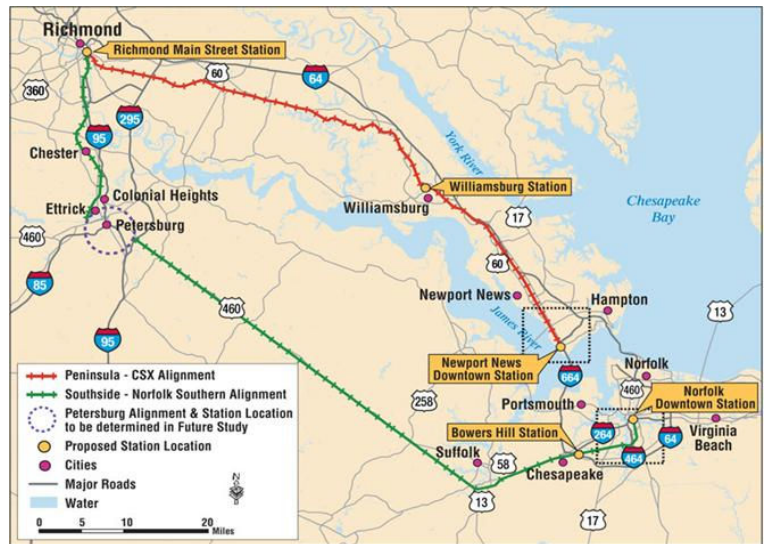




Richmond to Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Study Tier 1 EIS

VHSR's Position:

Virginians for High Speed Rail supports enhanced intercity passenger rail service (89mph and 90 percent reliability) along the Peninsula and classifying the Petersburg to Norfolk rail corridor as Regional High-Speed Rail corridor (110mph and 90 percent reliability). Both can be done incrementally with the first steps being the extension of passenger rail to Norfolk, and improving the on-time performance and reliability of the current passenger rail service to Williamsburg and Newport News.



Talking Points:

- The study is the first step in a federally mandated process and must proceed for the timely expansion of high-speed rail to Hampton Roads
- An alternative must be chosen from the list, and VHSR is supporting Alternative 1 with the change of speeds up to 89 mph on the Peninsula with improved performance
 - Both sides can be improved simultaneously and incrementally
- Connecting Hampton Roads is very important for the continued economic success of the region
 - Estimated to create or sustain 30,000 jobs
 - Estimated to create \$3 billion in economic development
- When high-speed rail connects Washington-Richmond-Hampton Roads, 3 in 5 Virginians will have access to fast, frequent, and reliable passenger rail service
- Concerns about the study:
 - Potential for a layover in Washington, DC:
 - Could impact ridership and operating projections by up-to 50%
 - Need single seat service from Hampton Roads/ Richmond to destinations on Northeast Corridor
 - Richmond/Hampton Roads needs to be the Southernmost initiation and termination points for the Northeast Corridor
 - Ridership projections: Ridership is based on FY 2007 numbers
 - Ridership between FY 2007 and FY 2009 grew 20.72%
 - Depressed ridership projections impact the economic feasibility of this study

Public Hearing Dates

Tuesday, January 26
 from 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
 Dept of Motor Vehicles
 2300 W. Broad Street,
 1st Floor
 Richmond, VA

Wednesday, January 27
 from 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
 City Center Conference Facilities,
 James and Warwick Rooms
 700 Town Center Drive
 Newport News, VA

Thursday, January 28
 from 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
 Half Moone Cruise and
 Celebration Center
 One Waterside Drive
 Norfolk, VA 23510

Mail written comments at any time before Feb 11, 2010 to:

Public Information Office, DRPT, 600 E. Main St, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219