



Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

CTB Rail Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Hotel Roanoke
110 Shenandoah Ave, Roanoke, VA
May 16, 2017

Meeting began at 8:00 am.

CTB Rail Subcommittee Members Present: Jennifer Mitchell, Scott Kasprovicz, Shannon Valentine, Mary Hughes-Hynes, and Court Rosen

1. Rail Plane Update-Mike Todd opened and led a presentation to update the subcommittee on the status of the 2017 Virginia Statewide Rail Plan. The presentation included an open discussion regarding overview messaging in the Plan about the public benefits of passenger and freight rail investment in Virginia. Discussions on suggestions for the plan included highlighting the safety benefits, health benefits, transportation cost savings, and the economic growth and development benefit of the state rail system. Specific examples of the rail network's benefits include:

Further discussion on the presentation ensued and the following comments were made:

- a. Shannon Valentine and Court Rosen suggested that the rail industry has a multiplier effect and we should consider including statistics to represent all industries that supports rail.
 - b. Scott Kasprovicz noted that the absence of rail as a transportation option is a meaningful loss. Further discussion included the impact of the loss of rail on the highway, as well as a cost comparisons needed for making a decision to invest in rail versus roadway network. Specific suggestions included:
 - i. Comparing I-66 project to Atlantic Gateway, both in similar stages
 - ii. Understanding the inability to offset the costs of highway maintenance caused by truck traffic
 - iii. Benefit of tax value of rail
2. Rail SYIP Program Recommendations- Pete Burrus provided an update on the Rail elements of the Draft 2018-2023 Six Year Improvement Plan (SYIP). This presentation was also given at the full CTB meeting. Jennifer Mitchell closed by noting that the CTB may consider future decisions on whether or not to transfer REF funds to the rail preservation program. Virginia code allows up to a 20% transfer between funds annually.

3. Public Comment-No one was signed up for public comment.
4. The Meeting adjourned at 9:00 am.