



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Federal High Speed Rail Investments Help Improve East Coast Connections

Washington, DC: Twenty four states including North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and the District of Columbia; and Amtrak submitted applications for a portion of the returned federal high speed rail funding from Florida. For the available \$2 billion in funding, nearly \$800 million will go towards improvements between Boston, MA and Charlotte, NC that will expand, improve, and advance intercity and high speed rail along the east coast.

*"These investments continue to expand intercity and high speed rail across America" stated **Danny Plaugher, executive director of Virginians for High Speed Rail**, "and bring the Northeast and Southeast closer together. These projects will help to create jobs, reduce congestion, and promote fast, frequent, and reliable rail service from Boston to Charlotte."*

Projects include:

Amtrak – NEC Power, Signal, Track, Catenary Improvements – \$450 million to boost capacity, reliability, and speed in one of the most heavily-traveled sections of the Northeast Corridor, creating a 24-mile segment of track capable of supporting train speeds up to 160-mph.

Maryland – NEC Bridge Replacement – \$22 million for engineering and environmental work to replace the century-old Susquehanna River Bridge, which currently causes frequent delays for commuters due to the high volume of critical maintenance.

New York – NEC Harold Interlocking Amtrak Bypass Routes – \$295 million to alleviate major delays for trains coming in and out of Manhattan with new routes that allow Amtrak trains to bypass the busiest passenger rail junction in the nation.

Rhode Island – NEC Kingston Track, Platform Improvements – \$25 million for design and construction of an additional 1.5 miles of third track in Kingston, RI, so high-speed trains operating at speeds up to 150-mph can pass trains on a high-volume section of the Northeast Corridor.

Rhode Island – NEC Providence Station Improvements – \$3 million for preliminary engineering and environmental work to renovate the Providence Station. These upgrades will enhance the passenger experience, keep the station in good working order and improve transit and pedestrian connectivity.

North Carolina – Charlotte to Richmond Service Enhancement – \$4 million for environmental analysis on the Richmond to Raleigh section of the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor (SEHSR). This advances the goal of extending high-speed rail service on the NEC into the southeast, with 110-mph capable service.

Over the last year and a half, \$800 million in federal, state, and private funding has been appropriated to be invested in the Southeast including \$130.4 million between Washington, DC and Richmond, VA; \$100 million between Richmond, VA and Norfolk, VA; \$30.5 million between Richmond, VA and Raleigh, NC; and \$549 million between Raleigh, NC and Charlotte, NC.

Virginians for High Speed Rail (VHSR) is a non-profit 501(C) (3) coalition, founded in 1994, that educates and advocates for the improvement and expansion of fast, frequent, and reliable intercity and high speed passenger rail service connecting Virginia to the northeast and southeast corridors. For more information visit www.vhsr.com.

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