

Vision

Virginia's vision for rail transportation is that it will be *Good for Business, Good for Communities, and Good to Go*. Virginians will benefit from a sustainable, reliable transportation system that advances Virginia businesses, attracts a 21st century workforce, and promotes healthy communities where Virginians of all ages and abilities can thrive.

The mission of DRPT is to facilitate and improve the mobility of the citizens of Virginia and to promote the efficient transport of goods and people in a safe, reliable and cost-effective manner.

Goals

Optimize Return on Investments

Implement the right solution at the right price.

Objectives

- Target investment where traffic, employment, population, and/or demand is expected to grow.
- Determine on a corridor basis when rail is the most efficient mode to move people and goods.
- Target growing markets and make efficient use of the Rail Industrial Access Program funds
- Leverage public private partnerships by prioritizing projects with matching funds
- Support existing passenger services
 - Enhance reliability for existing services
 - Work with Amtrak to set appropriate timetables
 - Work with railroads to identify improvements to enhance network fluidity
 - Prioritize improvements to existing service corridors over service expansion capital projects
- Prioritize capacity investments to meet the needs of public and private sectors by sharing data and future priorities to ensure compatibility.

Ensure Safety, Security and Resiliency

Support a safe shortline transportation system.

Objectives

- Expand programs that support shortlines in maintaining FRA Class 2 track safety standards
- Prioritize large infrastructure rehabilitation projects
- Support State of Good Repair projects

Efficiently Deliver Programs

Deliver high-quality projects and programs in a cost-effective and timely manner.

Objectives

- Update grant guidance annually and develop a grantee workshop to review program guidance and procedural updates.
- Update DRPT grant management system to ensure an efficient administrative process and project implementation.



- Work with legislators and appointed officials to ensure policies are up-to-date and understood.
- Proactively identify projects and programs to support the DRPT mission.

Consider Operational Improvements and Demand Management First

Maximize capacity of the transportation network through increased use of technology and operational improvements before investing in major capacity expansions.

Objectives

- Encourage use of Intelligent Transportation Systems to improve operational efficiency
- Evaluate operations when considering investment in capacity to ensure the investment yields a lasting benefit

Ensure Transparency and Accountability, and Promote Performance Management

Work openly with partners and engage stakeholders in project development and implementation, and establish performance targets that consider the needs of all communities.

Objectives

- Publicize application evaluation and project data
- Develop station stop policy
- Develop program scorecards
- Market economic impact of rail investment

Improve Coordination Between Transportation and Land Use

Encourage local governments to plan and manage transportation-efficient land development by providing incentives, technical support, and collaborative initiatives.

Objectives

- Encourage local governments to embrace/support state spending with compatible investments and zoning
 - Educate localities on appropriate land uses along freight railroads
 - Educate localities on appropriate land uses around passenger stations
- Encourage local governments to support rail services with multimodal last mile connections
- Integrate with, and expand upon other state, regional, and local planning efforts

Ensure Efficient Intermodal Connections

Provide seamless connections between modes of transportation.

Objectives

- Support last mile State of Good Repair and capacity with shortlines; including upgrades to 286k rail for seamless interaction with Class I rail lines.
- Drive rail's ability to support Port growth in rail mode share with strategic investments
- Prioritize rail projects that benefit the highway system and improve mode choice

