

2025

# ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF  
TRANSFORMING RAIL IN VIRGINIA



State Fiscal Year 2025: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025



# MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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**DJ STADLER**

This year the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRRA) celebrated five years of promoting, sustaining, and expanding the availability of passenger and commuter rail service in the Commonwealth. Since its inception, VPRRA has grown dramatically and strategically invested in rail projects that best serve Virginians. While each year has been defined by significant progress, this past year we hit key milestones that are the product of our team's diligent work throughout our first five years.

- **In October 2024, we broke ground on the Long Bridge Project, which will create a critical passenger-only corridor across the Potomac River from Washington, DC into Virginia. Construction continues to move ahead.**
- **Through a new agreement with our freight partner Norfolk Southern, VPRRA purchased the Manassas Line, which will enable us to expand Virginia Railway Express (VRE) service.**
- **We gained access to Norfolk Southern's Main Line, the key link to expanding passenger rail service to the New River Valley.**
- **In April 2025, we broke ground on that extension to the New River Valley, which will include a new station platform with a canopy, parking lot, and access roads, track improvements, an updated signaling system, and an Amtrak layover facility in nearby Radford.**
- **Amtrak Virginia set a ridership record during fiscal year 2025 with 1.5 million passengers, and ridership increases occurred along all four corridors.**

There is a lot to celebrate from our first five years, but even bigger milestones are within reach. Our work over the next five years promises to usher Virginia into a new era of rail travel—one that will make rail an even more accessible, reliable, and attractive mode of travel. With eyes set on these goals, we move into a new year committed to advancing our existing projects as well as laying the groundwork for future innovative endeavors.

# MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

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## TIFFANY ROBINSON



VPRA is delivering on its promise to give Virginians a faster, more reliable way to travel. In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025, we paired record ridership with major infrastructure progress, expanding capacity, improving reliability, and strengthening partnerships that will shape passenger rail for decades to come.

Looking at the past and present, Amtrak Virginia carried over **1.5 million passengers** across the Commonwealth this year, representing a nearly **five percent increase** over last year and the highest ridership since the launch of state-supported service in 2009. This milestone reflects sustained investment, disciplined project delivery, and the dedication of our team and partners. Our commitment to delivering a world-class passenger experience is also evident in our station enhancements at Quantico and the newly opened station in Newport News.

With an eye on the future, VPRA is moving decisively from vision to action on our cornerstone projects encompassed by the Transforming Rail in Virginia (TRV) Initiative, which have been estimated to generate **\$6.7 billion** in statewide economic output and support **33,668 jobs** through FY 2035.

Most importantly, they will open doors for people and businesses alike across the Commonwealth, demonstrating economic mobility in its truest form.

VPRA's success also stems from strategic partnerships. By working with our Class I railroads, VPRA aims to increase service and frequency for VRE across state-supported corridors. Additionally, access to the Main Line in the New River Valley will empower VPRA to extend state-supported service from Roanoke to Christiansburg faster and more cost-effectively than originally planned. Five short years after VPRA's creation, we are delivering results by awarding major contracts, breaking ground, opening stations, and setting ridership records. As we look to 2026, our priorities remain crystal clear: on-time performance, safety, and maximum value for every taxpayer dollar. We are building the future of rail in Virginia, one trip at a time.

These projects will substantially reduce disruptions between freight and passenger rail, increase frequencies for Amtrak and the Virginia Railway Express (VRE), and return service to areas that have gone without for generations.





## **FY2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Tiffany Robinson, Chair**  
**Sandra Bushue**  
**Neal Crawford**  
**John S. Delandro, III**  
**Patricia Doersch**  
**The Honorable Thelma Drake**  
**Darien Flowers**  
**DJ Jordan**  
**Cynthia Moses-Nedd**  
**Charles W. Payne**  
**Beth Rhinehart**  
**The Honorable John C. Watkins**  
**Rich Dalton**  
**Bruno Maestri**

## **EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**DJ Stadler**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Michael McLaughlin**  
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

**Steve Pittard**  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

**Michael Westermann**  
GENERAL COUNSEL

**Joan Verbonitz**  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER





# OUR CULTURE

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## Our Mission

Our mission is to promote, sustain, and expand the availability of passenger and commuter rail service in the Commonwealth.

## Our Vision

Our vision is to deliver passenger rail service as an integrated, affordable, convenient travel option that benefits the Commonwealth.

## Our Values



**Foster Leadership  
and Public Service**



**Demonstrate  
Financial Stewardship**



**Champion Equity  
and Inclusion**



**Ensure Safety  
and Reliability**



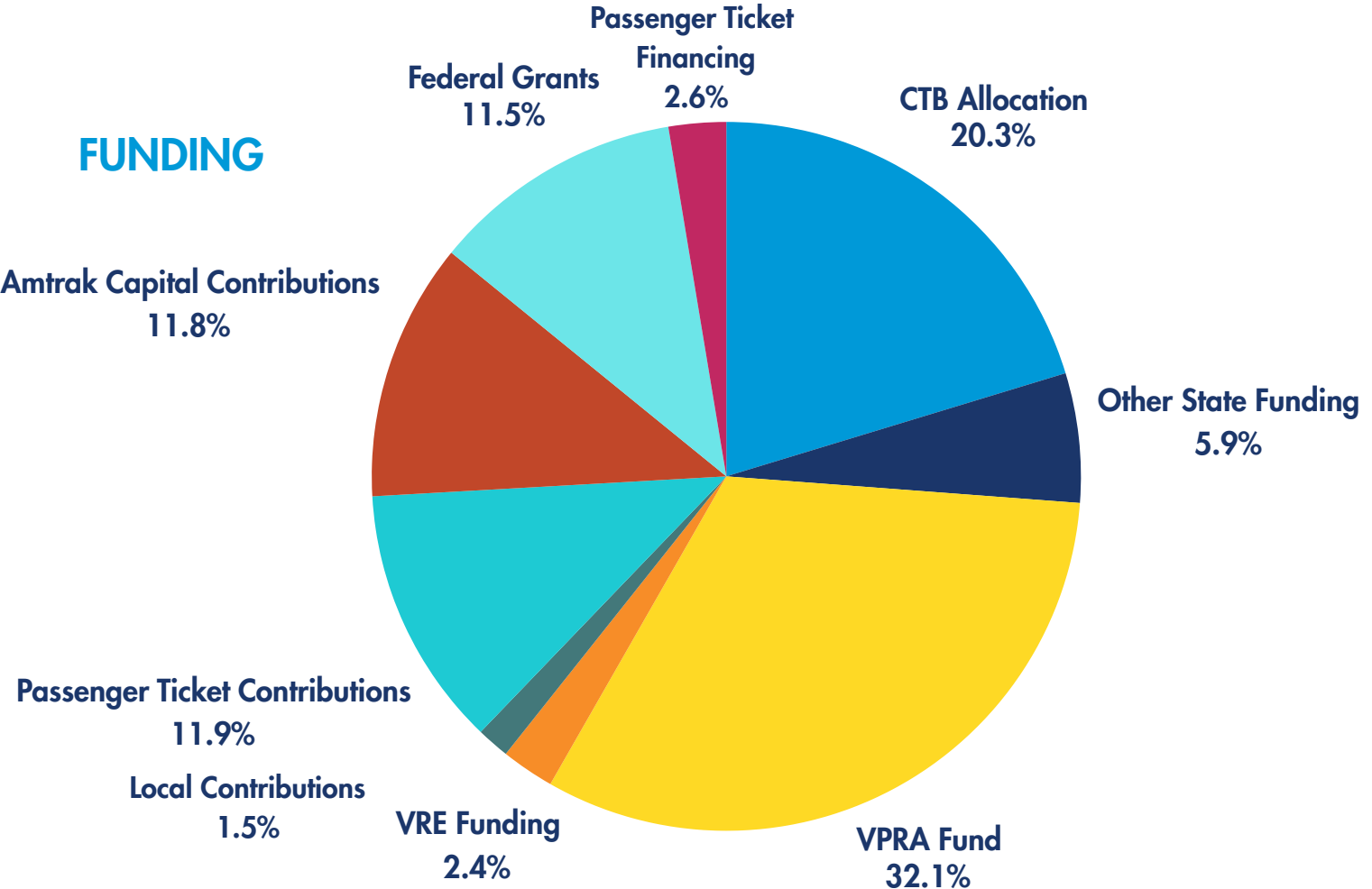
**Advance Environmental  
Sustainability**



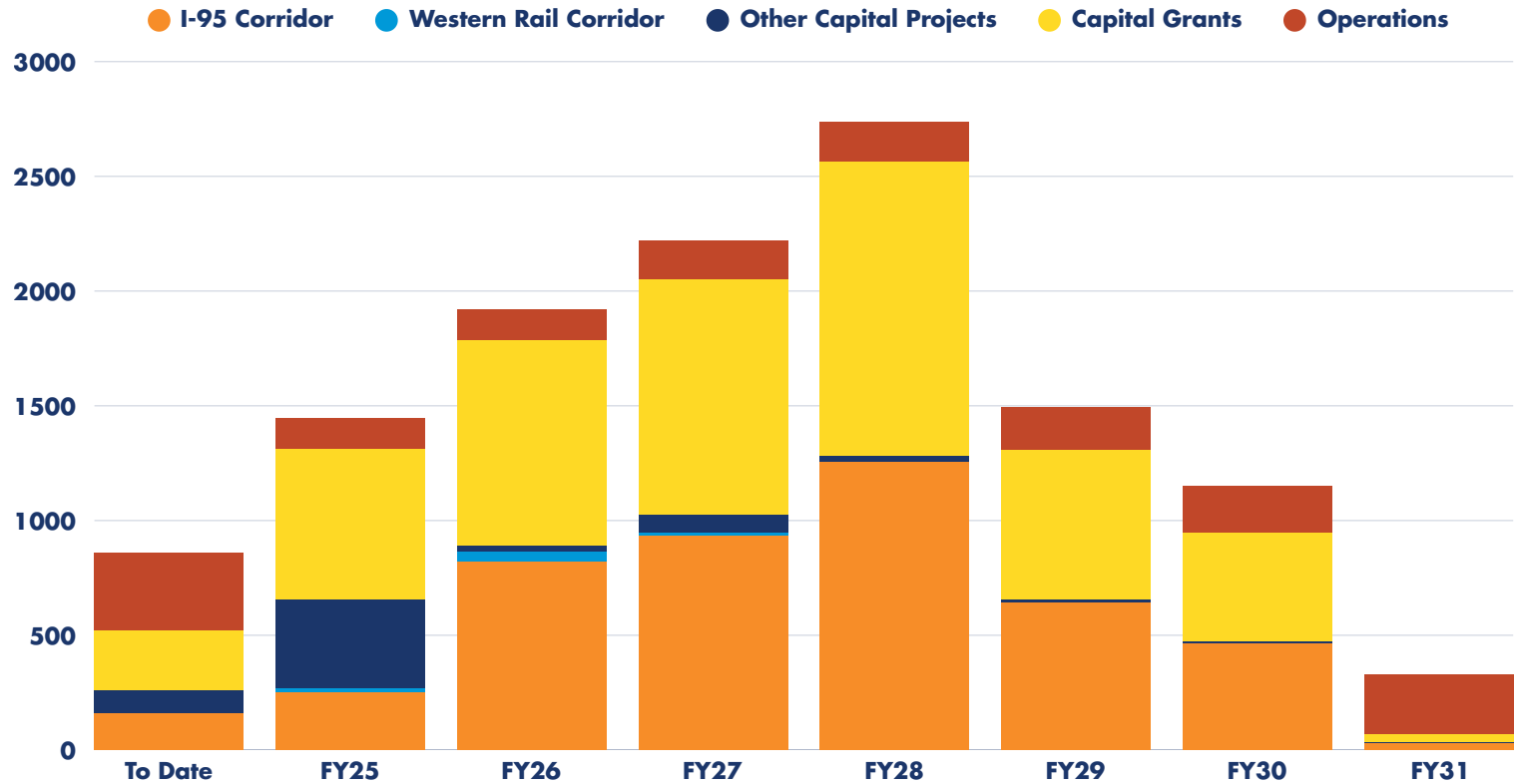
**Promote Innovation  
and Excellence**

# FY2025 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## FUNDING



## EXPENDITURES







# ECONOMIC IMPACT

This year, VPRA partnered with the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia to study the economic impact of our Transforming Rail in Virginia (TRV) initiative. According to the study, TRV will:



lead to the creation  
of 33,688 jobs



generate \$2.6 billion  
in labor income



with \$4 billion in  
value-added



and \$6.7 billion in statewide  
economic output

The study took a deep dive into the benefits of expanding passenger rail service in the Commonwealth and how the state's investment in this transportation alternative will provide not only an economic boost to the state but will make generational changes in the way Virginians travel. Read the full study [here](#).



Rendering: Long Bridge Project



Rendering: Franconia-Springfield Bypass





# AMTRAK VIRGINIA RIDERSHIP

VPRA's state-supported Amtrak Virginia service set a record for ridership during the state fiscal year 2025, with 1.451 million passengers, and ridership increases occurred along all four corridors. This achievement was the highest ridership mark since the Commonwealth launched state-supported service in 2009.



The 2025 figure surpassed the previous record set in fiscal year 2024 by 4.8%.

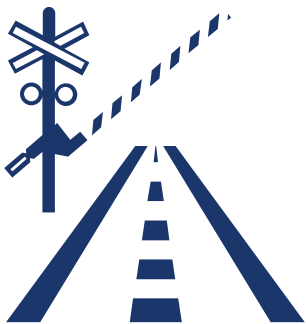
Richmond's Staples Mill Station continues to be Amtrak's busiest in the Southeast.



“Whether you are traveling on board one of our trains or crossing a railroad track, it is important to remember that if you see a track, you should expect a train.”

**DJ STADTLER**

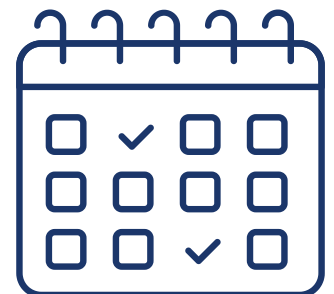
Executive Director



Over 2,240 highway-rail grade crossing collisions occurred in the United States in 2024, resulting in 260 fatalities and 745 injuries.



VPRA promoted Rail Safety Month by distributing toolkits with safety posters to 35 Virginia schools located near railroad crossings.



Outreach events were held at stations across Virginia, and the Children's Museum of Richmond.





# PARTNERSHIPS

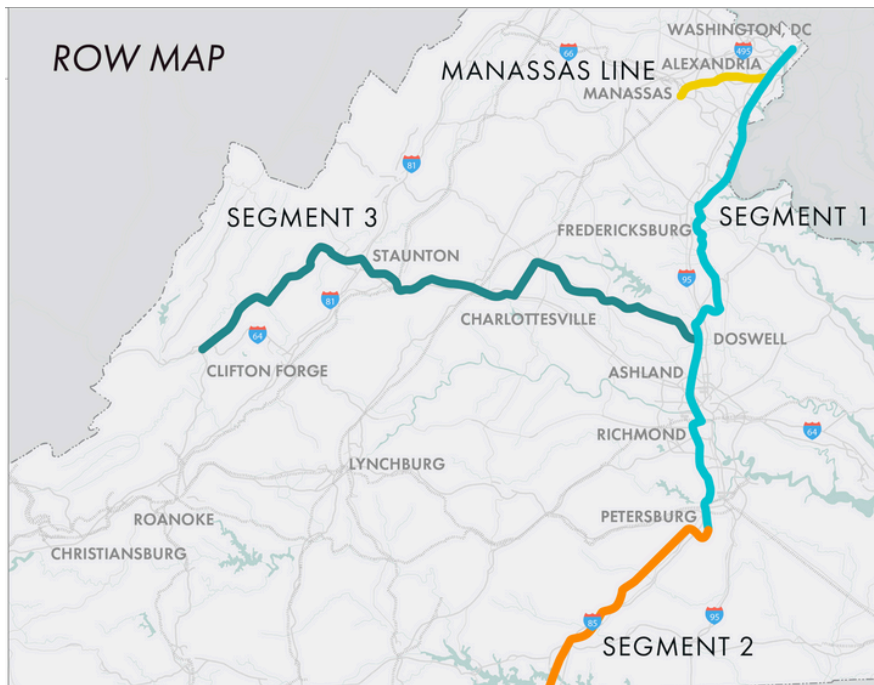
## NEW RIVER VALLEY PROJECT AND MANASSAS LINE

Last fall, VPRA signed a new agreement with railroad partner **Norfolk Southern** that vastly improved the Authority's plans to expand passenger rail in the Commonwealth. Through this new agreement, VPRA purchased the Manassas Line and also gained access to the railroad's Main Line. The purchase of the Manassas Line will aid VPRA in expanding **Virginia Railway Express (VRE)** service with evening and weekend frequencies.

Combined with the 2021 agreement with CSX, which provides greater options on VRE's Fredericksburg Line, VPRA can now support VRE as it moves from a commuter rail service with limited morning and evening trains during the weekdays to a regional rail service with trains throughout the weekday and into the weekends.

With access to Norfolk Southern's Main Line, the N-Line, Virginians in the New River Valley will have state-supported Amtrak Virginia service much sooner than previously planned and at a lower cost.

By expanding service from Roanoke to Christiansburg on the N-Line, VPRA will use existing infrastructure with a focus on developing a station stop at the Cambria site which previously served the community from 1904 to 1979.



### RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW) AND TRACK ACQUISITION

- **MANASSAS LINE**  
Norfolk Southern ROW and track (27 miles) between Alexandria and Manassas, VA (Broad Run)
- **SEGMENT 1**  
Half of the CSXT ROW between Washington, DC and Petersburg, VA (145 miles) and 44 miles of track
- **SEGMENT 2**  
All of CSXT ROW (abandoned rail line between Petersburg, VA and Ridgeway, NC [75 miles])
- **SEGMENT 3**  
Nearly all of the CSXT ROW between Doswell, VA and Clifton Forge, VA (164 miles) and 179 of track



## Newport News Transportation Center

Through a partnership with Amtrak, the city of Newport News, CSX, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), VPRRA now offers Amtrak Virginia service to a brand-new facility in Newport News. This multimodal center serves two daily Amtrak Virginia roundtrips.

Completed August 2024

## QUANTICO STATION AND ARKENDALE THIRD TRACK

Passengers traveling to and from the station at Quantico are now enjoying a \$27.5 million upgrade made possible through a partnership between **VRE** and VPRRA. The Quantico project was designed to improve safety, service, and rail capacity on VPRRA's Amtrak Virginia state-supported service and VRE. The project included construction of a pedestrian bridge, which replaced an at-grade crossing; center platform; and extension of an existing platform.



Completed July 2024

The Quantico station improvements were part of a larger VPRRA project, funded by the **U.S. Department of Transportation** and the **Commonwealth of Virginia**, and constructed by **CSX**. This project added 9.2 miles of a third mainline track between control points Arkendale and North Possum Point. The addition of this third track will improve on time performance for Amtrak and VRE trains.

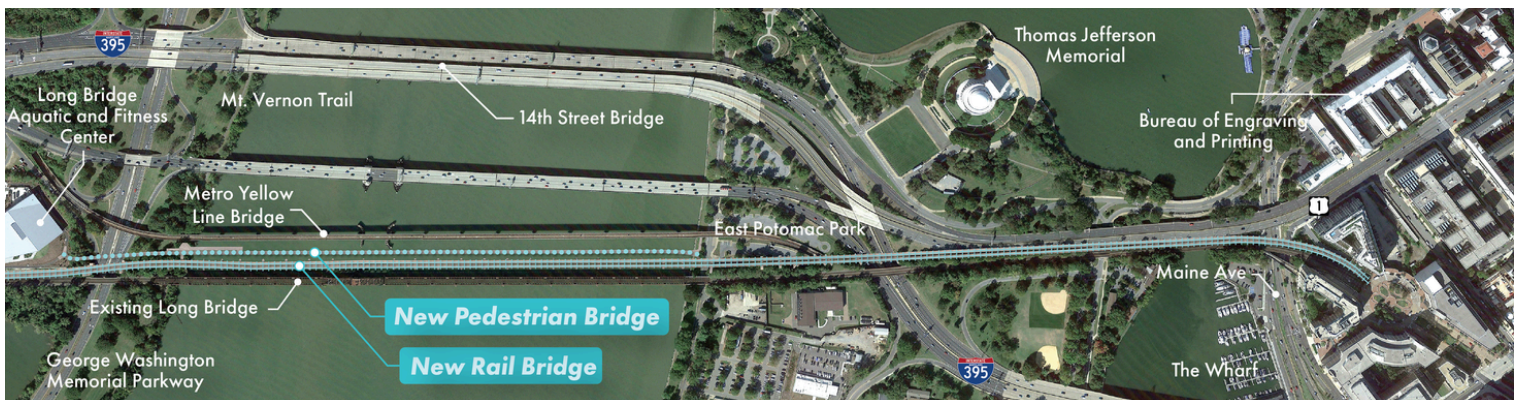




# BREAKING NEW GROUND

Last fall, VPRA hosted a groundbreaking for the **Long Bridge Project**, a \$2.3 billion infrastructure improvement which will provide increased capacity for passenger rail over the Potomac River.

The project is a 1.8-mile rail improvement that will relieve one of the biggest rail bottlenecks on the East Coast. The project will create a continuous four-track corridor between the Long Bridge Aquatic Center in Arlington and L'Enfant Plaza in D.C. It includes five new rail bridges and two new pedestrian and bicycle bridges. A new two-track rail bridge will be built over the Potomac River next to the existing Long Bridge, along with a new bike and pedestrian bridge connecting Long Bridge Park in Arlington to East and West Potomac Parks in D.C.







In 2025, the VPRA team was joined by Governor Glenn Youngkin and other officials as they broke ground on the highly anticipated **New River Valley Project** in Christiansburg. The New River Valley Project will provide Amtrak Virginia service from Roanoke to Christiansburg and return passenger rail service to the New River Valley for the first time since 1979.



The project includes a new station platform with canopy, a parking lot and access roads, track improvements and an updated signaling system, as well as an Amtrak layover facility in nearby Radford. Service to Christiansburg is expected to begin in 2027 with two roundtrips.





# CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

At VPRA, we recognize that the work we do every day impacts our local communities. Whether it is educating schoolchildren on the importance of rail safety or sharing details of a project that will change a commuting route, outreach in our communities is a top priority.



VPRA advanced community engagement for the Transforming Rail in Virginia initiative by reaching nearly 1,000 individuals through in-person local events, Community Advisory Groups, and project-related community outreach.





# COMMUNICATING IMPACTS

To help navigate the increase in project construction, VPRa introduced the Construction Disruption Map in 2025. This user-friendly, interactive tool offers a single source for real-time information on travel impacts like road and waterway closures, detours, and delays. It also ensures that the public, including pedestrians and cyclists, have up-to-the-minute information on changes to their routes.



View Live Map



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Know Before You Go



Sign Up For Traffic Advisories



[vapassengerrailauthority.org/disruptions](https://vapassengerrailauthority.org/disruptions)

# CONNECT WITH US

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

 [contactus@vpra.virginia.gov](mailto:contactus@vpra.virginia.gov)

 VAPassengerRail

 Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

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The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority is an independent authority created by the Virginia General Assembly in 2020 to promote, sustain, and increase the availability of passenger and commuter rail service in the Commonwealth. We are changing the future of rail transportation in Virginia by expanding high-quality, modern passenger rail service across the Commonwealth, making it more frequent, reliable, and convenient.

