



For Immediate Release
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Virginia Makes Passenger Rail History **Becomes First State to Simultaneously Sponsor Two New Daily Passenger Rail Services**

Richmond, Virginia- Today, Virginia becomes the first state in our nation's history to simultaneously launch two new daily passenger rail services. The agreements with Amtrak, Virginia Railway Express, and CSX Transportation to allow these two new services from Richmond-Fredericksburg-New York/Boston and Lynchburg-Charlottesville-New York/Boston were approved by the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board. The agreement with Norfolk Southern Corporation was approved earlier this year.

"This is an amazing day for passenger rail in Virginia" stated Dr. Meredith Richards, President of Virginians for High Speed Rail and Chairwoman of the Piedmont Rail Coalition "we advocated for these new services for over a year and are glad to see the Commonwealth Transportation Board unanimously approve them." Dr. Richards continued "It took a lot of work, but we appreciate the blood, sweat, and tears that the various stakeholders put in to make this a reality, without the support of Governor Kaine and his administration, Chip Badger and Kevin Page at the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), Amtrak, CSX Transportation, the Norfolk Southern Corporation and Virginia Railway Express (VRE), this would never have come to fruition."

The new regional services are expected to launch this fall, the Lynchburg to New York/Boston train on October 1st and the Richmond- Staples Mill to New York/Boston train on December 15th.

"Virginia made passenger rail history today, I commend Governor Kaine, and our friends at DRPT, VRE, CSX, Norfolk Southern for their hard work" stated Daniel Plaughner, executive director of Virginians for High Speed Rail (VHSR), "but we still have much work to do. We need to extend and expand these new services to the underserved regions in Virginia, such as Newport News, Roanoke and Bristol, and South Hampton Roads."

Virginians for High Speed Rail (VHSR) is a non-profit 501(C) (3) coalition of citizens, localities, economic development agencies, community organizations, and businesses that educate and advocate for the improvement and expansion of rail service in Virginia. For more information visit www.vhsr.com.

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