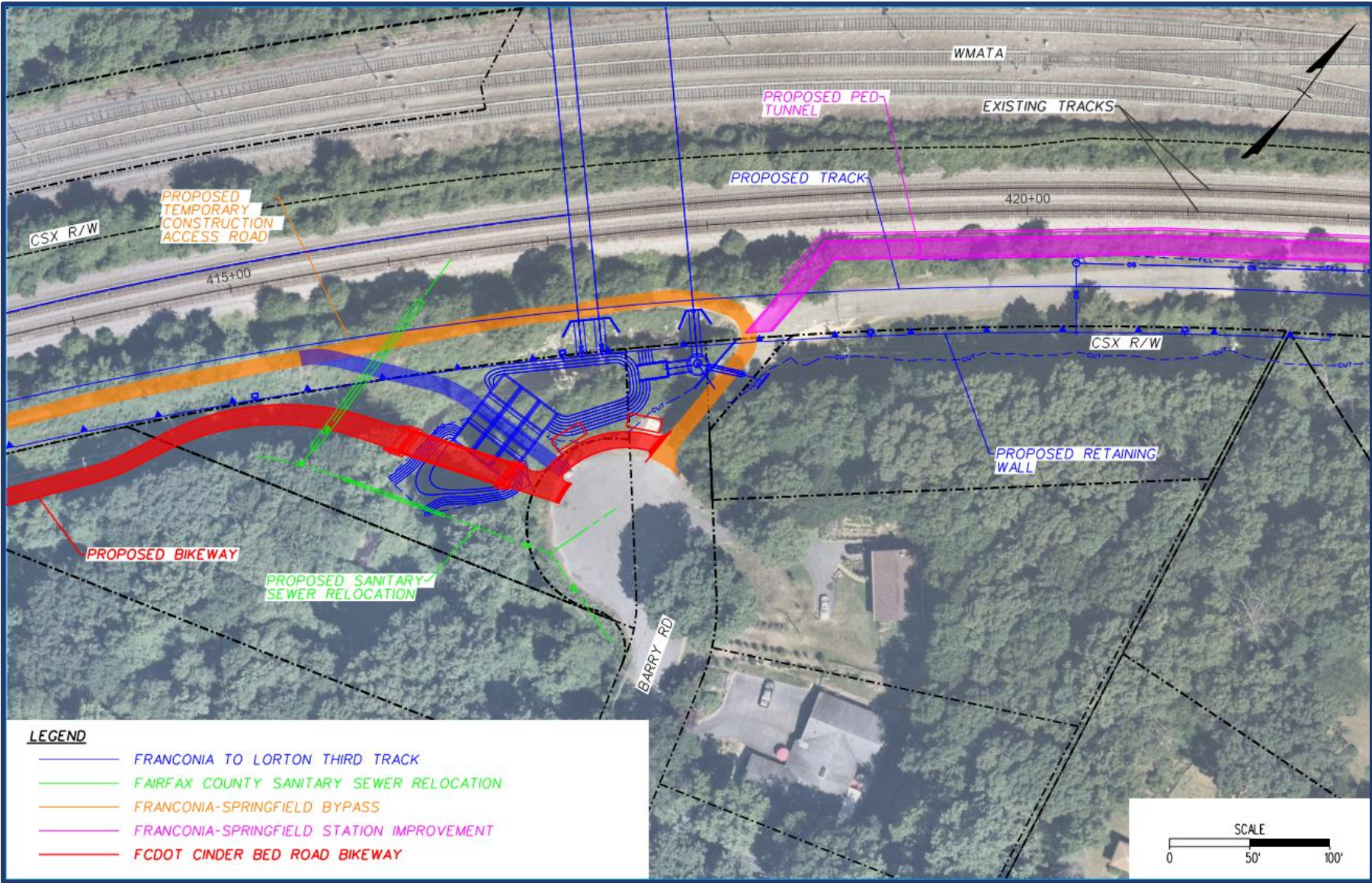
# Progress Updates: Franconia-Springfield Bypass



Recently Completed	Ongoing	Upcoming
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractor mobilization and initial site setup</li> <li>Kickoff meeting and VDEQ site walk</li> <li>Access road construction</li> <li>Final Engineering plans in comment resolution phase</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brush clearing, site surveys, erosion and sediment controls installation</li> <li>Utility relocation coordination</li> <li>Equipment delivery and staging</li> <li>Construction of railroad crossings for access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue installation of erosion and sediment controls</li> <li>Retaining wall construction</li> <li>Finalize permitting</li> </ul>



# Construction Access: Barry Road





# Franconia-Springfield Bypass Progress



Contractor performing clearing, grubbing, preconstruction survey, and locating underground utilities.



Erosion and sediment controls along the east side of the tracks



# Franconia-Springfield Bypass Progress



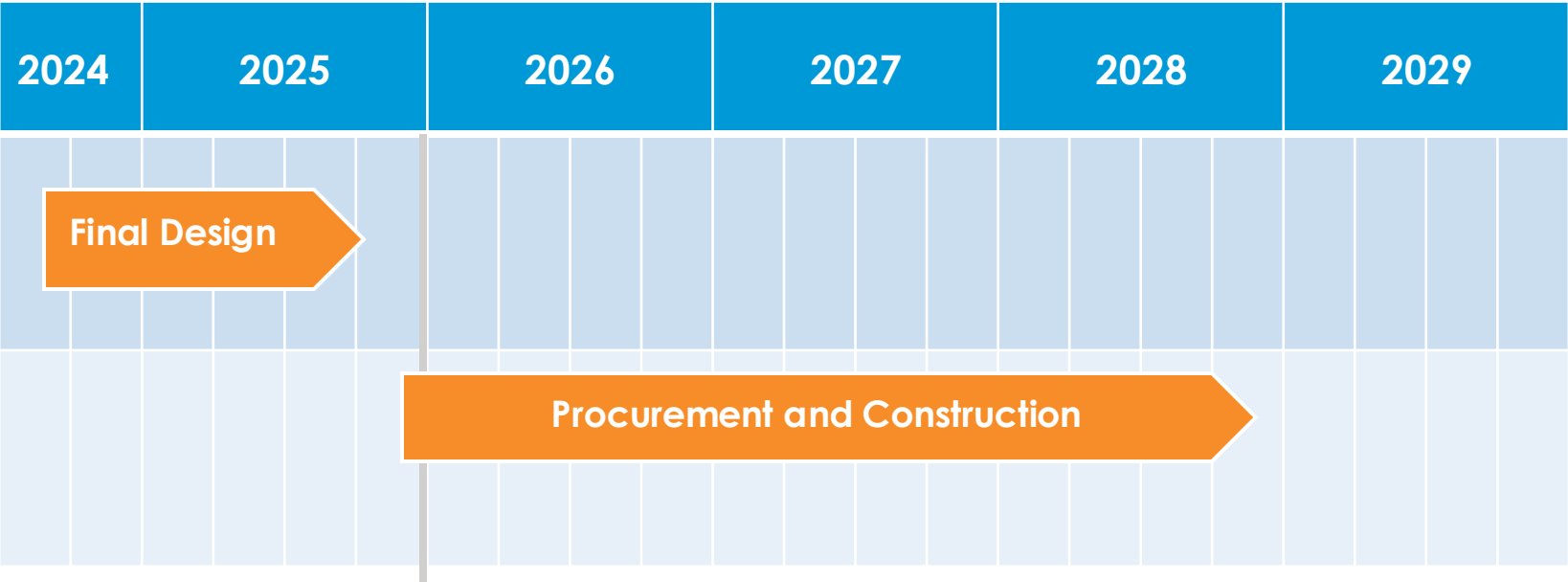
Access road construction along the east side of the tracks



One of three track crossings installed by CSX to allow for more efficient contractor movements between west and east side of the tracks



# Project Schedule: Franconia-Springfield Station Improvements



**Next Steps:**

- Permitting
- Pre-construction activities



# Franconia-Springfield Station Improvements

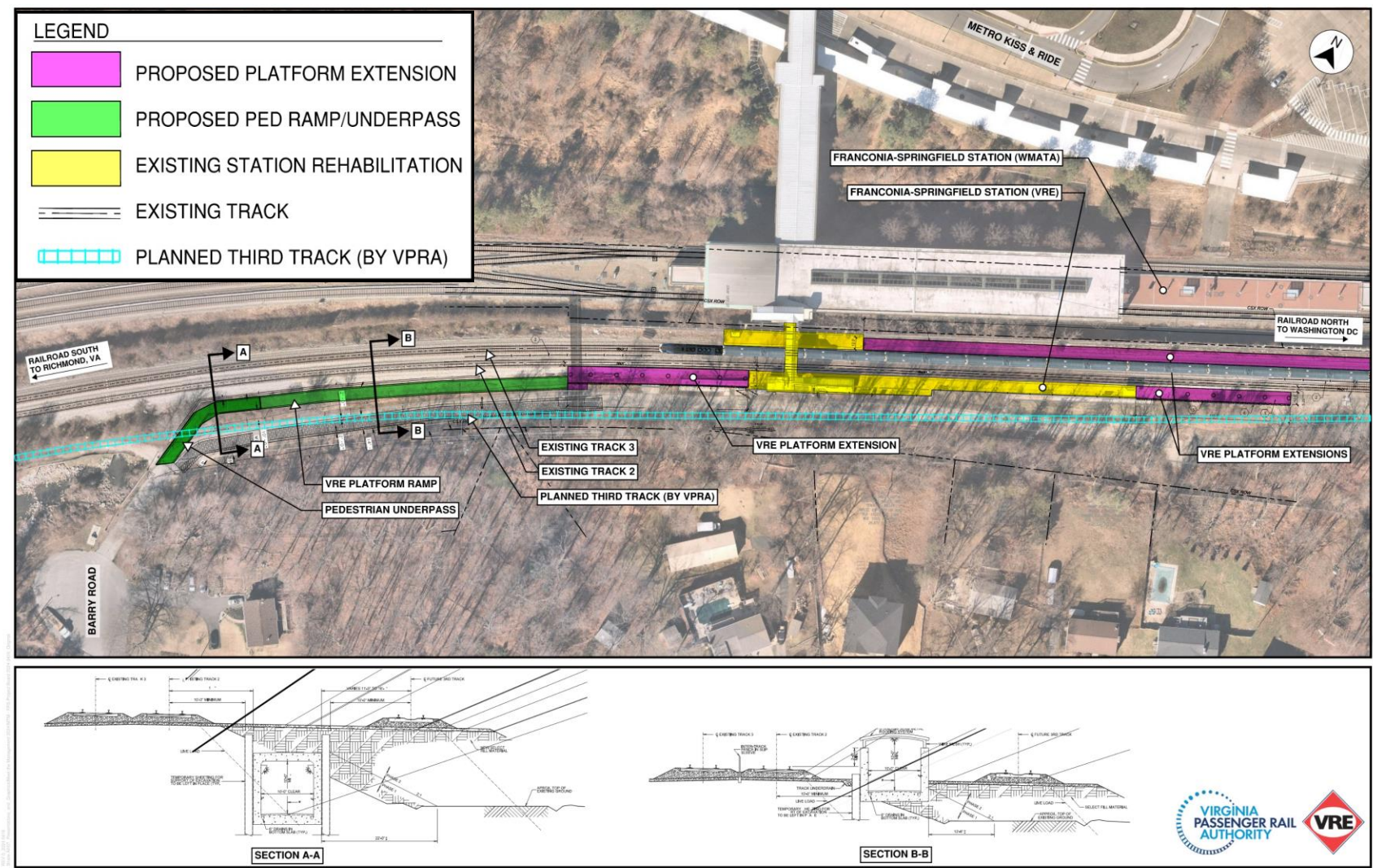
- Extend existing platforms to accommodate 8-car Trains
  - Increase operational flexibility
  - Reduce boarding times
- Construct new pedestrian underpass to accommodate Franconia-to-Lorton Third Track
  - Maintain pedestrian access to VRE and WMATA stations
- Existing station repairs
  - Repair existing concrete
  - Clean and paint steel
  - Replace glass with metal screen



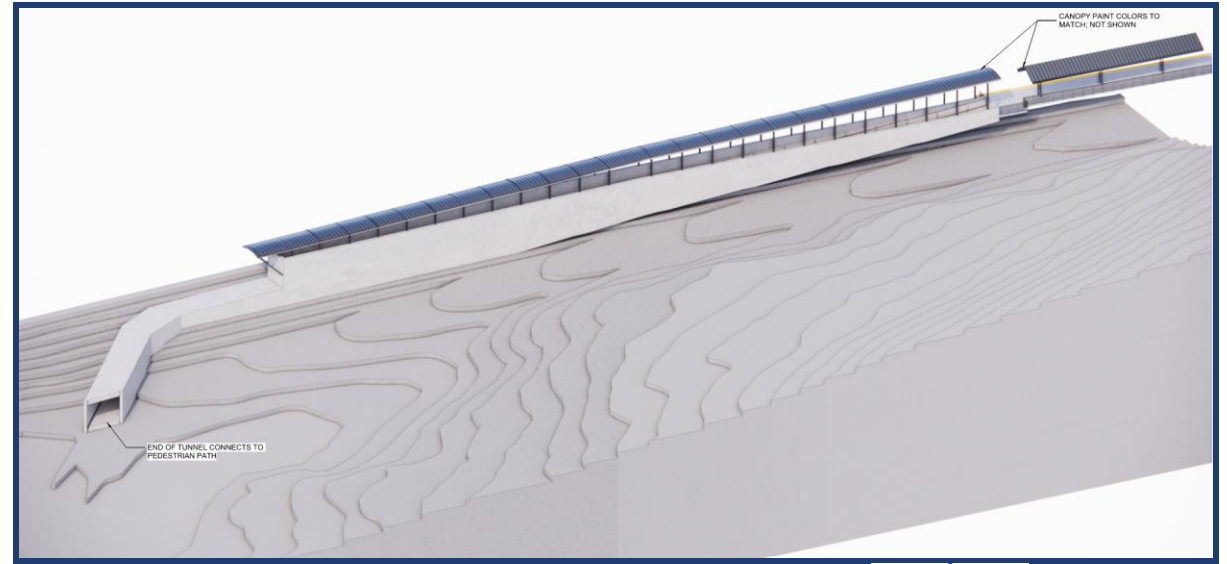
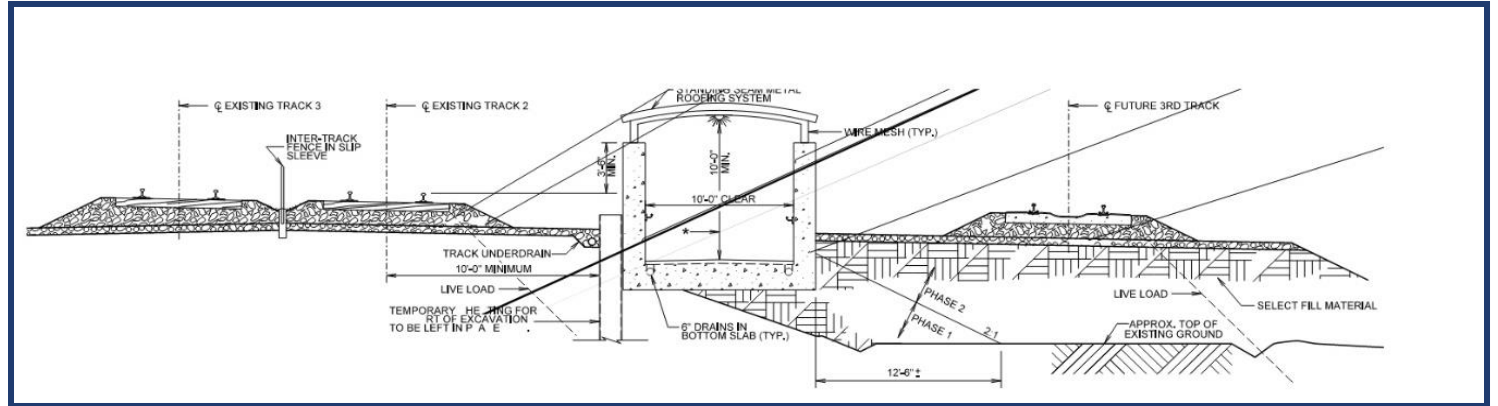


# Franconia-Springfield Station Improvements

## VRE FRANCONIA-SPRINGFIELD STATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT









# Service Impacts – January 2026

- **Working closely with our partners, VPRA is developing a service plan to carefully manage construction and service during a necessary work window at the Long Bridge Project for up to five years starting *January 2026*.**
  - Maintain maximum service and optimize performance for Amtrak, VRE, and CSX
  - Maximize work window productivity
  - Utilize the work window opportunity created by Long Bridge – North for all projects when feasible
- **Constraints:**
  - **DC Noise and Vibration laws restrict significant work to daytime hours (Mon – Sat) for the Long Bridge – North project.**
  - VRE “AM Peak” and “PM Peak” are the highest ridership times of day
  - Significant work on the NEC and at WAS also requires service adjustment considerations
  - WAS is most congested in the afternoon
  - Service Impacts affect Amtrak Virginia, Amtrak Long Distance, Carolinian, and VRE (FBG and Manassas Line)

## For more information:

### VPRA

<https://vapassengerrailauthority.org/plan-my-trip/service-guide/>

### VRE

<https://www.vre.org/plan-a-trip/>  
<https://www.vre.org/service/transit-benefits/>

# How to Stay Informed



**Visit project website:**  
[vapassengerrailauthority.org/projects](http://vapassengerrailauthority.org/projects)



**Visit Construction Disruptions map:**  
[vapassengerrailauthority.org/disruptions](http://vapassengerrailauthority.org/disruptions)



**Contact us:**  
844-878-8772 | [construction@vpra.virginia.gov](mailto:construction@vpra.virginia.gov)



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[vapassengerrailauthority.org/contact](http://vapassengerrailauthority.org/contact)



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Questions?





# Q & A

zoom Workplace

Sign in View

Prep Session: Arl-Alx CAG Mtg #1

Messages addressed to "meeting group chat" will also appear in the meeting group chat in Team Chat

erin murphy

Send with effect

Reactions

Raise hand

Be right back

Audio Video Participants Chat React More End

Who can see your messages?

To: Meeting group chat

Type your question here in the chat

