

Franconia Area Projects

The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) is leading a program of rail improvement projects in south Fairfax County along the existing rail corridor between the Franconia-Springfield VRE Station and Lorton Road.

The goals of these projects are to:

- Increase capacity to accommodate more passenger rail service and freight rail trains
- Improve reliability of passenger and freight rail services
- Improve connectivity between existing multimodal facilities

FRANCONIA TO LORTON THIRD TRACK AND RAILROAD BRIDGES

Project Status: *Construction begins 2025*

The Franconia to Lorton Third Track Project will increase rail capacity and alleviate congestion for passenger and freight services on one of the most heavily traveled sections of rail between Washington, DC and Richmond, VA.

The project will add a third, six-mile mainline track between the Franconia-Springfield VRE station and the Lorton VRE Station, creating a continuous third track corridor between Alexandria and Lorton.

To accommodate the new third track, the railroad bridge over Newington Road will be replaced with a longer and wider bridge, and the railroad bridge over Lorton Road will be widened. The images to the right illustrate the planned third track at the Franconia-Springfield VRE Station and the railroad bridge replacement over Newington Road.

The Franconia to Lorton Third Track Project is being carefully coordinated with the **Franconia-Springfield Bypass Project**.



Planned Third Track (Looking South from Franconia-Springfield VRE Station)



New Railroad Bridge Over Newington Road





Franconia Area Projects

FRANCONIA-SPRINGFIELD BYPASS

Project Status: *Construction begins 2025*

The Franconia-Springfield Bypass, located just south of Franconia-Springfield station, is a rail bridge that will allow passenger trains to cross above freight trains. Currently the two railroad tracks cross at the same level, creating a bottleneck and significant delays. The bypass bridge will eliminate the conflict, reducing congestion and improving reliability for freight and passenger trains.

The Bypass Project will begin with construction of a new "shoofly" track immediately adjacent to the mainline track. A "shoofly" track is a temporary detour track that will allow trains to travel through the area while the Bypass Project is under construction.

The Franconia-Springfield Bypass Project will be carefully coordinated with the [Franconia to Lorton Third Track Project](#).

KEEP TRACK OF PROJECT UPDATES

[vapassengerrailauthority.org/
franconia-to-lorton](http://vapassengerrailauthority.org/franconia-to-lorton)

[vapassengerrailauthority.org/
franconia-springfield-bypass/](http://vapassengerrailauthority.org/franconia-springfield-bypass/)

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North of Bypass: New Passenger Track West of CSXT Tracks (Looking South)



South of Bypass: New Passenger Track East of CSXT Tracks (Looking North)



Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPR) is an independent authority created by the Virginia General Assembly in 2020 to promote, sustain, and expand the availability of passenger and commuter rail service in the Commonwealth. Partnering with Amtrak, VRE, Norfolk Southern (NS), and CSX, we are working to provide passenger rail service throughout the state that is convenient and affordable.