



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Department of Rail and Public Transportation**

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**DRPT and FRA to Host Public Information Meetings to Discuss the Alternatives Development Process for the Washington, D.C. to Richmond Southeast High Speed Rail Project**

*Public meetings June 1, 2, and 3, 2015*

**RICHMOND**—The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), in cooperation with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), has scheduled public information meetings to present the Purpose and Need Statement, as well as discuss the alternatives development process and the resulting preliminary rail alignment options for faster, more reliable connections for intercity passenger rail service between Washington, D.C. and Richmond, VA. With the public’s input, the preliminary rail alignment options will be further developed and evaluated in greater detail in subsequent phases of the study.

The Washington, D.C. to Richmond Southeast High Speed Rail (DC2RVA) project includes preparation of a Tier II Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the 123-mile rail corridor that goes through the cities and counties along the I-95 corridor between Arlington, VA, and Chesterfield, VA. In addition to the EIS, the project also includes a service development plan and preliminary engineering.

The public is invited to attend any of three public meetings. The meetings will offer citizens an opportunity to learn details of the project, review information from previous studies, have discussions with the project team, and provide feedback. Additionally, an online meeting will be available June 1 through June 23 to present the same project-related material as the in-person meetings.

**Public Information Meeting Dates, Times and Locations**

*No formal presentation will be given.*

<b>Alexandria</b>	<b>Fredericksburg</b>	<b>Richmond</b>
Monday, June 1, 2015	Tuesday, June 2, 2015	Wednesday, June 3, 2015
5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Hilton Alexandria Old Town 1767 King Street Alexandria, VA	Dorothy Hart Community Center 408 Canal Street Fredericksburg, VA	Department of Motor Vehicles 2300 W. Broad Street Richmond, VA
Transit info: <a href="http://www.wmata.com">www.wmata.com</a> <a href="http://www.dashbus.com">www.dashbus.com</a>	Transit info: <a href="http://www.ridefred.com">www.ridefred.com</a>	Transit info: <a href="http://www.ridegrtc.com">www.ridegrtc.com</a>

The public is encouraged to review materials at the meetings or online and provide comments by Tuesday, June 23, 2015, in order to be incorporated into the alternatives development process. Comments may be submitted using the interactive comment form on the project website, leaving an oral comment on the project hotline (888-832-0900), or by mailing comments to: Emily Stock, Manager of Rail Planning, DC2RVA Project Office, 801 East Main Street, Suite 1000, Richmond, VA 23219.

Public meeting locations are accessible to persons with disabilities. DRPT strives to provide reasonable accommodations and services for persons who require assistance to participate. For special assistance, citizens should call the Title VI Compliance Officer, 804-786-4440 or TDD 711 at least 72 hours in advance of each meeting. *Si usted necesita servicios de traducción a participar, por favor manda un email: [espanol@DC2RVArail.com](mailto:espanol@DC2RVArail.com). También puede llamar a la línea directa del proyecto a dejar comentarios: 888-832-0900.*

**Project website:** [www.DC2RVArail.com](http://www.DC2RVArail.com)

**Toll-free project hotline:** 888-832-0900 or TDD 711

**Facebook:** DC2RVArail

**Twitter:** @DC2RVArail

### **Background**

DRPT and FRA are preparing the Washington, D.C. to Richmond Southeast High Speed Rail Tier II Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as the next step toward introducing higher speed rail to the Commonwealth. The DC2RVA project will include specific rail infrastructure improvements and service upgrades intended to improve the travel time, service frequency, and on-time performance of passenger trains operating between Washington, D.C. and Richmond, VA. Specific improvements to the existing rail infrastructure between Arlington, VA, and Centralia, VA, include:

- Corridor-wide upgrades to existing track and signal systems to achieve higher operating speeds, including curve realignments, higher-speed crossovers between tracks, passing sidings and grade crossing improvements.
- Corridor-wide improvements to train operating capacity to achieve higher passenger train service frequency and reliability, including an additional main track along most of the corridor, and additional controlled sidings, crossovers, yard bypasses and leads, and other capacity and reliability improvements at certain locations.
- Station and platform improvements for Amtrak and Virginia Railway Express (VRE) stations.

Environmental studies (a Tier II Environmental Impact Statement) in support of the project will assess the environmental impacts of these improvements and identify ways to avoid, minimize, or otherwise mitigate such impacts.

The DC2RVA project may include locations for new or replacement intercity passenger rail stations on the project corridor, and additional rail capacity and other improvements in the Richmond area, including on the CSXT Peninsula Subdivision from AM Junction in Richmond, VA (just north of Main Street Station) east to Beulah Road in Henrico County, and on the Buckingham Branch Railroad from Doswell, VA south to AM Junction.

Studies in support of the project will address passenger and freight rail operations and service between Union Station in Washington, D.C. and Richmond and beyond, but the project does not include physical improvements to the Long Bridge across the Potomac River or to rail infrastructure within Washington, D.C. Other projects will address improvements to the rail infrastructure north of Arlington and south of Centralia along the Southeast High Speed Rail corridor.

### **About the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation**

*DRPT's mission is to improve the mobility of people and goods while expanding transportation choices in the Commonwealth through rail, public transportation, and commuter services.*

*DRPT is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For additional information on DRPT's nondiscrimination policies and procedures or to file a complaint, please visit the website at [www.drpt.virginia.gov](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov), or contact the Title VI Compliance Officer, Linda Balderson, 804-786-4440 or TDD 711, 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219.*

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