



Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Positive Train Control Update

CTB Rail Committee

March 20, 2019

Rail Safety Regulatory Authority



- Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has nationwide regulatory and inspection responsibilities of all railroads.
 - This includes PTC compliance for freights, Amtrak, and VRE in Virginia.
- FRA safety oversight focuses on compliance and enforcement in:
 - Hazardous Material
 - Motive Power and Equipment
 - Operating Practices
 - Signal and Train Control
 - Track
- Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) has inspectors to supplement FRA inspectors and enforce federal safety regulations for Virginia's railroads.
- VDOT manages federal fund for FHWA rail/roadway crossing
 - Railroads maintain crossing infrastructure

Positive Train Control (PTC)

- PTC is mandated by Congress in order to prevent:
 - Train-to-train collisions
 - Derailments caused by excessive speed
 - Unauthorized movement onto track where maintenance is occurring
 - Movement of a train through a track switch left in the wrong position
- Required where passenger service and/or hazmat trains exist
- PTC equipment must be installed on locomotives and signals, and the two must integrate regardless of the Operator
 - i.e. In Virginia, Amtrak/VRE locomotive equipment must be compatible with CSX/NS/NEC wayside equipment.
- Employees must be trained to operate, maintain, and repair the system.
- Federal deadline for implementation was extended from December 2015 to December 2018, with extension to 2020 to “turn it on.”



Positive Train Control (PTC) Progress

| Railroad (System-wide, including beyond Virginia) | Total Hardware Installed (On-board & Wayside Hardware) | Employees Trained |
|--|---|-------------------|
| Virginia Railway Express | 100% | 100% |
| Amtrak | 100% | 100% |
| CSX | 100% | 100% |
| Norfolk Southern Railway | 100% | 100% |

- VRE: Roll-out; full PTC operations in 2019 anticipated.
- Amtrak: All Virginia and Long Distance trains (except Auto Train) under full PTC operation.
- CSX: Revenue service in Virginia
- NS: Wayside/locomotive equipment installed; Training complete; met FRA requirements for alternative schedule;
- Buckingham Branch: federal exemption; Amtrak offering to install and maintain PTC.
- FRA Dashboard: <https://www.fra.dot.gov/app/ptc>



Questions?

Thank you

