



2008 - 2009 Accomplishments

Legislation:

- **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. (Jul 09)
 - Passed the House of Representatives 256-168. (Jul 09)
 - Fought back an amendment that would have reduced high-speed rail funding by \$3 billion. (Jul 09)
 - Informed our members to contact Senators Webb and Warner to support the funding. (Sep 09)
 - Passed the Senate with \$1.2 billion for high-speed rail 73-25 (Sep 09)
- **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Federal)**
 - Supported the passage of legislation that included \$8 billion in high-speed rail funding. (Feb 09)
- **The Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (Federal)**
 - **Passed Congress and has been signed by President Bush. Created the federal funding streams for high-speed rail funding.** (Oct 08)
 - Passed US House of Representatives 311 to 104 with 9 of 11 House of Representatives from Virginia voting for passage. (June 08)
 - Met with Representative-elect Rob Wittman (VA-1) regarding this legislation (Nov 07)
 - Passed US Senate 70 to 22. (Oct 07)
 - Sen. J. Warner (April 07) and Sen. J. Webb (May 07) signed on as co-sponsors.
 - Met with the staff of Senators John Warner and Jim Webb to encourage support and sponsorship of S.294. (April 07)

Events, Presentations, and Meetings:

- Presented before Virginia Beach Vision, attended by 40 people. (Sep 09)
- Presented before the Greater Norfolk Corporation, which was attended by 60 people. (Sep 09)
- Participated on an Urban Land Institute-Hampton Roads conference panel, attended by 80 people. (Sep 09)
- Presented before the Portsmouth EDA, attended by 20 people. (Aug 09)
- Participated in the Richmond Transportation Advocacy Board meeting. (Aug 09)
- Hosted three high-speed rail update presentations, attended by over 100 people. (Aug 09)
- Briefed Creigh Deeds, candidate for Governor on high-speed rail. (Aug 09)
- Briefed Lt. Governor Bill Bolling about high-speed rail. (July 09)
- Spoke before the Richmond Management Roundtable, attended by 30 business leaders. (July 09)
- Presented before the Richmond Rotary Club, attended by 80 people. (July 09)
- Presented before the Regional Richmond Metropolitan Planning Organization, attended by 40 community leaders. (July 09)
- Spoke before the inVision Richmond, attended by 80 people. (July 09)
- Spoke before the Hampton Roads Urban Land Institute high-speed rail forum, attended by 40 business leaders. (June 09)
- Presented before the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, attended by 30 business leaders (June 09)
- Briefed staff members for Senator Webb, Senator Warner, and Representatives Connolly, Wittman, Forbes, and Nye about high-speed rail. (June 09)
- Briefed Jody Wagner, candidate for Lt. Governor on high-speed rail. (June 09)
- Represented at the Commonwealth Transportation Board meeting. (June 09)
- Spoke at the Regional Richmond Planning District Commission meeting attended by 40 regional leaders. (Jun 09)
- Co-hosted an event with the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce, with Amtrak President and CEO Joe Boardman, at Randolph Macon University, attended by over 400 people. (May 09)

- Presented before the Capital Region Caucus, a group of state legislators from Greater Richmond, about high-speed rail. (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. Over 100 people attended this conference. (May 09)
- Moderated the Urban Land Institute – Richmond Chapters conference on Transportation, attended by 40 people. (May 09)
- Held a press conference with Minority Leader Representative Eric Cantor and 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)
- Met with Senator Webb's Legislative aide to brief and update about high-speed rail. (Apr 09)
- Co-hosted an education forum with Mark Yachmetz (Federal Railroad Associate Administrator), Quintin Kendall (CSX Vice President), Pierce Homer (VA Secretary of Transportation), Chip Badger (VA Director of Rail), David Foster (NC Dept. of Transportation), Jay McArthur (Amtrak) (Apr 09)
- Briefed gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe about high-speed rail. (Apr 09)
- Represented at the Rail Advisory Board meeting. (Apr 09)
- Spoke to the Richmond Business Council about high-speed rail, attended by 20 business leaders. (Apr 09)
- Hosted VHSR's Board of Directors meeting in Williamsburg, with several local elected officials to update them on rail service along the Peninsula, with presentations by CSX, Amtrak, and the Virginia Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation. (Mar 09)
- Represented at Governor Timothy Kaine's press conference announcing the new state sponsored passenger rail service in Lynchburg, Virginia. (Mar 09)
- Represented at the Commonwealth Transportation Board meeting where they voted to fund the new state sponsored passenger rail service. (Mar 09)
- Hosted the Richmond Regional Land Use and Planning meeting. (Mar 09)
- Presented to the Stafford County Rotary Club, attended by 40 people. (Feb 09)
- Briefed Attorney General & gubernatorial candidate Bob McDonnell about high-speed rail. (Feb 09)
- Briefed fm. Delegate & gubernatorial candidate Brian Moran about high-speed rail. (Jan 09)
- Met with Delegates Toscano and Nichols and Senators Colgan, Whipple, Saslaw, and Houck or their staffs about pending state legislation. (Jan 09)
- Presented before the Richmond Transportation Advocacy Board. (Jan 09)
- Represented at all of the 6-year transportation plan public comment meetings across Virginia. (Jan 09)
- Hosted our Board of Director's meeting in Fredericksburg where regional businesses and elected leaders got rail updates from VHSR's executive director Danny Plaughter and VRE CEO Dale Zehner. (Dec 09)
- Represented at the Commonwealth Transportation Board meeting. (Dec 08)
- Represented at the Virginia Rail Advisory Board meeting. (Oct 08)
- Met with Delegate Manoli Loupassi regarding potential legislation. (Nov 08)
- Presented a rail update to Richmond Friends of Rail. (Nov 08)
- Met with Delegate David Toscano regarding potential legislation. (Oct 08)
- Presented to the Richmond Transportation Advocacy Board. (Oct 08)
- Staff attended the Passenger Trains on Freight Rail Conference in Washington, DC. (Oct 08)
- Presented before Venture Richmond. (Sep 08)
- Represented at Commonwealth Transportation Board. (Sep 08)
- Represented at all of the public comment meetings regarding the Virginia Statewide Rail Plan. (July 08)
- Represented at the July 12, 2008 Rail Advisory Board. (Jul 08)
- Presented before the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors. (May 08)
- Represented at the Richmond Transportation Advisory Board annual breakfast. (May 08)
- Hosted our 12th Annual Meeting at the Science Museum of Virginia. Speakers included Governor Kaine, Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation Director Matt Tucker, NC DOT Rail Director Pat Simmons, Conaway Haskins from Sen. Webb's office, Lloyd Lenhart from Congressman Cantor's office, and Richmond City Council President Bill Pantele. (May 08)

- Presented before the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce regarding Rail. (May 08)
- Hosted and Assisted with National Train Day events or proclamations in Ashland, Fredericksburg, Richmond, and Williamsburg. (May 08)
- Represented at VDOT's 6-year planning meetings around the state. (Apr 08)
- Board of Directors hosted a presentation by Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation Director Matthew O. Tucker regarding Virginia's upcoming State Rail Plan. (Apr 08)
- Presented before the Henrico County Board of Supervisors. (Feb 08)
- Presented before the Portsmouth Economic Development Agency. (Feb 08)
- Presented before the Chesapeake Economic Development Agency. (Feb 08)
- Presented before the Fredericksburg City Council. (Feb 08)
- Presented before the Williamsburg City Council. (Feb 08)
- Represented at Virginia's Rail Advisory Board Meetings. (Feb 08)
- Met with State Senators Watkins, Newman, Ralph Smith, Petersen, John Miller, Ticer, Puckett, Wagner, and Cuccinelli or their staff regarding state legislation. (Jan 08)
- Met with Delegates Ebbin, Toscano, Valentine, BaCote, Cosgrove, Hugo, and Tata or their staff regarding state legislation.
- Sponsored the Carmichael Conference on the Future of Transportation in St. Louis, MO. (Jan 08)

Outreach/ Grassroots/ Other:

- Released our third high-speed rail update video watched by 80 people. (Sep 09)
- Emailed 1,778 supporters to assist in keeping the high-speed rail money in the Senate's US Dept. of Transportations FY 2010 budget and ask the Senators to increase it to \$4 billion. (Sep 09)
- Released our second high-speed rail update video watched by 220 people. (Aug 09)
- Released our first high-speed rail update video watched by 470 people. (Aug 09)
- 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. Amended was defeated 136-284. (July 09)
- Launched a petition drive in support of high-speed rail in Virginia. Collected 3,200 signatures including a member of the General Assembly. (July 09)
- Published and mailed our FY 2008 Annual Report to over 1,000 supporters. (Apr 09)
- Mailed over 1,400 Virginians educational information about high-speed rail. (Mar 09)
- Published the Virginians for High Speed Rail FY 2008 Newsletter. (Mar 09)
- Worked with Amtrak to ensure that all 800+ passengers on the regional Amtrak trains received a VHSR newsletter and brochure on Inauguration Day. (Jan 09)
- Re-launched our website; www.vhsr.com. (Mar 07)
 - Reached 423,782 hits. (Sep 08)
- Hosted a booth at the VA State Fair where we distributed 1,000's of pieces of literature and talked to 1,000's of Virginians. (Sep-Oct 08)
- Published "Fast Track" our annual newsletter and sent to 3,220 people by mail and email. (Aug 08)
- Emailed the statewide rail plan to thousands of interested parties. (July 08)
- Emailed 1,192 Virginians to support the additional rail funding in Governor Kaine's transportation proposals. (June 08)
- Mailed 25,034 postcards to support rail funding in Governor Kaine's transportation proposals. (June 08)
- Mailed information about VHSR and high-speed rail to 69,602 Virginians. (Mar 08)
- Mailed 2,500 action alerts regarding pending state legislation. (Jan 08)
- Sent legislative action alert to 9,000 citizens via email. (Jan 08)
- Published the Virginians for High Speed Rail 2007 Annual Report. (Jan 08)

Thank you to all of our members and donors. Your support allows us to continue to educate and advocate for fast, frequent, and reliable rail service.