

1. Summary

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) held a second round of public information meetings for the Washington, D.C. to Richmond Southeast High Speed Rail (DC2RVA) project. DRPT presented the draft Purpose & Need Statement, as well as the alternatives development process and preliminary rail alignment options. This round of outreach included three in-person public meetings and one self-guided online meeting. In total, 1,564 parties participated in the alternatives development process, providing 189 comments.

2. Public Meetings

The informal open house format of the three in-person public meetings allowed for discussions facilitated by project team members, including staff representing the rail operations, modeling, engineering, and environmental assessment. Meeting sign-in sheets are provided in Appendix A. The boards and meeting handouts are available in Appendices B and C, respectively.

Alexandria	Fredericksburg	Richmond
Monday, June 1, 2015	Tuesday, June 2, 2015	Wednesday, June 3, 2015
Hilton Alexandria Old Town 1767 King Street Alexandria, VA	Dorothy Hart Community Center 408 Canal Street Fredericksburg, VA	Department of Motor Vehicles 2300 W. Broad Street Richmond, VA

Staffing

Project team members from DRPT, FRA and the consultant team staffed the open house meeting. All staff was knowledgeable of the project and was prepared to communicate with the public. Staffing is detailed below.

Name	Organization	Role
Kevin Page	DRPT	Floater

Emily Stock	DRPT	Floater
Randy Selleck	DRPT	Scoping/Purpose and Need
Jake Craig	DRPT	Map Tables
John Winkle	FRA	Floater
Randy Brown	FRA	Floater
Jessie Fernandez-Gatti	FRA	Floater
Deb Cordell	C&C	Welcome/Sign-in
Janette Crumley	C&C	Welcome/Sign-in
Deborah DeMarco	C&C	Welcome/Sign-in
LeAnn Guzy	C&C	Welcome/Sign-in
Kerri Barile	Dovetail	Project Overview
Emily Calhoun	Dovetail	Project Overview
Heather Staton	Dovetail	Project Overview
Mark Hemphill	HDR	Screening Process
Laura Meadows	HDR	Project Overview
Bridget Ward	HDR	Project Overview
Bob Cone	HDR	Screening Process
Carey Wilson	HDR	Map Tables
Karen Harrington	HDR	Map Tables
Carey Burch	HDR	Service Goals

John Morton	HDR	Map Tables
Megan Eley	HDR	Welcome Video
Pierce Homer	Moffatt Nichol	Floater
Mike Knott	Moffatt Nichol	Map Tables
Gibran Hadj-Chikh	Parsons	Floater
Joseph Steindam	Parsons	Floater
Faisal Hameed	Parsons	Floater
Stephen Walter	Parsons	Scoping/Purpose and Need
Monica Barrow	Parsons	Service Goals
Elizabeth Hynes	Parsons	Criteria

Attendance

Meeting Date	Number of Attendees
Alexandria – June 1, 2015	52
Fredericksburg, June 2, 2015	37
Richmond, June 3, 2015	95

3. Comment Summary

In order to offer stakeholders ample opportunity to provide input, comment forms were made available and collected in several locations. Comments could be 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 project office.
- Submission via the comment form on the website.
- Submission via the online public meeting.
- Emailing the project email address.
- Calling the toll-free project hotline.

The project received 189 comments during the advertised comment period associated with Alternatives Development Meetings, June 1 through June 23. The comments were categorized by topic and appropriately grouped for the project team to review. All comments received a general “thank you for your submission” response. Information requests received unique answers and were responded to in the preferred method indicated by the commenter.

Comment Trends

Issue	Number of Comments Associated
ADA Accommodations	3
Aesthetics	4
Air Quality	1
Alignments – Ashland	12
Alignments – Fredericksburg	7
Alignments – Richmond	8
Alternatives	22
Archeological Resources	1
Aviation/Air Space	1
Bicycle/Pedestrian	15

Capacity	4
Community Facilities/Services	1
Compatibility Projects/Plans	2
Cost	10
Cultural Resources	1
Cumulative Impacts	2
Displacements Residential/Commercial	6
Economics	9
EIS Process	1
EJ/Socio/Title VI	4
Farmland	1
Flooding/Floodplains	1
Funding	8
General Opposition	1
General Support	32
Greenhouse Gas	1
Hazardous Waste	1
Historic Resources	3
Information Request	10
Land Use	2
Mailing List Request	33
Mobility	5

Noise	6
Operations/Maintenance	1
Ownership/Trackage Rights	1
Parking	1
Property Access	7
Public Involvement	13
Purpose and Need	3
Rail Operations	3
Rail Tech/Electrification	6
Real Estate	1
Right of Way	9
Schedule	5
Security	2
Service	25
Stations	42
Study Area/Termini	4
Sustainability	1
Traffic	1
Traffic/Safety	8
Vibration	1

4. Outreach Efforts

The project team developed and implemented a robust outreach campaign to ensure stakeholders were aware of the opportunities offered to comment on the alternatives development process.

Newspaper Advertising

Newspaper advertisements were placed in the main news sections of several newspapers throughout the project corridor. The designed ads are available in Appendix D.

Newspaper Advertisements

Region	Ad Size	Newspaper	Run Date
Richmond	4 col x 6"	Richmond Times Dispatch	5/26/15
Richmond	4 col x 6"	Richmond Times Dispatch	5/31/15
Richmond-African American	4 col x 6"	Richmond Free Press	5/28/15
Richmond & Fredericksburg - Hispanic	1/6 page	Nuevas Raices (translated)	5/26/15
Fredericksburg	4 col x 6"	Free Lance Star	5/22/15
Fredericksburg	4 col x 6"	Free Lance Star	5/29/15
NOVA/DC - Hispanic	4 col x 6"	El Tiempo (translated)	5/29/15
NOVA/DC - commuters	4 col x 6"	Post Express	5/26/15
NOVA Region*	3.22" x 2"	Virginia Press Association	5/31/15 – 6/6/15

*Virginia Press Association Participant Papers - Northern Region

Culpeper Star-Exponent	The Winchester Star
Daily News-Record, Harrisonburg	Alexandria Gazette Packet
Falls Church News-Press	Arlington Connection
The Free Press, Woodstock	Burke Connection
The Metro Herald, Alexandria – African American	Chantilly Connection
Northern Virginia Daily	Centre View

North Fork Journal	Fairfax Connection
Page News & Courier	Fairfax Station/Laurel Hill Connection
Rocktown Weekly	Great Falls Connection
The Shenandoah Journal	McLean Connection
The Shenandoah Valley Herald	Mount Vernon Gazette
The Shenandoah Valley Hit	Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
Stafford County Sun	Reston Connection
The Valley Banner, Elkton	Springfield Connection
The Warren Sentinel, Front Royal	Vienna/Oakton Connection
The Washington Times	

Email

The project team sent several emails to stakeholders to notify them of the in-person and online meetings and remind them of the close of the informal comment period.

The email distribution lists included the following groups:

- Public involvement offices
- Elected officials and community leaders
- Citizens (those who requested to be included via the study website)
- Transit/transportation organizations and advocacy groups
- Business/institutional community
- Community organizations & special interest groups
- Environmental justice populations and low English proficiency (translated to Spanish)

The following emails were sent:

- 5/4/15 – initial announcement of the public meeting with links to website.
- 5/20/15 - Spanish translated version of the general public email from 5/4 was sent to contacts at Hispanic organizations throughout the corridor.
- 5/25/15 – reminder of upcoming meetings.
- 6/15/15 – final reminder of the end of the informal comment period (6/23) with a link to the electronic comment form.
- 6/18/15 – Spanish translated version of the general public email from 6/18 was sent to contacts at Hispanic organizations throughout the corridor.

Social Media

The DC2RVA Facebook and Twitter accounts announced the upcoming meetings and directed visitors to the project website. Both Twitter and Facebook postings and retweets appeared on partner pages.

Social Media Profiles

- Twitter: @dc2rvarail
- Facebook: dc2rvarail

Static Displays, Fliers, and Rack Cards

Large display boards, fliers and rack cards were developed, printed, and posted in key locations, particularly in areas identified as having greater environmental justice and limited English populations, along the project corridor in advance of the public meetings, notifying the public of opportunities to participate in the current stage of the project. The designed versions of these files are available in Appendix E.

Outreach Locations

Location	Display Boards	Fliers	Rack Cards
Arlington County ART and STAR			X
Bragg Hill Family Life Center		X	
Broad Rock Branch Library	X	X	
Central Rappahannock Regional Library	X	X	
Columbia Pike Branch Library	X	X	
Commuter Direct		X	X
DASH Bus			X
Department of Motor Vehicles, Richmond	X	X	
Dorothy Hart Community Center	X	X	
Dulles Area Transportation Association			X
Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project			X

Dulles Corridor Rail Association			
Dumbarton Area Library	X	X	
Dumfries Neighborhood Library	X	X	
East End Branch Library	X	X	
Fairfax County Ride Sources			X
GRTC, Ridefinders			X
GWRideConnect			X
Hilldrup Moving Company		X	
James M. Duncan Branch Library	X	X	
Lorton Community Action Center		X	
Lorton Library	X	X	
Manchester YMCA (Richmond)		X	
Mayfield Community Center		X	
MWCOG			X
North Bethesda Transportation District			X
Petersburg Area Transit			X
Richard S. Gillis, Jr. Ashland Branch Library	X	X	
Salem Church Branch Library	X		
VRE	X		X

Media Relations

Members of the press were sent English and Spanish press releases and media advisories to spur media coverage. A press release was distributed on May 19, 2015 and a media advisory was distributed on May 27, 2015. The press release can be found in Appendix F. Media kits were prepared for distribution during meetings and for online download. The kit included press release, media fact sheet, biographies for key DRPT staff, and a project brochure.

As a result of these efforts, several articles appeared in local newspapers and morning and afternoon news shows mentioned the project, meeting dates and locations. Members of the

project team were also interviewed, which helped raise awareness of the project, the meetings and opportunities for the public to provide input.

Earned Media Coverage through July 1, 2015

Date	Source	Title
5/1/2015	VRE Magazine	VA Rail Update Improving Rail Service From Washington to Richmond
5/22/2015	InsideNOVA.com	High-speed rail information meetings set
5/26/2015	Greater Greater Washington, Claire Jaffe	Events roundup: Multimodal
6/1/2015	WTOP Radio, Max Smith	Meeting preview
6/1/2015	WJLA ABC7, Mike Conneen	D.C. to Richmond high speed rail proposal moving forward
6/1/2015	Fredericksburg – Patch, Chris Gaudet	Public Meeting To Feature High-Speed Trains: Media Report
6/3/2015	Richmond Times Dispatch, John Ramsey	Plans for high-speed rail between Richmond and Washington moving slowly
6/4/2015	Washington Post blog - Dr. Gridlock, Luz Lazo	Virginia bets on higher-speed rail by 2025
6/4/2015	Free Lance Star, Scott Shenk	Updated plans unveiled for high speed rail program
6/8/2015	Virginian Pilot, Luz Lazo (picked up from Washington Post)	High-speed rail studied for Richmond-D.C. line
6/8/2015	Free Lance Star, Scott Shenk	GETTING THERE: Want high-speed rail? Go magnetic
6/11/2015	RVA News, Sean CW Korsgaard	The future for D.C.-to-Richmond highspeed rail
6/12/2015	WWBT NBC12	Richmond to D.C. high speed rail aims for 90

		minute trip
6/16/2015	Style Weekly Richmond, Peter Galuszka	Will Richmond re-connect with its high-speed rail dreams?
6/28/2015	Free Lance Star, From AP story	High speed rail sill elusive
6/17/2015	Richmond Magazine, Mark Robinson	Not published yet.

Media Interviews

Date	Source	Type	Project Team Member
6/1/2015	WJLA TV	TV interview from Alexandria station	Emily Stock
6/2/2015	Free Lance Star	Interview at Fredericksburg meeting	Emily Stock and Kevin Page
6/2/2015	Washington Post	Phone interview	Emily Stock
6/3/2015	RVA News	Interview at Richmond meeting	Emily Stock
6/16/2015	Richmond Magazine	Phone interview	Emily Stock

Formal Letters to Elected Officials

A formal letter was mailed to federal and state elected officials and local chief administrative officers to notify them of the public meetings and ask for their assistance in notifying constituents of the opportunity to learn more about project initiatives.

Environmental Justice and Other Special Targeted Outreach

Title VI & Limited English Proficiency

- By advance request (72 hours), Spanish language translator available on site (written in English & Spanish).
- Meeting locations ADA accessible and TDD/TYY numbers included in materials.

- Ad translated to Spanish for Spanish newspapers.
- Press release translated to Spanish for Spanish media.
- Fliers translated to Spanish for distribution.
- Emails sent to key groups requesting their assistance to further distribute meeting and project information to their groups (Human Service, Transportation, Faith, Hispanic (translated)).

Public Information Officer Webinar

The project team contacted 122 public information officers and communication managers via email and placed four follow up telephone calls, inviting them to participate in a webinar to learn about the project and identify ways in which they could help promote the project through their established channels. The webinar was held on May 13, 2015, and had six participants including two Title VI contacts. Follow ups were made sharing a link to the webinar as well as fliers and other information to be used for further distribution. The webinar document can be found in appendix G.