

6 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY COORDINATION



6

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY COORDINATION

This chapter presents the public involvement and agency coordination activities for the Washington, D.C. to Richmond Southeast High Speed Rail (DC2RVA) Tier II Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) employed many forms of outreach to engage diverse audiences, inform them of the Draft EIS, and offer a variety of ways to contribute their input. Coordination began early and continued throughout the development and publication of the Draft EIS. The first major public involvement and agency outreach event was the Project scoping, which occurred in fall 2014. The Scoping Summary Report in Appendix V contains more information on the scoping outreach process and input received during the Project scoping. The public involvement and agency coordination efforts that followed the initial scoping activities are described in detail in the following sections.

6.1 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Based on the geographic extent of the Project, DRPT implemented an extensive public involvement process to keep the public informed with the latest Project information and to provide the public with opportunities to ask questions, comment, and inform the Draft EIS. The Scoping Summary Report in Appendix V includes examples of the public outreach materials distributed during the Project.

The public involvement was based on several key Project milestones, including:

- Scoping
- Alternatives Development
- Alternatives Review
- Draft EIS

6.1.1 Project Launch

On October 6, 2014, 30 days in advance of the first public scoping meeting, DRPT initiated the Project's public outreach to alert the public, agencies, and media of the Project's inception. Public outreach announcements for the launch were developed in addition to public outreach announcements for Scoping. This section describes the Project launch outreach. Project Scoping outreach and education efforts included more print and electronic outreach to diverse groups and is described in the sections that follow.

An initial group of web "splash" pages, launched on October 6, 2014, announced the kick-off of the Project, promoted the website as a way to stay informed about the Project, offered a brief

description of the Project, provided a way to join the mailing list, encouraged visitors to take a brief initial survey, and provided details of the upcoming public scoping meetings.

DRPT developed an electronic survey to obtain initial information from respondents, including sources of their news and information, most convenient times for public meetings, their current usage of rail, and how they perceive the benefits of rail. Demographic information was also collected as part of the survey. The survey was available via a link on the Project website splash page from October 6 to October 20, 2014.

Social media accounts were established and became live for posting on October 6, 2014 to coincide with the Project's public outreach launch.

A database for the Project was compiled at the initiation of the study to track landowner and stakeholder contacts, comments, and meetings. DRPT distributed an email message on October 6, 2014 to 983 contacts in the Project database – including Title VI advocacy groups, ethnic groups, social service groups, and community groups – to announce the Project kick-off, to promote the Project website, and to direct the recipients to the Project splash page.

DRPT also distributed an initial press release to key local and regional print and electronic media – including a Spanish version to limited English proficiency media outlets – to announce the Project kick-off and to begin to familiarize the public and the media with the study process. The releases yielded 20 known news stories that ran in print and broadcast media informing the public of the Project kick off. DRPT shared emails and press releases with regional public information officers, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), and social service/Title VI advocacy groups requesting they share the information with their groups.

In addition to electronic media and the press releases, a Project brochure was produced and distributed to regional libraries, faith groups, transportation agencies, chambers of commerce, and elected officials encouraging them to share this important information with their communities and customers.

All materials from these meetings, as well as the Scoping Summary Report, were posted on the Project website. The report summarized the scoping process, meetings, Project launch, and input received from the public and agencies during the scoping period (Appendix V).

The Project launch included formal publication by FRA of a Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Project in the *Federal Register* on October 23, 2014.

6.1.2 Newspaper and Online Advertising

DRPT placed multiple advertisements in local and regional newspapers and specialty newspapers along the Project corridor prior to each round of public meetings as indicated in Table 6.1-1. Ads placed in Hispanic newspapers were translated to Spanish. Electronic, interactive ads were placed in conjunction with the print ads on the Free-Lance Star and Richmond Times Dispatch websites and also through the Washington Post Digital advertising to reach people through news sites and other partner websites in the Project area.

Table 6.1-1: Newspaper Advertising

Phase	Region	Newspaper	Date
Scoping	Northern Virginia	Virginia Press Association (31 newspapers with approximately 300,000 circulation)	10/26/2014
Scoping	Richmond and Fredericksburg	Nuevas Raices (Hispanic)	10/28/2014
Scoping	Richmond	Richmond Times Dispatch	10/28/2014
Scoping	Northern Virginia/ Washington, D.C.	Washington Post Express (Commuter Edition)	10/28/2014
Scoping	Richmond	Richmond Free Press (African American)	10/30/2014
Scoping	Northern Virginia/ Washington, D.C.	El Tiempo (Hispanic)	10/31/2014
Scoping	Fredericksburg	Free Lance-Star	10/31/2014
Scoping	Richmond	Richmond Times Dispatch	11/3/2014
Scoping	Fredericksburg	Free Lance-Star	11/7/2014
Alternatives Development	Northern Virginia	Virginia Press Association	5/31/15 - 6/6/15
Alternatives Development	Fredericksburg	Free Lance-Star	5/22/2015
Alternatives Development	Fredericksburg	Free Lance-Star—online	5/22/2015
Alternatives Development	Richmond and Fredericksburg	Nuevas Raices	5/26/2015
Alternatives Development	Richmond	Richmond Times Dispatch	5/26/2015
Alternatives Development	Richmond	Richmond Times Dispatch—online	5/26/2015
Alternatives Development	Northern Virginia/ Washington, D.C.	Washington Post Express	5/26/2015
Alternatives Development	Richmond	Richmond Free Press	5/28/2015
Alternatives Development	Northern Virginia/ Washington, D.C.	El Tiempo	5/29/2015
Alternatives Development	Fredericksburg	Free Lance-Star	5/29/2015
Alternatives Development	Fredericksburg	Free Lance-Star—online	5/29/2015
Alternatives Development	Richmond	Richmond Times Dispatch	5/31/2015
Alternatives Development	Richmond	Richmond Times Dispatch—online	5/31/2015
Alternatives Review	Fredericksburg	Free Lance-Star	11/23/2015
Alternatives Review	Fredericksburg	Free Lance-Star—online	11/23/2015
Alternatives Review	Richmond	Richmond Times Dispatch	11/23/2015
Alternatives Review	Richmond	Richmond Times Dispatch—online	11/23/2015

▶ Continued.

Table 6.1-1: Newspaper Advertising

Phase	Region	Newspaper	Date
Alternatives Review	Northern Virginia/ Washington, D.C.	El Tiempo	11/27/2015
Alternatives Review	Northern Virginia/ Washington, D.C.	Washington Post Express	11/30/2015
Alternatives Review	Richmond and Fredericksburg	Nuevas Raices	12/1/2015
Alternatives Review	Richmond	Richmond Free Press	12/3/2015
Alternatives Review	Fredericksburg	Free Lance-Star	12/6/2015
Alternatives Review	Fredericksburg	Free Lance-Star—online	12/6/2015
Alternatives Review	Richmond	Richmond Times Dispatch	12/6/2015
Alternatives Review	Richmond	Richmond Times Dispatch—online	12/6/2015
Alternatives Review	Northern Virginia/ Washington, D.C.	Washington Post Express	12/7/2015
Alternatives Review	Northern Virginia/ Washington, D.C.	Virginia Press Association	11/29/15–12/5/15
Alternatives Review	Northern Virginia/ Washington, D.C.	Washington Post Digital/Web-based	11/20/15–12/10/15

6.1.3 Targeted Title VI outreach

At the beginning of the Project, DRPT researched Title VI audiences to identify groups for targeted Title VI outreach over the course of the Project. These groups included human service organization and faith leaders, Hispanic organizations, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), transit organizations, public information officers, librarians, and social service organizations. In addition, DRPT contacted all MPOs within the 123-mile corridor to augment the Project information distribution process through their own Title VI outreach lists and committees. DRPT also notified elected officials and provided them with Project information to share with their constituents. As the Project advanced, the Title VI list was further enhanced to incorporate information gathered on Environmental Justice areas as the alternatives were refined. Email notifications to Title VI groups and organizations were sent, and outreach materials were distributed at transit agencies, community centers, libraries, and Hispanic and faith-based organizations in areas with higher populations of low income residents and areas with higher populations with limited English proficiency (LEP).

6.1.4 Scoping

In November 2014, DRPT conducted Project scoping activities pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)'s regulations implementing the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* (NEPA). CEQ regulations direct federal agencies that have made a decision to prepare an EIS to engage in a public scoping process. The purpose of this process is to provide an early and open forum for identifying public concerns and clearly defining the environmental issues and alternatives to be examined in the EIS.

DRPT and FRA held public scoping meetings for the Project on November 5, 6, 12, and 13, 2014 (Table 6.1-2). Open house style meetings were held from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m., with a formal presentation given by a DRPT staff member using PowerPoint slides as visuals at 6:00 p.m. The public was invited to ask questions and receive responses from DRPT after the presentation. The PowerPoint meeting presentation was made available on the Project website (see details below).

During the open house portion of the meeting, attendees were invited to review information boards and discuss the Project details with team members. A meeting handout was provided in English and Spanish with details about the Project.

The intent of the scoping meetings was to:

- Introduce the Project
- Explain the study process
- Refine the Project Purpose and Need
- Begin to identify alternatives for consideration through public input

Table 6.1-2 provides the meeting date, location, and number of attendees for each public scoping meeting.

Table 6.1-2: Public Scoping Meetings

Meeting Date	Meeting Type/ Area Targeted	Meeting Location	Meeting Attendance ¹
November 5, 2014 5–7:30 p.m.	Public Scoping Meeting— Ashland/Hanover Co./Richmond	Hanover Arts and Activities Center 500 South Center Street Ashland, VA	58
November 6, 2014 5–7:30 p.m.	Public Scoping Meeting— Richmond/Ashland/Hanover Co.	Department of Motor Vehicles 2300 W. Broad Street Richmond, VA	74
November 12, 2014 5–7:30 p.m.	Public Scoping Meeting— Greater Fredericksburg	National Museum of the Marine Corps – Quantico 18900 Jefferson Davis Highway Triangle, VA	39
November 13, 2014 5–7:30 p.m.	Public Scoping Meeting— Northern Virginia	Westin Crystal City 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway Arlington, VA	66
Self-guided Online Meeting	Online Public Scoping Meeting— Entire Corridor	http://dc2rvarail.com/archive-online-meeting-phase-1/	348

Note: 1. Attendance numbers based on DC2RVA sign-in sheets.

In addition to the Project launch announcements discussed in Section 6.1.1 above, DRPT used the following methods to publicize the public scoping meetings:

- Project website information and details.
- Newspaper and online advertising (English/Spanish), as described in Section 6.1.2.
- Email notifications to the Project contact database, including Title VI advocacy groups. A series of three email messages was sent: one 30 days out, one a week out, and one just before the end of the comment period.
- Press releases and media advisories (English/Spanish).
- One-on-one media pitching to generate news stories.
- Social media messaging.
- Cable channel calendars of events slides.

- Large static display poster at libraries and Virginia Railway Express (VRE).
- Flyers, rack cards, and bookmarks at key locations, including libraries, community centers, faith organizations, social service organizations, ethnic businesses, and transit agencies (English/Spanish).
- Collaboration with county/city public information officers, transportation agencies, and jurisdiction communications managers (English/Spanish).
- Informational webinars for jurisdictional, transportation, and MPO public information officers and chambers of commerce directors.

The public were invited to provide comments about the Project during and after each meeting through various formats. To offer stakeholders—agencies and the general public—ample opportunity to provide scoping input on the DC2RVA Project, comment forms in English and Spanish were made available and collected in several locations. Comments were submitted by:

- Submitting a hardcopy comment form to any Project team member at any of the in-person meetings.
- Mailing the hardcopy comment form to the DRPT main office.
- Submission via the comment form on the website.
- Submission via the online meeting.
- Emailing the Project email address.
- Calling the toll-free Project hotline.

To encourage participation and commenting from LEP communities, additional scoping meeting handouts were distributed to public libraries after the last public scoping meeting and before the end of the comment period.

DRPT received 1,625 scoping comments. The formal comment period lasted 30 days, from October 27, 2014 to December 5, 2014. All comments received were fully considered. DRPT reviewed each comment, categorized them by topic and appropriately grouped them for response, and prepared summary responses that were published in the Scoping Summary Report (Appendix V). Public comments ranged from general support or opposition to very specific remarks on particular locations and resources. They also included several logistical comments and questions related to the scoping meetings and comment process, such as requests for meeting accommodations for sign language, comments on website function, and information requests.

Table 6.1-3 and Figure 6.1-1 provide a summary of comment trends, indicating the number of times a particular topic was mentioned by commenters.

After the meetings, DRPT prepared a Scoping Summary Report that documented public outreach efforts during the scoping period, described the format and content of the public scoping meetings, and summarized comments received from agencies, organizations, and the general public (Appendix V).

Table 6.1-3: Scoping Comments

Topic	Number of Mentions	Topic	Number of Mentions
Alternatives	202	Cultural Resources	11
Pedestrian/Bicycle	184	Wetlands	11
Parks/Recreation/Public Lands	168	Real Estate	10
Land Use	158	General Opposition	9
Traffic/Safety	130	Mobility	9
Stations	108	EIS Process	8
Economics	87	Wild and Scenic Rivers	8
Air Quality	77	Wildlife	7
Service	61	Cumulative Impacts	6
Aesthetics	60	Agency Coordination	5
Parking	56	Threatened and Endangered Species	5
General Support	38	Coastal Zone Impacts	4
Mailing List Request	36	Flooding/Floodplains	4
Operations/Maintenance	28	Social Impacts	4
Cost	24	Sustainability	4
Displacements	21	Rail Technology/Electrification	3
Right-of-Way	21	Soil/Topography	3
Compatibility with Other Projects/Plans	20	Construction	2
Ridership	20	Energy	2
Schedule	19	Environmental Justice	2
Public Involvement	17	Purpose and Need	2
Biological Resources	16	Utilities	2
Information Request	16	ADA Accommodations	1
Noise/Vibration	14	Ownership/Trackage Rights	1
Study Area/Termini	12	Revenue	1
Water Quality/Resources	12	Special Waste	1
Conservation/Mitigation	11	-	-

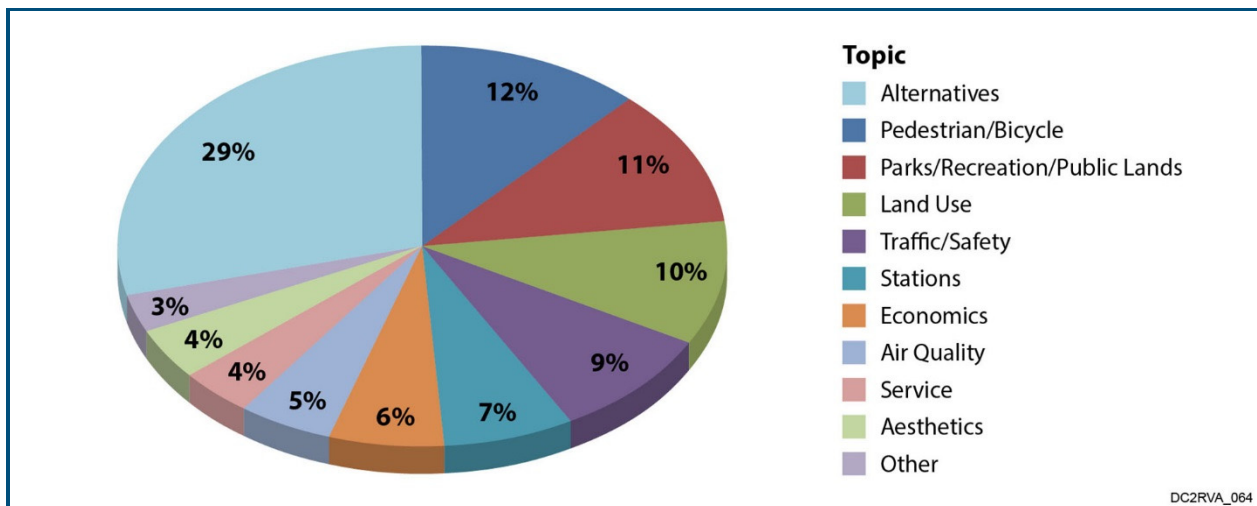


Figure 6.1-1: Top Ten Scoping Comment Topics



6.1.5 Public Meetings

Following the formal public scoping process, DRPT held two additional sets of public information meetings to update the public on the Project's progress at key milestones.

DRPT held Preliminary Alternative Development meetings on June 1, 2, and 3, 2015. The topics covered at this set of meetings included:

- Draft Purpose and Need Statement
- Alternatives development process
- Preliminary rail alignment options

DRPT held another round of public information meetings on December 8, 9, and 10, 2015. The topics covered at these meetings included:

- Review of alternatives
- Preliminary information and methodology for rail operations, modeling, engineering, and environmental analyses

Each round of public meetings included a companion online public meeting Powerpoint presentation available for the duration of the comment period. The online public presentation offered the same display information as an in-person meeting, but allowed users to view the information when it was most convenient for them. All public meeting materials were available on the Project website.

Each set of meetings had an informal open house format. Upon arrival, attendees were asked to sign in and were given a public meeting handout providing background on the study and a comment form (materials were produced in English and Spanish). Meeting attendees were encouraged to provide written comments at the meeting, mail comment forms to DRPT, or comment electronically. A presentation by DRPT and Project team members, followed by a question and answer session, was held at the first and third set of meetings to complement the open house format. Project staff was present at each meeting to answer questions.

Table 6.1-4 provides the meeting date, location, and number of attendees for each set of public information meetings.

Table 6.1-4: Public Information Meetings

Meeting Date	Meeting Type	Meeting Location	Meeting Attendance ¹
June 1, 2015	Public Information Meeting	Hilton Alexandria Old Town 1767 King Street Alexandria, VA	52
June 2, 2015	Public Information Meeting	Dorothy Hart Community Center 408 Canal Street Fredericksburg, VA	37
June 3, 2015	Public Information Meeting	Department of Motor Vehicles 2300 W. Broad Street Richmond, VA	95
Self-guided Online Meeting	Online Public Information Meeting	http://dc2rvarail.com/archive-online-meeting-phase-2/	963
December 8, 2015	Public Information Meeting	Dorothy Hart Community Center 408 Canal Street Fredericksburg, VA	57
December 9, 2015	Public Information Meeting	Hilton Springfield 6550 Loisdale Road Springfield, VA	56
December 10, 2015	Public Information Meeting	Department of Motor Vehicles 2300 W. Broad Street Richmond, VA	98
Self-guided Online Meeting	Online Public Information Meeting	http://dc2rvarail.com/online-meeting/	1,653

Note: 1. Attendance numbers based on DC2RVA sign-in sheets.

The methods of outreach notifications for the public information meetings are summarized below:

- Project website information and details.
- Newspaper and online advertising (English/Spanish), as described in Section 6.1.2.
- Email notifications to the Project contact database, including Title VI advocacy groups. A series of three email messages was sent: one 30 days out, one a week out, and one just before the end of the comment period.
- Property owner letters.
- Postcards to property owners (Alternatives Review meeting only).
- Press releases and media advisories (English/Spanish).
- One-on-one media pitching to generate news stories.

- E-newsletters.
- Social media messaging.
- Cable channel calendars of events slides.
- Large static display poster at libraries and Virginia Railway Express (VRE).
- Flyers, rack cards, and bookmarks at key locations, including libraries, community centers, faith organizations, social service organizations, ethnic businesses, and transit agencies (English/Spanish).
- Collaboration with county/city public information officers, transportation agencies, and jurisdiction communications managers (English/Spanish).
- Informational webinars for jurisdictional, transportation, and MPO public information officers and chambers of commerce directors.

DRPT translated all broad outreach media—such as meeting handouts and comment forms, newspaper ads, flyers, and press releases—to Spanish. Any remaining handouts, including the Spanish versions, were distributed after each meeting to area libraries areas with higher concentrations of Hispanic populations to encourage their understanding and participation.

Outreach materials included reference to several methods by which people could submit comments and questions regarding the Project. These methods included:

- Submission of comment form at in-person meetings
- Submission via the electronic comment form on the Project website
- Emailing the Project email address, info@dc2rvarail.com
- Calling the toll-free Project hotline (information in English and Spanish)
- Mailing a hardcopy comment form to the Project office

All comments received during these public meetings were reviewed, documented, and included in the Project's administrative record. Comments received during specific comment periods informed decision making tied to the specified milestone. Comments submitted outside of these comment periods informed DRPT's understanding of public sentiment regarding the Project and, in some cases, provided unique information, like property and historic resource details, that helped guide alternatives development efforts. DRPT responded to comments that included information requests (*e.g.*, specific landowner concerns or general Project information questions) by email, unless otherwise requested. DRPT also hosted meetings, made phone calls, and provided information by mail as needed.

By advance request (72 hours), DRPT provided Spanish language translators and Sign Language interpreters onsite for all public meetings. On several occasions, sign language interpreters were requested and provided in Northern Virginia area. Materials were written in English and Spanish at the public information meetings and public hearings, and closed captioning was added to video presentations. All meeting locations were *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA) accessible, and telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD)/teletypewriter (TTY) numbers were included in materials. Meetings were held in transit-accessible locations to the extent possible, and transit information was provided in outreach materials.

6.1.5.1 Public Meetings Hosted by Outside Organizations

In addition to the public meetings hosted by DRPT, the department was asked to present at three public meetings held by outside organizations. These meetings were requested by local jurisdictions, citizens, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to discuss proposed alternatives in their areas. Table 6.1-5 provides the meeting host, date, location, and number of attendees for each set of meetings. During these meetings, DRPT gave a brief Project update presentation and answered questions from the audience. Topics raised during the question and answer sessions included the study process, property impacts, passenger and freight rail service, Project cost, rail within the I-95 corridor, noise and vibration, eliminated alternatives, safety, economics, purpose and need, Project outreach, and train speeds. Comment forms were available at these meetings, collected, reviewed, and logged. Additionally, DRPT collected sign-in sheets and added attendees to the Project notification database. All comments received by participants were logged in the database and noted by issue type.

Table 6.1-5: Outside Organization Hosted Meetings

Meeting Host	Meeting Date	Meeting Location	Meeting Attendance ¹
Virginians for High Speed Rail; Town of Ashland	February 4, 2016 (6:30 – 8:30 p.m.)	Ashland Town Hall 101 Thompson Street Ashland, VA 23005	17
Hanover County	April 4, 2016 (6:30 – 8:30 p.m.)	Patrick Henry High School 12449 W Patrick Henry Road Ashland, VA 23005	402
Spotsylvania County	July 11, 2016 (6:30 – 8:30 p.m.)	Fredericksburg Christian High School 9400 Thornton Rolling Road Fredericksburg, VA 22408	233

Note: 1. Attendance numbers based on DC2RVA sign-in sheets.

6.1.6 Project Contact Mailing List

DRPT created a Project mailing list for stakeholder groups and members of the public who desired to be kept informed of the Project. Requests to be added to the mailing list could be made at any time, including through the Project website and at all public meetings. DRPT delivered Project updates, newsletters, and public meeting invitations to those on the mailing list via email. Table 6.1-6 provides a list of the distributed emails.

In addition to emails, the Project mailing list was used to generate distribution lists for printed and mailed materials for individuals not readily reachable by email. Printed materials in the form of poster displays, flyers, bookmarks, postcards, and meeting handouts were produced and distributed through Title VI advocates – including faith leaders, MPOs, social services, and elected officials – to be shared in libraries, transit authorities, community centers, businesses and faith groups. All flyers, bookmarks, meeting handouts, and emails were also translated to Spanish. The public information officers from the jurisdictions within the Project area were included in the information and materials distribution to further the communication to Title VI, faith, and civic leaders in their areas. DRPT contacted many Title VI leaders directly by phone and/or through in-person meetings early in the effort to begin the formation of a relationship and to include these groups in outreach. These initial communications included the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired, and Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging, among others. Property owners in the study area received postcard (direct mail) announcements of the alternatives review public meetings.

Table 6.1-6: Electronic Notifications and Project Updates

Title of Email	Distribution Date	Number of Recipients
Notification of Project Launch and Available Resources	October 7, 2014	959
Public Scoping Meeting Notification	October 27, 2014	959
Public Scoping Meeting Notification to Hispanic Organizations	October 27, 2014	20
Public Scoping Meeting Reminder	November 3, 2014	956
Scoping Comment Period Reminder to Faith Based Organizations	November 21, 2014	113
Scoping Comment Period Reminder	December 1, 2014	1,417
Alternatives Development Public Meeting Notification	May 4, 2015	2,903
Alternatives Development Public Meeting Notification to Hispanic Organizations	May 20, 2015	32
Alternatives Development Public Meeting Reminder	May 27, 2015	2,875
Alternatives Development Comment Period Reminder	June 15, 2015	2,743
Alternatives Development Comment Period Reminder to Hispanic Organizations	June 15, 2015	30
Amtrak Contest Solicitation for Submissions	October 7, 2015	2,749
Alternatives Review Public Meeting Notification	November 9, 2015	2,735
Alternatives Review Public Meeting Notification to Hispanic Organizations	November 9, 2015	29
Alternatives Review Public Meeting Reminder	December 1, 2015	2,767
Alternatives Review Comment Period Reminder	January 4, 2016	2,889
Alternatives Review Comment Period Reminder to Hispanic Organizations	January 4, 2016	29
Corridor-Wide Project Update	May 10, 2016	3,629

6.1.7 Property Owner Notifications

In accordance with Section 33.2-1011 of the *Code of Virginia*, DRPT mailed property owner notification letters to allow field personnel access to properties for Project review and field surveys. Notifications were mailed no less than 15 days prior to the date of first entry. DRPT distributed these letters in batches to correspond with the field review schedule, which was conducted in segments. In addition to the property access notification letter, an informational flyer was included in these Project mailings that described the Project and schedule, explained the types of field surveys and work being conducted, and provided contact information for questions and comments (see Appendix V for sample letters and informational flyer). In total, DRPT mailed 9,448 property notification letters. As of February 2017, these mailings resulted in 173 calls, comments, and emails received. The majority of the responses to property owner notifications related to coordinating times the survey crews could access the properties and the manner in which access would be permitted. Some property owners also expressed concerns related to the Project's impact on property access, noise, and property values.

In advance of the Preliminary Alternative Development public meetings in June 2015, DRPT sent property owners who had been identified at that point of the Project a postcard direct mail advising them of public meetings and the formal comment period.

As a way to communicate information specific to the sub-areas within the Project area, printed fact sheets were developed and distributed to the public through libraries and community centers. Additionally, web pages were developed to specifically address areas on the corridor and property owner needs.

6.1.8 E-Newsletters

DRPT distributed E-newsletters at key milestones throughout the Project to highlight details and outcomes of public meetings, explain the study process, provide updates on alternatives and recommendations, remind readers how and where to comment, and provide other timely insight. Table 6.1-7 provides the newsletter distribution dates and number of people reached. Project e-newsletters were also available on the Project website.

Spanish-speaking audiences were encouraged to request assistance if needed as follows:

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

No requests from Spanish-speaking audiences were received.

Table 6.1-7: E-Newsletters

Title	Distribution Date	Registered to Receive Newsletter
DC2RVA Rail Mail: First Edition	April 22, 2015	2,967
DC2RVA Rail Mail: Second Edition	September 11, 2015	2,768
DC2RVA Rail Mail: Third Edition	March 10, 2016	3,243
DC2RVA Rail Mail: Fourth Edition	June 29, 2016	3,639
DC2RVA Rail Mail: Fifth Edition	January 11, 2017	4,191

6.1.9 Project Website

DRPT launched the Project website on October 6, 2014, which can be found at <http://www.DC2RVArail.com>. It serves as key reference for all public information. DRPT continually updates the website throughout the life of the Project with current and relevant information. The site offers information pertaining to the Project process and background, public meeting notices, study schedule, Project mapping, and pages with information specific to key areas of interest along the Project corridor, as well as access to all public meeting materials, including online meetings, boards, presentations, and handouts, and an electronic comment form. The website includes translation and font enlargement features.

All meeting materials and meeting summary reports were posted on the Project website.

Included on the Project website is a page dedicated to other projects and studies related to or impacted by DC2RVA. This page (<http://dc2rvarail.com/resources/ongoing-projects/>) includes links and updates for:

- Acca Yard/Main Line Relocation
- Virginia Avenue Tunnel
- Arkendale to Powells Creek Third Track Project
- Crossroads to Hamilton Third Track and New Spotsylvania Station
- Richmond to Raleigh Southeast High Speed Rail Project
- Washington Union Station Expansion Project
- Richmond to Hampton Roads Southeast High Speed Rail Project

- Long Bridge Phase II Study EIS
- Potomac Yard Metrorail Station EIS
- Tri-Cities Multimodal Passenger Rail Station Study
- Atlantic Gateway Program

In addition, DRPT added a brief Project overview and related links on its main website and provided the same information to Amtrak for its Northeast Corridor Future website (<http://necfuture.com>) and to NCDOT for its Southeast High Speed Rail website (<https://www.ncdot.gov/projects/sehsr>).

6.1.10 Project Press Releases

DRPT issued press releases during Project kick-off and prior to public meetings, and also made them available on the Project website. DRPT also issued media advisories prior to the public meetings to invite the media to attend and provide meeting coverage. To garner more media attention, the outreach team contacted key media outlets to follow up on releases and offered to provide other information to inform news stories. These efforts resulted in 188 (as of 5/9/2017) news stories published regarding the Project.

Table 6.1-8 lists the dates and content of these notifications.

Table 6.1-8: Press Releases and Media Advisories

Date	Information	Format
October 6, 2014	Project Launch–Kick-Off/Survey/Splash Page	Notification–Press Release
October 22, 2014	Public Scoping Meeting Information and Dates, Times, Locations	Notification–Press Release (English/Spanish)
November 4, 2014	Meeting reminder/invitation for media to attend	Media Advisory
May 19, 2015	Preliminary Alternatives Development Information and Dates, Times, Locations	Notification–Press Release (English/Spanish)
May 28, 2015	Meeting reminder/invitation for media to attend	Media Advisory
November 24, 2015	Alternatives Review Public Meeting Information and Dates, Times, Locations	Notification–Press Release (English/Spanish)
December 3, 2015	Meeting reminder/invitation for media to attend	Media Advisory

6.1.11 Small Group Informational Meetings

DRPT conducted more than 20 small group informational meetings with interested organizations throughout the corridor, in many cases at the request of the organizations themselves. All meetings were open to the public and included agencies, civic groups, and members of the public. Feedback received at these meetings focused on ways that DRPT could collaborate to improve communication with their groups and customers about the Project.

Table 6.1-9 lists these meetings and the topic of discussion.

Table 6.1-9: Small Group Informational Meetings

Meeting Date	Meeting	Topics
November 3, 2014	Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, GWRideConnect, Arlington Transit, Dinwiddie County, Federal Railroad Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Information Officer Update Regarding Upcoming Public Meetings
March 12, 2015	Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Activities and Schedule Hispanic Community Outreach Strategy
March 12, 2015	Ridefinders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Activities and Schedule Public Outreach Strategy
March 12, 2015	AAA Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Activities and Schedule Senior Citizens Outreach Strategy
March 15, 2015	Historic Fredericksburg Foundation Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Overview Project Engagement Opportunities
March 19, 2015	East Coast Greenway Alliance, Virginia Bicycling Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Purpose and Need Barriers to Greenway within Private Freight Right-of-Way
March 19, 2015	Mayfield Civic Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Overview Project Activities and Schedule Field Studies Public Engagement Opportunities
May 13, 2015	Caroline County, City of Alexandria, Marine Corps Base (MCB) Quantico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Information Officer Update Regarding Upcoming Public Meetings
May 22, 2015	Hampton Roads Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Overview Project Activities and Schedule
July 15, 2015	DuPont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Overview Project Activities and Schedule
September 9, 2015	Neabsco Beach Way Homeowners Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Overview Neabsco Creek Bridge
October 15, 2015	City of Richmond Public Information Office, Greater Richmond Transit Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Overview December 2015 Public Meeting Outreach Strategy
November 10, 2015	City of Richmond Office of Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title VI Outreach Strategy
November 10, 2015	City of Richmond Social Services Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title VI Outreach Strategy
November 10, 2015	Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title VI Outreach Strategy
November 12, 2015	Fairfax County Public Information Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Overview December Public Meetings
November 13, 2015	Fairfax County Department of Transportation Public Information Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Overview December Public Meetings
November 17, 2015	City of Richmond, City of Fredericksburg, Springfield Chamber of Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Groups/Chambers of Commerce Update Regarding Upcoming Public Meetings

▶ *Continued.*

Table 6.1-9: Small Group Informational Meetings

Meeting Date	Meeting	Topics
February 3, 2016	Transportation Association of Greater Springfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Overview ▪ Project Activities and Schedule
June 9, 2016	Randolph-Macon College, Town of Ashland, Hanover County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Overview ▪ Ashland Area Alternatives ▪ Potential Impacts to College
June 14, 2016	Civil War Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cultural Resources
July 27, 2016	Randolph-Macon College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ashland Area Alternatives ▪ Potential Impacts to College
August 22, 2016	Virginia Association of Counties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Overview
September 15, 2016	ACEC – Virginia Transportation Business Opportunities Networking Luncheon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Overview ▪ Project Activities and Schedule
September 19, 2016	Arlington/Alexandria Phase II Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Overview ▪ Project Activities and Schedule
October 27, 2016	Hap Conners Fredericksburg Area Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Overview ▪ Project Activities and Schedule
November 3, 2016	Northern Virginia Transportation Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Overview ▪ Project Activities and Schedule
November 3, 2016	Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Overview ▪ Project Activities and Schedule
November 16, 2016	Crystal City Civic Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Overview ▪ Project Activities and Schedule
November 17, 2016	Northern Virginia Transportation Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Overview ▪ Project Activities and Schedule
December 5, 2016	Richmond Area Locality Workshop: City of Richmond, Henrico County, Chesterfield County, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, and Federal Railroad Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Richmond Recommendations ▪ Project Activities and Schedule

6.1.12 Project Brochure

DRPT prepared two Project brochures – one at the onset of the Project and an updated version in fall 2016 as part of the Project launch. Hardcopies of the brochure were printed (1,250 each, total 2,500). DRPT mailed the first brochure to 553 elected officials, libraries, faith groups, and chambers of commerce. Libraries were asked to display stacks of brochures for their customers. DRPT disseminated the second brochure at key stakeholder and public meetings. Electronic versions of the brochure are available on the Project website. Information in the brochures included a Project overview; description of the current passenger rail service; description of the Project corridor and other relevant projects; purpose of the Project, EIS steps; preliminary engineering; service development plan and schedule. The second brochure included a description of the alternatives being carried forward in the Draft EIS.

6.1.13 Social Media

The purpose of the Project's social media efforts is to broaden outreach, increase awareness of the Project, and provide engagement opportunities to stakeholders who might not otherwise participate.

Although social media posts are not included in the administrative record, the conversation that occurs online is important to the process. DRPT summarized the content of comments to check for the most discussed topics and potential new issues not identified through traditional means; these monthly social media reports are provided in Appendix V. DRPT used social media to perform real-time evaluation of Project information and locate geographic areas with higher or lower levels of stakeholder participation.

As of December 8, 2016, Social Media profiles are as follows:

- Twitter: @dc2rvarail
Followers: 436
- Facebook: dc2rvarail
Followers: 404

6.2 AGENCY COORDINATION

DRPT and FRA conducted extensive agency coordination throughout the course of the Draft EIS. More than 35 agencies were invited to be cooperating or participating agencies. Cooperating Agencies include those agencies that have jurisdiction by law or special expertise and typically:

- Participate in scoping
- Provide staff support
- Assist with analyses, field reviews, and public meetings
- Review documentation

The Draft EIS is meant to assist Cooperating Agencies in fulfilling their jurisdictional and NEPA responsibilities.

The following agencies agreed to be Cooperating Agencies for the DC2RVA Project¹:

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
- United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Norfolk District
- United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

¹ USFWS was also invited to be a cooperating agency but did not respond. Although USFWS is not a cooperating agency, they did participate in a phone conference with the cooperating agencies on August 31, 2015. USFWS requested information regarding proposed Project alignments. DRPT worked with USFWS to provide this information and respond to other USFWS comments.

Participating Agencies also have an interest and remain involved throughout the Project, but they typically do not have as active a role as Cooperating Agencies. The following are Participating Agencies for the DC2RVA Project:

- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)
- Amtrak
- Arlington County
- Caroline County
- Chesterfield County
- City of Alexandria
- City of Colonial Heights
- City of Fairfax
- City of Fredericksburg
- City of Richmond
- Crater Planning District Commission/Tri-Cities Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- Dinwiddie County
- District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT)
- Fairfax County
- Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO)
- George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC)
- Hanover County
- Henrico County
- Marine Corps Base (MCB) Quantico
- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG)/National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
- Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)
- Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA)
- Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC)
- Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)
- Prince William County
- Richmond Regional Planning District Commission/Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO)
- Spotsylvania County
- Stafford County
- Town of Ashland
- Town of Dumfries
- Town of Quantico
- Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- Virginia Port Authority
- Virginia Railway Express (VRE)
- Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

6.2.1 Agency Meetings

Early agency coordination provides support for Project development. The first agency meeting was the agency scoping meeting for federal, state, and local agencies conducted on November 3, 2014. The intent of the meeting was to introduce the Project; explain the study process; refine Purpose and Need; review concerns and comments; and begin to identify alternatives for consideration. Comments and input from the agencies attending were welcomed. DRPT also held Cooperating Agency meetings on June 25, 2015, and March 31, 2016, to update the cooperating and participating agencies on Project activities and receive feedback. Table 6.2-1 provides a summary of the cooperating agency meetings to date.

Table 6.2-1: Cooperating Agency Meetings

Meeting Location	Meeting Date	Meeting Attendance	Topics
Virginia Housing Center 4224 Cox Road Glen Allen, VA	November 3, 2014	16 attendees, representing FRA, USACE, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), VDOT, MWCOG, RRTPO, Stafford County, Spotsylvania County, Henrico County, Chesterfield County, and the City of Richmond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Served as Agency Scoping Meeting ▪ Project Introduction ▪ Study Process Explanation ▪ Purpose and Need Refinement ▪ Identify Alternatives for Consideration ▪ Concerns and Comments on the Project from Attendees
DC2RVA Project Office 801 E. Main Street Richmond, VA	June 25, 2015	20 attendees, representing FRA, USACE, EPA, FHWA, and VDOT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Overview ▪ Update on Project Activities to Date ▪ Ongoing and Upcoming Project Deliverables ▪ Concerns and Comments on the Project from Attendees
DC2RVA Project Office 801 E. Main Street Richmond, VA	March 31, 2016	24 attendees, representing FRA, USACE, EPA, Amtrak, VDOT, VRE, WMATA, MWCOG, RRTPO, Stafford County, Hanover County, Chesterfield County, City of Fredericksburg, and MCB Quantico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update on Project Activities to Date ▪ Ongoing and Upcoming Project Deliverables ▪ Concerns and Comments on the Project from Attendees

In addition to the larger agency meetings, DRPT scheduled smaller agency-specific meetings as needed to discuss certain resources and topics in greater detail. Table 6.2-2 lists these agency-specific meetings and includes a brief summary of the discussion topics.

Table 6.2-2: Agency-Specific Coordination Meetings

Meeting Date	Attendees	Location	Topics
September 3, 2015	USACE–Norfolk District, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	Dovetail Office 300 Central Road Fredericksburg, VA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wetlands Methodology ▪ Permit Requirements
September 16, 2015	EPA	EPA Region III Office 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Overview ▪ Climate Change and Resiliency ▪ Wetlands ▪ Environmental Justice, Relocations, and Public Outreach ▪ Air Quality ▪ Secondary and Cumulative Impacts ▪ Stormwater
November 30, 2015	USACE–Norfolk District, DEQ	Project Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Streams and Wetlands Field Review Meeting–Segments 6, 7, and 8¹
December 16, 2015	USACE–Norfolk District, DEQ	Project Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Streams and Wetlands Field Review Meeting–Segments 10 and 11¹
February 3, 2016	USACE–Norfolk District, DEQ	Project Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Streams and Wetland Field Review Meeting–Segments 11 and 12¹
May 19, 2016	United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Conference Call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Overview ▪ Threatened and Endangered Species Inventories and Survey
July 21, 2016	USACE–Norfolk District, DEQ	Project Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Streams and Wetland Field Review–Segment 21¹

Note: 1. See Section 2.2 of this Draft EIS for a description of DC2RVA corridor segments.

6.2.2 Task Force Meetings

Because the Project involves rail infrastructure owned by CSX Transportation (CSXT) and utilized by multiple operators, DRPT formed a task force of the transportation providers in the corridor to ensure effective coordination between these groups and the Project team. DRPT hosted task force meetings quarterly, or as needed at Project milestones, beginning in August 2014. Participants at the task force meetings typically included FRA, DRPT, VDOT, CSXT, Amtrak, VRE, Virginia’s Office of the Attorney General (OAG), DDOT, and the DC2RVA consultant team. The task force meetings began with an initial kick-off meeting followed by a series of updates on the Project activities and the schedule. The meetings served as an important tool for coordination amongst the primary Project stakeholders. The main objectives of the task force are:

- To serve as the “Core Project Team”
- To be briefed on major Project milestones and to keep appropriate staff informed of the Project progress
- To serve as advisors to the lead agency for the Tier II EIS
- To provide technical review and input to complete certain parts of the study

Table 6.2-3 provides a summary of the task force meetings to date.

Table 6.2-3: Task Force Meetings

Meeting Date	Attendees	Location	Topics
August 18, 2014	FRA, DRPT, VDOT, CSXT, VRE	VDOT District Office 87 Deacon Road Fredericksburg, VA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Introduction ▪ Early Project Concerns
January 8, 2015	FRA, DRPT, VDOT, CSXT, Amtrak, VRE, OAG	DC2RVA Project Office 801 East Main Street Richmond, VA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General Update of Project Activities ▪ FRA Agreement with DRPT ▪ Freight Growth and Modeling ▪ Freight and Passenger Rail Capacity ▪ VRE Station Planning and Development ▪ Long Bridge ▪ Basis of Design
April 8, 2015	FRA, DRPT, VDOT, CSXT, Amtrak, VRE, OAG	Embassy Suites Alexandria Old Town 1900 Diagonal Road Alexandria, VA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Purpose and Need ▪ Service Goals ▪ Alternatives Development ▪ Public Involvement
May 19, 2015	FRA, DRPT, VDOT, CSXT, Amtrak, VRE	DC2RVA Project Office 801 East Main Street Richmond, VA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Purpose of June Public Meetings ▪ Materials to be Presented at June Public Meetings ▪ Issues that arose during Locality Meetings ▪ Key Provisions of Basis of Design
June 29, 2015	FRA, DRPT, VDOT, CSXT, Amtrak, VRE, OAG	Embassy Suites Alexandria Old Town 1900 Diagonal Road Alexandria, VA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Update and Schedule ▪ Service Goals ▪ Engineering Options Overview
September 30, 2015	FRA, DRPT, VDOT, CSXT, Amtrak, VRE, OAG	Embassy Suites Alexandria Old Town 1900 Diagonal Road Alexandria, VA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Update and Schedule ▪ Alternatives Development ▪ Screening Results: Potomac to Staples Mill ▪ Screening Status: Richmond ▪ Ridership Model Development ▪ Preliminary Service Plan ▪ Streamlining Projects
November 18, 2015	FRA, DRPT, CSXT, OAG	DC2RVA Project Office 801 East Main Street Richmond, VA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review Purpose of December Public Meetings ▪ Preview Materials to be Presented at December Public Meetings ▪ Discuss Issues that arose during Locality Meetings
January 27, 2016	FRA, DRPT, VDOT, CSXT, Amtrak, VRE, DDOT, OAG	National School Boards Association 1680 Duke Street Alexandria, VA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Update and Schedule ▪ Operations Modeling Methodology ▪ Alternatives Review ▪ Draft EIS Content
May 11, 2016	FRA, DRPT, VDOT, CSXT, Amtrak, VRE, DDOT, OAG	National School Boards Association 1680 Duke Street Alexandria, VA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Update and Schedule ▪ Locality Update ▪ Build Alternatives and No Build Alternative ▪ Ridership Forecasting ▪ FASTLANE Grant Application
August 16, 2016	FRA, DRPT, VDOT, CSXT, Amtrak, VRE, OAG	Embassy Suites Alexandria Old Town 1900 Diagonal Road Alexandria, VA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Update and Schedule ▪ Build Alternatives and No Build Alternative ▪ Preliminary Ridership Estimates

► Continued.

Table 6.2-3: Task Force Meetings

Meeting Date	Attendees	Location	Topics
November 2, 2016	FRA, DRPT, VDOT, CSXT, Amtrak, VRE	National School Boards Association 1680 Duke Street Alexandria, VA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Update and Schedule ▪ Alternatives Review ▪ Community Outreach ▪ Ridership Modeling Update ▪ Atlantic Gateway
February 2, 2017	FRA, DRPT, VDOT, CSXT, Amtrak, VRE, DDOT	Embassy Suites Alexandria Old Town 1900 Diagonal Road Alexandria, VA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Update and Schedule ▪ Alternatives Review ▪ Ridership Modeling Update ▪ Preliminary Engineering Update ▪ Atlantic Gateway ▪ Long Bridge

6.2.3 Local Officials Coordination

Beyond agency coordination with departments within localities, DRPT also specifically engaged local officials during the Project’s development. In total, DRPT conducted 44 meetings with local officials to provide Project briefings and updates, gather feedback on alternatives, and answer questions. The organizations and meeting dates are listed in Table 6.2-4.

Table 6.2-4: Local Official Meetings

Meeting Date	Attendees	Topics
December 3, 2014	City of Richmond Mayor’s Staff, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule ▪ Richmond Station Locations ▪ Relation to Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
November 19, 2014	Delegate Manoli Loupassi, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule ▪ Richmond Station Locations
March 12, 2015	Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule ▪ Fredericksburg Region Outreach Strategy
March 12, 2015	RRPDC, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule ▪ Title VI Outreach Strategy
April 29, 2015	Hanover County, Town of Ashland, RRPDC, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Service Goals ▪ Alternatives Development
May 1, 2015	City of Fredericksburg, FAMPO, GWRC, Stafford County, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Service Goals ▪ Alternatives Development
May 1, 2015	MWCOG Transportation Planning Board, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule
May 4, 2015	Chesterfield County, City of Richmond, Henrico County, RRPDC, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Service Goals ▪ Alternatives Development
May 7, 2015	PRTC, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule ▪ Alternative Development and Screening
May 7, 2015	RRPDC, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule ▪ Alternative Development and Screening
May 8, 2015	NVTC, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule ▪ Alternative Development and Screening
May 14, 2015	Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule ▪ Alternative Development and Screening
May 18, 2015	GWRC, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule ▪ Alternative Development and Screening

► Continued.

Table 6.2-4: Local Official Meetings

Meeting Date	Attendees	Topics
May 20, 2015	MWCOG Policy Board, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule ▪ Alternative Development and Screening
September 24, 2015	RRPDC, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule ▪ Alternative Development and Screening
November 9, 2015	Caroline County, City of Fredericksburg, FAMPO, GWRC, Stafford County, Spotsylvania County, VDOT, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule ▪ Alternative Development and Screening
November 9, 2015	FAMPO Technical Committee, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule ▪ Alternative Development and Screening
November 10, 2015	Chesterfield County, City of Richmond, Henrico County, RRPDC, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule ▪ Alternative Development and Screening
November 12, 2015	Hanover County, Town of Ashland, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule ▪ Alternative Development and Screening
November 13, 2015	NVTC, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule ▪ Alternative Development and Screening
November 15, 2015	PRTC, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule ▪ Alternative Development and Screening
November 16, 2015	FAMPO Policy Committee, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule ▪ Alternative Development and Screening
November 19, 2015	NVTA, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule ▪ Alternative Development and Screening
December 1, 2015	Chesterfield County, City of Richmond, Henrico County, RRPDC, FRA, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule ▪ Richmond Area Rail Conditions and Alternatives Development
March 2, 2016	Hanover County, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule ▪ Hanover County Field Studies ▪ Ashland Area Alternatives
March 9, 2016	Chesterfield County, City of Richmond, Henrico County, RRPDC, DRPT, FRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Richmond Area Station Site Planning
March 22, 2016	City of Richmond, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Richmond Station Facilities
March 22, 2016	Henrico County, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Henrico Station Facilities
April 4, 2016	Stafford County, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule
April 7, 2016	Spotsylvania County, FAMPO, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule
April 14, 2016	Caroline County, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule
April 28, 2016	Hanover County, Town of Ashland, RRPDC, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule ▪ Ashland Area Alternatives ▪ Randolph-Macon College
May 2, 2016	City of Fredericksburg, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule
May 23, 2016	Arlington County, City of Alexandria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule
May 24, 2016	Speaker William Howell, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule
May 27, 2016	House of Delegates Transportation Chair Ron Villanueva, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule
July 28, 2016	CTB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Overview
September 21, 2016	CTB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Briefing
October 11, 2016	Caroline County Board of Supervisors, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Overview ▪ Project Activities and Schedule
October 18, 2016	CTB, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Activities and Schedule

► Continued.

Table 6.2-4: Local Official Meetings

Meeting Date	Attendees	Topics
October 25, 2016	MWCOG Regional Transportation Subcommittee, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Activities and Schedule
November 1, 2016	CTB, Town of Ashland, Hanover County, Randolph Macon College, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Tour of Ashland Area
November 3, 2016	PRTC, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Activities and Schedule
November 3, 2016	NVTC, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Activities and Schedule
November 17, 2016	NVTA, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Activities and Schedule
November 28, 2016	VDOT, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Justice and ADA Compliance
November 28, 2016	Governor McAuliffe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Briefing
December 1, 2016	RRTPO, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Activities and Schedule
December 6, 2016	CTB, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Activities and Schedule Project Alternatives
December 14, 2016	Henrico County Board of Supervisors, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Activities and Schedule
January 9, 2017	FAMPO Technical Committee, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Activities and Schedule
January 11, 2017	FAMPO Transportation Advisory Group, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Activities and Schedule
January 18, 2017	Alexandria Transportation Commission, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Activities and Schedule
January 23, 2017	FAMPO Policy Committee, DRPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Activities and Schedule

In addition to the meetings with local officials listed in Table 6.2-4, DRPT and the DC2RVA consultant team also met with members of Virginia’s Congressional delegation on May 19, 2016, in Cannon House Office Building, Room Cannon 5C. Representatives from the offices of Senator Tim Kaine, Senator Mark R. Warner, Representative Don Beyer, Representative Gerald Connolly, Representative Robert J. Wittman, Representative Dave Brat, and Representative Robert C. Scott all participated in the meeting. Attendees discussed the various area-specific options along the corridor, as well as FASTLANE funding.²

DRPT provided additional outreach to elected officials during key Project milestones, as shown in Table 6.2-5. More than 300 elected officials were contacted and included on the Project’s email database to receive newsletters and other Project updates. See the Scoping Summary Report in Appendix V for the list of elected officials contacted.

Table 6.2-5: Elected Official Targeted Outreach

Date	Format	Content
October 22, 2014	Direct Mailing #1	Project notification provided notice that FRA and DRPT were initiating preparation of a Tier II EIS for the Washington, D.C. to Richmond, VA, rail corridor.
May 18, 2015	Direct Mailing #2	Project update provided schedule information on public meetings to take place in early June. The update also shared that the Project’s purpose and need statement was completed, preliminary rail alignment options had been developed, and alternative screening criteria had been identified.
November 10, 2015	Email #1	Project update that early stages of the alternatives screening process were completed and input from the June 2015 public meetings was incorporated to develop a range of viable alternative improvements for detailed evaluation.

² The Atlantic Gateway is a \$1.4 billion partnership that focuses on the I-95 corridor between Washington, D.C. and Fredericksburg, VA. Partially funded by a federal FASTLANE grant, the program utilizes an innovative public/private partnership to leverage a suite of multi-modal improvements along one of the nation’s busiest corridors.

6.2.4 Ashland Community Advisory Committee

Through the alternatives development process and related community meetings, DRPT recognized the unique nature of the Town of Ashland and Hanover County, and that many of the alternatives for greater rail capacity in this area generated community concerns in that area. As a result, DRPT implemented a community-based effort to supplement the corridor-wise DC2RVA public involvement activities described above and to help inform DRPT's recommendation for a Preferred Alternative that provides the required rail capacity through the Ashland/Hanover area. As part of this community-based effort, DRPT established a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to take a more intensive look at all previous options, identify any potential new options to meet the Purpose and Need of the DC2RVA Project, and suggest mitigation strategies to address Project impacts. The first meeting of the CAC was held in May 2017.

6.3 SECTION 106 COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION

The DC2RVA consultant team coordinated with numerous property owners and officials with jurisdiction over resources protected under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), with particular focus on resources where the Project alternatives would likely result in an adverse effect to cultural or historic properties. Agencies involved in this dialogue included ACHP, Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR), USACE, American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), and United States DOI. The consulting party invitations, meetings, and additional correspondence are discussed in the following sections.

6.3.1 Consulting Parties

While FRA continued to be the primary point of contact for all federally recognized tribes, they delegated state agency and consulting party coordination to DRPT in 2014. As such, DRPT sent invitation letters to agencies, local governments, Native American tribes, and other stakeholders in the Section 106 consultation process. Table 6.3-1 provides information on the 39 distributed consulting party invitations. Of these, 14 have elected to participate in the process; Table 6.3-1 lists these groups along with their response date. An additional six are assumed to request participation. Although a formal response was not received from these six groups, they have requested participation on similar projects and have shown a noted interest in the current undertaking through telephone calls or attendance at associated meetings. These six are noted by “assumed yes” in the table below.

Table 6.3-1: Consulting Parties

Stakeholder	Invite Letter Date	Response (Date)
American Battlefield Protection Program	January 6, 2015	Assumed Yes
National Park Service (NPS)–Fredericksburg	January 6, 2015	Assumed Yes
NPS–National Capital Region	January 6, 2015	Assumed Yes
Marine Corps Base Quantico	January 6, 2015	Assumed Yes
NPS–Washington-Rochambeau NHT	January 22, 2015	Assumed Yes
Pamunkey Indian Tribe ¹	April 27, 2017	Assumed Yes
City of Fredericksburg	January 6, 2015	Yes (January 12, 2015)

► Continued.

Table 6.3-1: Consulting Parties

Stakeholder	Invite Letter Date	Response (Date)
NPS–Richmond	January 6, 2015	Yes (January 14, 2015)
Arlington County	January 6, 2015	Yes (January 14, 2015)
City of Richmond	January 6, 2015	Yes (January 16, 2015)
Alexandria Archaeology	January 6, 2015	Yes (January 21, 2015)
Ashland Museum	January 6, 2015	Yes (January 21, 2015)
NPS–Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT	January 6, 2015	Yes (January 22, 2015)
Central Virginia Battlefields Trust	January 6, 2015	Yes (January 22, 2015)
Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc.	January 6, 2015	Yes (January 9, 2015)
Civil War Trust	January 6, 2015	Yes (February 11, 2015)
Prince William County	January 6, 2015	Yes (February 13, 2015)
Caroline County	January 6, 2015	Yes (February 3, 2015)
Hanover County	January 6, 2015	Yes (February 3, 2015)
NPS–Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail	January 22, 2015	Yes (March 4, 2015)
City of Alexandria	January 6, 2015	No reply received
Fairfax County	January 6, 2015	No reply received
Henrico County	January 6, 2015	No reply received
Spotsylvania County	January 6, 2015	No reply received
Stafford County	January 6, 2015	No reply received
Atlantic Coast Line & Seaboard Air Line (ACL & SAL) Railroads Historical Society	January 6, 2015	No reply received
Center for Neighborhood Revitalization	January 6, 2015	No reply received
Arlington Historical Society	January 6, 2015	No reply received
Caroline Historical Society	January 6, 2015	No reply received
Chesterfield Historical Society	January 6, 2015	No reply received
Hanover County Historical Society, Inc.	January 6, 2015	No reply received
Henrico County Historical Society	January 6, 2015	No reply received
Historic Alexandria Foundation	January 6, 2015	No reply received
Historic Prince William, Inc.	January 6, 2015	No reply received
Historic Richmond Foundation	January 6, 2015	Yes (December 2016)
Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, Inc.	January 6, 2015	No reply received
National Trust for Historic Preservation	January 6, 2015	Yes (December 22, 2016)
Stafford County Historical Society	January 6, 2015	No reply received
Catawba Indian Tribe	January 6, 2015	No reply received

Note: 1. Letters to Tribes were sent by FRA.

6.3.2 Meetings

DRPT and its DC2RVA consultant team held numerous in-person and telephone-based meetings with DHR, ACHP, and other consulting parties. They included a Section 106 kick-off and several follow-up meetings to update participating agencies and parties on the Project initiation; determination of Area of Potential Effects (APE); cultural resource methodology for the reconnaissance predictive model, identification surveys and evaluation studies; survey results;

Project effect on historic properties; stipulations to mitigate adverse effects; and crafting the Project Programmatic Agreement (PA). Table 6.3-2 highlights the meetings held with these groups.

Table 6.3-2: Section 106 Meetings

Date	Attendees	Topics	Comments
November 7, 2014	DHR, DRPT, Consultant Team	Kick-off meeting; Discussions on APE, Methodology, Reporting	Discussed Project in relation to Richmond to Raleigh segment and determined that we should follow the same general parameters in terms of APE and methodology. DHR agreed that the Project area could be divided into several reports for submittal.
March 19, 2015	VDOT, DRPT, Consultant Team	Roadway Bridges and Section 106 Coordination	Discussed existing agreement documents and how they can facilitate cultural resource studies; Determined that bridges that fall under VDOT purview would not be revisited during this study.
February 18, 2016	DHR, Consultant Team	Update on Corridor and Status of Studies	Discussed status of Project; determined that IA reconnaissance studies would be sufficient for Fredericksburg and Ashland bypasses.
June 14, 2016	Civil War Trust, Consultant Team	General Discussion of Results to Date	Specific talk about Richmond to Raleigh Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).
August 10, 2016	DHR, Consultant Team	Historic Properties and Project Effect	Preliminary dialogue on Project effect for all historic properties (as defined as of this date). Made preliminary determinations of effect to be formally coordinated once all technical studies have been completed.

6.3.3 Correspondence

Since the Project's initiation, repeated correspondence has occurred between DRPT and the Section 106 agencies, localities, and consulting parties to keep them informed on the progress of the Section 106 studies, resource eligibility, and Project effect on historic properties, and this will continue at milestones throughout the Project. In particular, meetings and email exchanges with DHR have occurred regularly to provide information on Project plans. In addition, data on the study results in specific Project areas were sent to corresponding consulting parties to garner comments on the Project results. The Architectural Reconnaissance Survey-Phase I reports were posted on the Project's webpage for general public comment as well. The Archaeological Phase I reports were only distributed to the agencies, localities, and consulting parties as requested due to the sensitivity

of site location mapping. Table 6.3-3 includes correspondence conducted to date. Copies of relevant correspondence are included in Appendix R.

Table 6.3-3: Section 106 Correspondence

Date	Medium	Recipient	Topic ¹
September 25– October 15, 2014	Email; Letter	DHR, FRA, DRPT	Initiation of Section 106 Process
January 5– February 2, 2015	Email, Letter	DHR, FRA, DRPT	Defining Project APE; APE approved on February 2, 2015
June 8, 2015	Email	VDOT	VDOT/DHR PA on Historic Bridges
June 22, 2015	Letter	Civil War Trust, DRPT	Receipt of comments on Project screening review
July 30, 2015	Email	Consulting Parties, DRPT	Distribution of Archaeological Predictive Model report for review
July 17, 2015; August 28, 2015	Letter, Email	DHR	Submittal of Archaeological Predictive Model Report; DHR Reply
August 3– September 4, 2015	Email	Arlington County, City of Alexandria, Prince William County, City of Fredericksburg, DRPT	Receipt of comments on Archaeological IA Predictive model
August 28, 2015	Email	Consulting Parties, DRPT	Reminder to submit comments on Predictive Model Report
October 20, 2015; December 18, 2015	Letters	NPS (FSNMP)	<i>Archaeological Resources Protection Act</i> (ARPA) permit to dig on federal land (Segment 7)
December 9, 2015; February 5, 2016	Letter, Email	DHR	Submittal of Architectural Phase I Report (Segment 7); DHR Reply
December 15, 2015	Letter	DHR	Application to conduct archaeology on state lands (Segment 11)
March 18–31, 2016	Email; Memo	DHR	Discussion of alternative methodology for architecture in Segment 18
April 13– April 26, 2016	Email	David Hamilton (Consulting Party), DHR, DRPT, FRA	Mr. Hamilton is a private property owner along the Ashland Bypass. Numerous emails were exchanged with Mr. Hamilton regarding his concerns, his position as a consulting party, and distributing Project data
May 20, 2016; June 8, 2016	Letter, Email	DHR	Submittal of Architectural Phase I Report (Segment 6); DHR Reply
May 31, 2016; June 22, 2016	Letter, Email	DHR	Submittal of Architectural Phase I Report (Segment 3); DHR Reply
May 31, 2016; June 22, 2016	Letter, Email	DHR	Submittal of Architectural Phase I Report (Segment 4); DHR Reply
June 21, 2016; June 28, 2016	Letter, Email	DHR	Submittal of Architectural Phase I Report (Segments 8-9); DHR Reply
July 6, 2016; July 22, 2016	Letter, Email	DHR	Submittal of Architectural Phase I Report (Segment 1); DHR Reply
July 6, 2016; July 15, 2016	Letter, Email	DHR	Submittal of Architectural Phase I Report (Segment 2); DHR Reply
July 25, 2016; August 15, 2016	Letter, Email	DHR	Submittal of Architectural Phase I Report (Segments 10-12); DHR Reply
December 21, 2016; TBD	Letter, Email	DHR	Submittal of Architectural Phase I Report (Segment 13); DHR Reply
August 3, 2016; August 22, 2016	Letter, Email	DHR	Submittal of Architectural Phase I Report (Segment 14); DHR Reply
October 21, 2016; November 30, 2016	Letter, Email	DHR	Submittal of Architectural Phase I Report (Segments 15, 16, 20); DHR Reply
November 14, 2016; December 22, 2016	Letter, Email	DHR	Submittal of Architectural Phase I Report (Segments 17, 19); DHR Reply
October 21, 2016; November 3, 2016	Letter, Email	DHR	Submittal of Architectural Phase I Report (Segment 18); DHR Reply

► Continued.

Table 6.3-3: Section 106 Correspondence

Date	Medium	Recipient	Topic ¹
January 20, 2017; TBD	Letter, Email	DHR	Submittal of Architectural Phase I Report (Structures); DHR Reply
TBD	Email	Consulting Parties	Distribution of Architectural Reports for Review; Consulting Party Comments
September 6, 2016; October 11, 2016	Letter, Email	DHR	Submittal of Archaeological Phase I Report (Segments 1-20); DHR Reply
TBD	Email	Consulting Parties	Distribution of Archaeological Phase I Report (Segments 1- 20) for Review; Consulting Party Replies
January 20, 2017; TBD	Letter, Email	DHR	Submittal of Phase IA Fredericksburg Bypass Report; DHR Reply
January 6, 2017; February 3, 2017	Letter, Email	DHR	Submittal of Phase IA Ashland Bypass Report; DHR Reply

Note: 1. See Section 2.2 of this Draft EIS for a description of DC2RVA corridor segments.