



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DC2RVA High Speed Rail Study Draft EIS Document Released for Public Comment

~ Public Encouraged to Provide Input Over the Next 60 Days ~

RICHMOND – The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation ([DRPT](#)) and the Federal Railroad Administration ([FRA](#)) have published the Tier II Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Southeast High Speed Rail Washington, D.C. to Richmond, Virginia.

The Draft EIS is available on the project website at: <http://www.dc2rvarail.com/draft>. The executive summary and a USB card with the entire document are available at local libraries and planning district commissions along the rail corridor, and the DRPT Richmond office. Public comments will be accepted until **November 7, 2017**.

The purpose of the DC2RVA Project is to increase capacity to deliver higher speed passenger rail, expand commuter rail, and accommodate growth of freight rail in an efficient and reliable multimodal rail corridor.

DRPT and FRA are evaluating options for rail capacity improvements that will improve reliability, expand passenger rail service, and provide a competitive travel option between Washington, D.C. and Richmond, Virginia. The Draft EIS provides an overview and comparison of the alternatives under consideration, including recommendations for a preferred alternative in each corridor segment.

DRPT recommended improvements include:

- An additional track in northern Virginia, including additional rail bridges over major waterways such as the Occoquan River, Powells Creek, Aquia Creek, and Potomac Creek;
- A third track through downtown Fredericksburg, with a new rail bridge across the Rappahannock River;
- A third track from Fredericksburg extending south to Ashland;
- Improvements to provide full passenger service at both Main Street and Staples Mill Road stations via the S-line, including an additional rail bridge across the James River.

At this time, the [Town of Ashland/Hanover County Area Community Advisory Committee](#) is working toward consensus on a recommendation for inclusion in the Final EIS. The Draft EIS has not identified a preferred alternative for the Ashland area.

There are several options for providing public comments:

- Anyone wishing to speak may sign up at the hearing. Verbal comments are limited to three minutes per person, and groups are requested to provide comments through one spokesperson whenever possible.
- Provide written public comments at a public hearing.
- Provide written comments at any time during the public comment period using the online comment form at <http://dc2rvarail.com/contact-us/> or send via email to info@DC2RVArail.com.
- Provide verbal comments privately to the court reporter at a public hearing, or by calling the toll-free hotline: 888-832-0900.
- Mail written comments at any time during the public comment period to: Emily Stock, Manager of Rail Planning, DRPT, 600 E. Main St, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219.

Public hearings are being planned for the 60-day comment period. Exact times and locations are to be determined. Public hearings are expected to be held on weekday evenings in mid-October in Northern Virginia area, the Fredericksburg area, the Ashland area, and Richmond area. These hearings will offer an opportunity to discuss the Project with the team and provide verbal and/or written comments for the record. For information on the public hearing schedule, please visit the Project website in the coming days.

Additional information:

Hearing 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, call the Title VI Compliance Officer at (804)786-6794 or TDD 711 at least 72 hours prior to the public hearing.

More information on the DC2RVA Tier II EIS project for members of the press is available on the website at: <http://dc2rvarail.com/newsroom/media-kit/>.

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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 contact the Title VI Compliance Officer, Mike Mucha at (804) 786-6794, TDD 711, or 600 E. Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219.

En Español? Si necesita servicios de traducción para participar, por favor envíe un correo electrónico a: español@DC2RVArail.com. También puede llamar a la línea directa del proyecto para dejar comentarios: 888-832-0900.