



Annual Report

FY 2010

Virginians for High Speed Rail

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Virginians For High Speed Rail



September 2010

Dear Members and Supporters:

We are proud to present this annual report, and to celebrate a year of great successes. Thanks to your support, VHSR has been a major player in the most important and transformative developments for intercity and high speed passenger rail that Virginia has seen in half a century. To detail just a few:

In January, the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor received \$620 million in federal stimulus funds to improve the speed and reliability of passenger rail between Raleigh, North Carolina, Richmond and Washington, DC, bringing the corridor several years closer to achieving fast, frequent and reliable passenger rail from Jacksonville to Boston.

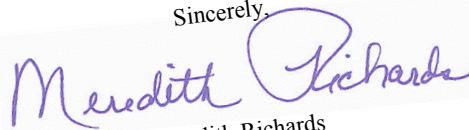
Tens of thousands of Virginians are riding the new corridor trains connecting Lynchburg to Washington, DC and the Northeast Corridor. Launched in October, this is the first state-supported intercity service in Virginia history. It has already exceeded its first-year ridership and revenue goals and is on a fast track to double its expected performance during the first year. A second state sponsored service between Richmond, Washington, DC and the Northeast Corridor was launched in July. VHSR and our statewide coalition partners worked successfully during the 2010 General Assembly to raise decisive public support for \$93 million in state funding for infrastructure improvements to extend the new Richmond service to Norfolk. VHSR plans to work equally hard to expand and extend future passenger service in the Lynchburg – DC and Richmond-Williamsburg-Newport News corridors.

During the 2010 legislative session, VHSR also successfully backed a state study to help identify and develop a sustainable resource to fund the future expansion of passenger rail across the Commonwealth. At the federal level, VHSR joined forces with a national coalition of rail advocacy groups in a successful campaign to build support in Congress to increase the FY 2010 appropriation for high speed rail from \$1 billion to \$2.5 billion, and we are working now to persuade Congress to include long-term, sustainable funding for high speed rail in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill currently under consideration.

I'm sure you'll agree that these are substantial accomplishments. Yet, our momentum is now threatened by a dramatic decline in annual contributions, particularly those from our local governments, who are facing severe budget shortfalls. VHSR's funding has declined by over 40 percent, forcing us to reduce our grassroots outreach and shrink our modest day-to-day operation. With the past year's forward motion of state supported passenger services, federal high speed rail investments, legislative victories and enthusiastic public support, we cannot afford to slow down. We must continue our fast-paced campaign of advocacy, education and legislative action to protect the future of high speed rail for Virginia.

Intercity and high speed rail will bring Virginia's transportation system into the 21st Century and transform the state economy. VHSR is on the frontlines every day working toward this goal. Thank you for your support during this year of great progress. Please help us continue our work through your generous support.

Sincerely,



Meredith Richards
President

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About Virginians for High Speed Rail

Virginians for High Speed Rail (VHSR) is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit coalition of citizens, localities, economic development agencies, community organizations, and businesses that educate and advocate for the improvement and expansion of fast, frequent, and reliable rail service linking Virginia to destinations along the east coast from Boston, MA to Jacksonville, FL.

We are supported by seven localities, four economic development agencies, dozens of businesses, and hundreds of individuals. Additionally, our grassroots activist network extends to a 4,000+ email list and 186,000 mailing list.

VHSR works closely with the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Amtrak, Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, Sierra Club, Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, Women's Transportation Seminar, Greater Norfolk Corporation, Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce, Partnership for Smarter Growth, Virginia Beach Vision, Greater Williamsburg Chamber and Tourism Alliance, Richmond Region Metropolitan Planning Organization, National Association of Railroad Passengers, Southern Environmental Law Center, Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, Capital Region Collaborative, and the Virginia League of Conservation Voters.

VHSR co-founded the national Fourbillion.com Coalition that was successful in advocating for \$2.5 billion for high speed rail in the 2010 federal budget, and the Southeast High Speed Rail Association which advocates for high speed rail across all the Southeast states.

Our Goals:

- Connect the Commonwealth with fast, frequent, and reliable passenger rail service
- Improve the quality and frequency of Amtrak and Virginia Railway Express service along:
 - The Newport News – Richmond – Northeast rail corridor
 - The Lynchburg – Charlottesville – Northeast rail corridor
- Develop and extend passenger rail service:
 - Between Richmond and Norfolk
 - Between Lynchburg and Roanoke then to Bristol
- Promote and advance the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor
- Advance public-private partnerships and investments in high-performance passenger, freight, and commuter rail services .
- Ensure proper return-on-investment from public funding

FY 2010 Sponsors, Donors, & Contributors (July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010)

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Virginia Beach City
Norfolk City
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FY 2010 Finances	
FY 2010 Contributions	
Governmental	\$61,250.00
Business Sponsorships	\$40,400.00
Individual Memberships	\$27,325.00
Economic Development Agencies	\$8,250.00
Misc (interest, refunds, rebates)	\$1,977.06
Raffle Fundraiser	\$2,295.00
Total Contributions	\$141,497.06
FY 2010 Expenditures	
Personal & Professional Fees (staff, taxes, accountant, etc)	\$99,285.57
Outreach (printing, postage, events, etc)	\$14,707.55
Office Expenses (rent, supplies)	\$7,991.80
Travel, Conferences, and meeting expenses	\$7,712.28
Miscellaneous (fees, refunds, credit processing fees, etc)	\$1,200.00
Communication (phone, fax, email)	\$3,099.12
Membership and Dues	\$1,595.00
Total Expenditures	\$135,591.72
Difference	\$5,905.34

Dear Contributors and supporters,

The donor list that is included in this annual report has been compiled by our staff who worked hard to prepare this report. Despite our best effort to avoid errors and omissions, these can occur. If you contributed as a donor and your name was omitted, listed in the wrong place, or misspelled, please accept our most sincere apologies and please contact us at [1-804-864-5193](tel:1-804-864-5193) or VHSRDC@earthlink.net, and advise us of the mistake. Any mistake will be corrected immediately in our online version and future printings.

Thank you,

VHSR Board of Directors

Passenger Rail Ridership

Amtrak & Virginia Railway Express Ridership Numbers for FY 2009			
Station	FY 2008	FY 2009	Difference
Alexandria*	120,153	120,815	0.55%
Ashland	16,497	16,634	0.83%
Charlottesville	53,038	52,546	-0.93%
Clifton Forge	3,867	3,703	-4.24%
Culpeper	5,166	4,814	-6.81%
Danville	6,141	5,870	-4.41%
Franconia-Springfield*	2,598	2,674	2.93%
Fredericksburg*	52,300	54,053	3.35%
Lorton (Auto-Train)	234,839	232,955	-0.80%
Lynchburg	25,383	23,641	-6.86%
Manassas*	9,644	9,204	-4.56%
Newport News	117,154	110,226	-5.91%
Petersburg	20,909	20,558	-1.68%
Quantico*	21,113	22,114	4.74%
Richmond - Main Street	19,360	23,576	21.78%
Richmond - Staples Mill	275,479	256,006	-7.07%
Staunton	6,265	6,105	-2.55%
Williamsburg	49,685	48,688	-2.01%
Woodbridge*	10,426	10,848	4.05%
DC—Union Station (VA ridership est.)	1,000,000	1,000,000	0%
Virginia Railway Express (VRE)	3,628,563	3,857,646	6.31%
Total	5,678,580	5,882,676	3.59%

* indicates stations that are served by Amtrak and Virginia Railway Express trains

Activities for FY 2010

Advocating: Legislative

2010 General Assembly

- 2010 Budget Amendment: Funds the continuation of intercity passenger rail service on the Lynchburg-Washington, and Richmond-Washington corridors. It also funds the infrastructure required to extend intercity passenger rail service from Richmond to Norfolk by 2013.
 - Introduced in House budget
 - Contacted Senator Yvonne Miller and Richard Saslaw's office to request its introduction in Senate budget
 - Met with all House and Senate Budget Conferees or their aides in strong support of this amendment
 - **Budget amendment was retained in Conference Budget and signed by Governor Bob McDonnell**
- Virginia Intercity Passenger Rail Fund Study: Required the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation to study the best means to continue the operation of Virginia's sponsored intercity passenger rail service
 - Met with Senator Yvonne Miller to request the study's introduction
 - Met with Senator John Watkins to request his support
 - Met with the full membership of the Senate Rules Committee or their aides
 - Testified before the Senate Rules Sub-committee
 - Testified before the House Rules Sub-committee
 - **Passed the General Assembly**

Congress

- US Department of Transportation's FY 2010 Appropriation (H.R. 3288)
 - Supported the passage of legislation that included \$4 billion for high speed rail funding
 - Passed the House of Representatives 256-168
 - Fought back an amendment that would have reduced high speed rail funding by \$3 billion
 - Informed our members to contact Senators Webb and Warner to support the high speed rail funding
 - Passed the Senate with \$1.2 billion for high-speed rail 73-25
 - Met with Representatives Eric Cantor, Tom Perriello, John Oliver, and Debbie Halvorson about the pending Conference Committee report, and presented them with signatures from thousands of businesses, citizens, and organizations that support \$4 billion for high-speed rail
 - **Congress passed H.R. 3288 with \$2.5 billion for high-speed rail for FY 2010**

Education: Events, Presentations, and Meetings

- Spoke and attended the Southeast High Speed Rail public hearings (July 10)
- Participated in the Richmond Capital Region Collaborative's Richmond Rail Bus Tour (July 10)
- Represented and recognized at the Virginia-North Carolina High Speed Rail Compact Meeting (July 10)
- Spoke to the Richmond Metropolitan Planning Organization in support of their high speed rail resolution (July 10)
- Presented to the Richmond Commercial Realtors group about high speed rail (June 10)
- Met with Governor McDonnell's policy director to brief him on various issues regarding high speed rail (June 10)
- Represented at the Commonwealth Transportation Board meeting that funded the new Washington to Norfolk train service (June 10)
- Gave Hampton Roads leaders an update on the progress of intercity and high speed passenger rail (June 10)
- Met with Richmond leaders regarding the bypassing of Main Street Station (June 10)
- Spoke before the Chester Community Association (May 10)
- Participated on a conference call with Senator Mark Warner to discuss transportation (May 10)
- Spoke before the Norfolk Economic Development Authority (Apr 10)
- Met with the offices of Senators Mark Warner and Jim Webb, and Representative's Bobby Scott, Tom Perriello, Glenn Nye, Gerry Connelly, and David Price (Apr 10)
- Presented to Old Dominion University's Green Engineering Conference about high speed rail (April 10)
- Spoke to the Virginia Beach Princess Anne Rotary Club (Mar 10)
- Spoke to the Virginia Business Travel Association (Mar 10)
- Presented at the Virginia Railway Patrons Association annual meeting (March 10)
- Spoke before the Williamsburg Business Roundtable (March 10)
- Presented to the James City County EDA (Feb 10)
- Presented before Hampton Roads Civic Leadership (Feb 10)
- Spoke at the Richmond MPO regarding the Richmond-Hampton Roads study (Feb 10)
- Spoke at the hearing for the Richmond-Hampton Roads HSR study in Norfolk (Jan 10)
- Spoke at the hearing for the Richmond-Hampton Roads HSR study in Newport News (Jan 10)
- Spoke at the hearing for the Richmond-Hampton Roads HSR study in Richmond (Jan 10)
- Presented to the Hanover Rotary Club (Jan 10)

Fiscal Year 2010 Activities Continued

- Spoke to the Williamsburg Economic Progress Committee (Jan 10)
- Presented to the Henrico North Rotary Club (Jan 10)
- Met with Senator John Watkins about the Passenger Rail Operations Fund (Jan 10)
- Met with Governor-Elect McDonnell's rail transition team about high-speed rail (Dec 09)
- Presented to Venture Richmond (Dec 09)
- Presented to the Chesapeake EDA (Nov 09)
- Spoke to the Brandermill Rotary Club (Nov 09)
- Presented to the Goochland Rotary Club (Nov 09)
- Represented at the Rail Advisory Board meeting (Nov 09)
- Spoke to the First Lego League Tournament (Nov 09)
- Spoke before the Hampton Roads Realtors Association (Nov 09)
- Presented to the Historic Triangle Collaborative (Oct 09)
- Attended the US High Speed Rail conference in Washington, DC (Oct 09)
- Presented to the Hampton Roads Chambers of Commerce's Sync757 (Oct 09)
- Presented to the Virginia Society of Industrial and Office Realtors (Oct 09)
- Spoke before the Portsmouth Partnership (Oct 09)
- Spoke before the JCC's 5400 Men's Club (Oct 09)
- Participated in the Whistle Stop Tour for the new Lynchburg to Washington Amtrak Service (Sep 09)
- Presented before the Citizens Advisory Transportation Committee (Sep 09)
- Presented before Virginia Beach Vision (Sep 09)
- Presented before the Greater Norfolk Corporation (Sep 09)
- Participated on an Urban Land Institute-Hampton Roads conference panel (Sep 09)
- Presented before the Portsmouth EDA (Aug 09)
- Participated in the Richmond Transportation Advocacy Board meeting. (Aug 09)
- Hosted three high-speed rail update presentations (Aug 09)
- Spoke before the Richmond Management Roundtable (July 09)
- Presented before the Richmond Rotary Club (July 09)
- Presented before the Richmond Metropolitan Planning Organization (July 09)
- Spoke before the InVision Richmond (July 09)
- Spoke before the Urban Land Institute- Hampton Roads high-speed rail forum (June 09)
- Presented before the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce (June 09)
- Briefed staff members for Senators Webb & Warner, and Representatives Connolly, Wittman, Forbes, & Nye (June 09)
- Co-hosted an event with the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce, with Amtrak President and CEO Joe Boardman, at Randolph Macon University (May 09)
- Hosted our 13th Annual Meeting at UVA in Charlottesville with Director of VA Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation Chip Badger, Congressman Tom Perriello, and former Federal Railroad Administrator Gil Carmichael. (May 09)
- Held a press conference with Minority Whip Representative Eric Cantor, Representative Bobby Scott, and Richmond Mayor Dwight Jones encouraging the Federal Railroad Administration to invest in the Washington to Richmond high-speed rail corridor. (Apr 09)
- Briefed all the gubernatorial candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor about high-speed rail. (Mar-Aug 09)

Outreach: Grassroots/ Media

- Interviewed for Richmond's CBS 6 piece "High Speed Rail Service Headed for Central Virginia?" (July 21, 2010)
- Quoted in the Richmond Times Dispatch article "High-speed rail supported heavily at public hearing" (July 21, 2010)
- Interviewed for Richmond's CBS 6 piece "High-Speed Rail in Richmond" (July 20, 2010)
- Quoted in the Richmond Times Dispatch article "High-speed rail plan receives overwhelming support" (July 20, 2010)
- Sent emails to over 3,000 supporters to build support for the Southeast High Speed Rail Public Hearings (July 10)
- Quoted in the July Virginia Business Magazine article "Getting Virginia On Board" (July 10)
- Secured over 602 responses (75% of total responses) to VA Dept. of Rail's intercity passenger rail survey (June 10)
- Op-Ed printed in the Richmond Times Dispatch titled "High Speed Rail: We must Connect Virginia's Most Important Downtowns" by VHSR President -Elect Bill Pantele (June 12, 2010)
- Quoted in the Richmond Times Dispatch article "Virginia facing payment to Amtrak for service" (June 04, 2010)
- Participated in the Fourbillion.com Coalition Press Conference at Washington's Union Station asking Congress to support \$4 billion in the FY 2011 transportation budget for high speed rail (May 2010)
- Coordinated proclamations on behalf of National Train Day and \$4 billion.com from the Cities of Williamsburg and Alexandria (Apr/May 10)
- Op-Ed printed in the Richmond Times Dispatch titled "Will the fast trains come to Richmond?" by VHSR Director, Dr. Eugene Trani (April 03, 2010)
- Sent an email to 2,645 supporters asking for their support of \$4 billion for high-speed rail to be included in the FY 2011 federal budget (Apr 10)

Fiscal Year 2010 Activities Continued

- Quoted in the Richmond Times Dispatch article "Rail is in Virginia's transportation future, officials say" (March 01, 2010)
- Interviewed on Richmond's WRVA morning news program (February 12, 2010)
- Interviewed on Hampton Road's WHRO Cathy Lewis Show (Jan 2010)
- Interviewed on Richmond's WRVA Doc Thompson program (January 12, 2010)
- Interviewed for Richmond's NBC 12 piece "Region pushes Senate to increase rail funding" (December 09, 2009)
- Interviewed for Richmond's CBS 6 piece "Will High Speed Rail Make a Stop in Richmond?" (December 08, 2009)
- Quoted in the Richmond Times Dispatch article "Richmond leaders want another \$4 billion for high-speed rail" (December 09, 2009)
- Held a press conference in Richmond with Richmond Mayor Dwight Jones, Chamber President Kim Scheeler, and Tourism Bureau President Jack Berry encouraging our Senators Webb and Warner to support \$4 billion for high-speed rail for FY 2010 (Dec 09)
- Emailed 1,800 supporters asking them to sign the fourbillion.com petition in support of increased federal high-speed rail funding (Nov 09)
- Distributed informational materials about high-speed rail to 1,500 Amtrak passengers taking the train for Thanksgiving (Nov 09)
- Emailed 1,800 supporters encouraging them contact Sen. Webb and Warner to support increased funding for high-speed rail. (Oct 09)
- Sent 2,600 supporters the Gubernatorial candidates Creigh Deeds & Bob McDonnell's rail plans (Oct 09)
- Quoted in the Virginian Pilot article "Norfolk Southern: Passenger rail on freight tracks less costly" (September 10, 2009)
- Featured in HYPETube- "Fast Trains" appearing on the Richmond Times Dispatch's website (September 07, 2009)
- Emailed 1,800 supporters to ask the Congressional conference committee to increase the FY 2010 funding for high-speed rail to \$4 billion. (Sep 09)
- Released our third high-speed rail update video (Sep 09)
- Emailed 1,778 supporters to assist in keeping the high-speed rail money in the Senate's US Dept. of Transportation's FY 2010 budget and ask the Senators to increase it to \$4 billion. (Sep 09)
- Released our second high-speed rail update video (Aug 09)
- Released our first high-speed rail update video (Aug 09)
- Quoted in the Hampton Road's Daily Press article "Common Ground A Key for Rail Line" (August 02, 2009)
- Interviewed for Richmond's CBS 6 piece "High Speed Rail Within Reach" (July 21, 2009)
- Quoted in the Richmond Times Dispatch article "Virginia gets in line for high speed rail funding" (July 10, 2009)
- Emailed 1,770 supporters to assist in the defeat of an anti-high speed rail amendment to the US Dept. of Transportation FY 2010 funding. The amendment was defeated 136-284. (July 09)
- Quoted in the Richmond Times Dispatch article "Virginia set to compete for high-speed rail funds" (July 09, 2009)
- Launched a petition drive in support of high-speed rail in Virginia. Collected 3,200 signatures (July 09)



HIGH SPEED RAIL IN THE SOUTHEAST MAKING IT HAPPEN

CONFERENCE: SAVE THE DATE

November 16, 2010 | 8:30 am to 5:00 pm | Richmond, Virginia

ADVANCING HIGH SPEED RAIL IN OUR REGION

- GROWING COMMUNITIES AND JOBS WITH HSR
- INTEGRATING HSR INTO LOCAL AND REGIONAL SYSTEMS
- POSITIONING THE SOUTHEAST FOR FEDERAL FUNDING AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.SOUTHEASTHSR.ORG/2010CONFERENCE

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE

Contact Daniel Plaugher | SEHSRA@gmail.com | 804.461.8165 | www.SoutheastHSR.org

