VIRGINIA PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY

TRANSFORMING RAIL IN VIRGINIA | CONSTRUCTION PLANNING

TRAVEL DISRUPTIONS

VPRA developed a live, interactive construction disruption map to inform the public about travel disruptions and detours related to Transforming Rail in Virginia construction activities. VPRA publishes travel disruptions at the time when the first construction disruption occurs and updates the map regularly throughout the project.

- Changes in existing train service schedules or impacts to local public transit services or schedules will be communicated.
- VPRA will keep you informed of any temporary changes to traffic patterns and detours. Any temporary sidewalks, trails, or vehicle routes will be clearly marked. Traffic advisories will be issued through VDOT, DDOT, or other local jurisdictions, and posted on VPRA's website.

UTILITY INTERUPTIONS

VPRA expects little or no impact to your utility service. However, if brief interruptions to water and/or electricity are necessary, you will be informed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PROJECTS IN YOUR AREA

For VPRA project updates and construction information, please email us at: ***construction@vpra.virginia.gov***

Call the VPRA Construction Hot Line: **1-844-878-8772**

Visit the VPRA website at *VAPassengerRailAuthority.org*

View the Construction Disruptions Map here.

TRANSFORMING RAIL IN VIRGINIA CONSTRUCTION PLANNING

The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) is actively engaged in multiple projects across the Commonwealth to enhance passenger and commuter rail services, aiming to connect more communities than ever before. Known as Transforming Rail in Virginia, this program is made up of more than 20 strategically targeted projects to enhance rail infrastructure, add capacity, and improve passenger and freight reliability.

Some projects are currently under construction, while others are scheduled for construction over the next few months and into the next few years.

As construction of new infrastructure gets underway, VPRA works closely with our partners and stakeholders including Norfolk Southern (NS), CSX Transportation (CSXT), Amtrak, Virginia Railway Express (VRE), the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), District Department of Transportation (DDOT), and local jurisdictions.

Prior to and during construction, VPRA makes every effort to minimize, and avoid where possible, potential environmental impacts of the rail improvement projects. VPRA is committed to minimizing the impact of construction on local communities through careful planning. Where impacts cannot be avoided, VPRA will apply appropriate mitigation measures as required.

VPRA will keep homeowners, businesses and other stakeholders informed about specific construction projects, start dates and estimated completion dates. VPRA utilizes public notices, community meetings, project websites and an informational hotline.

VIRGINIA PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY

CONSTRUCTION NOISE AND VIBRATION

During construction you might hear a variety of noises or feel ground vibrations, and we know you may be interested in and even concerned about some of these activities. We will provide general information pertinent to all projects, with more specific information becoming available as we get closer to construction. Be assured that VPRA conducts noise and vibration assessment for rail projects as required to determine when measures to reduce noise and vibration (mitigations) are necessary.

Here are some examples of what you might hear and comparisons to more familiar sounds.

Excavators and Bulldozers:

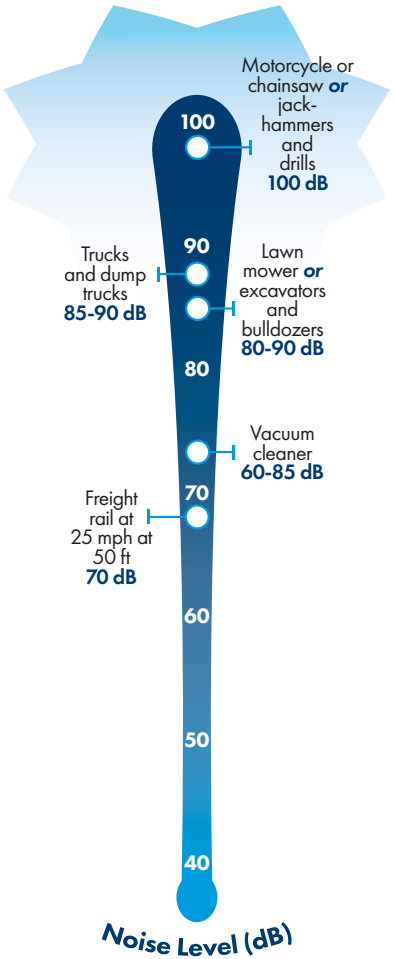
- This type of machinery produces noise levels around 80-90 decibels (dB), which is similar to the sound of a lawnmower (about 85- 90 dB).

Jackhammers and Drills:

- These tools can reach noise levels of about 100 dB, comparable to the noise produced by a motorcycle or a chainsaw (100 dB).

Trucks and Dump Trucks:

- These vehicles generate engine and back-up alarm sounds around 85-90 dB, comparable to the sounds of a lawnmower (85-90 dB).



NOISE AND VIBRATION REDUCTION AND MITIGATION

Here are the types of mitigation efforts that could be considered.

- Contractors may be able to schedule the noisiest activities during daytime hours.
    - Where possible, VPRA designs its projects to minimize nighttime work. For example, some projects will utilize a "shoofly" design, which involves creating a temporary track to divert trains farther from the construction zone and thereby allow construction activities to proceed while trains pass. Without the shoofly construction, contractors would have to stop construction each time a train passes, which would push more work into nighttime hours when fewer trains are running.
- Contractors may employ alternate construction methods in vibration sensitive areas.
    - Where possible, VPRA designs its projects to minimize the need for pile driving. Driving steel columns into the ground is one way to provide foundational support for structures. This process often involves hammering the piles into place using a pile driver, which can generate significant noise and vibrations. VPRA will use alternate methods, such as drilled shafts, when possible.

TRAIN NOISE

In addition to the normal use of train horns during operations, you may hear extra horn sounds when a train approaches a construction site or an active work area. This is a required safety precaution under railroad operating rules. Amtrak, VRE, Norfolk Southern, and CSX trains also follow guidelines that may require engineers to sound the horn when approaching certain passenger stations, typically within about 1/4 mile, unless a quiet-hour policy or federal quiet zone is in effect. These same safety rules will apply during the construction process.

References:

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/noise/construction_noise/handbook/handbook09.cfm

https://noiseawareness.org/info-center/common-noise-levels/

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