



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Virginians for High Speed Rail Welcomes Two New Board Members

Richmond, VA - On September 14, 2007, the Virginians for High Speed Rail board of directors, elected two new board members in a unanimous vote. Added to the board were Mr. James A. Overton of Portsmouth, and Mr. Shawn M. Healy of Alexandria.

“Mr. Overton and Mr. Healy bring a wealth of experience and regional diversity to our organization. We look forward to their unique view points as we work to bring high-speed rail to Virginia” said Barry Bishop, chairman of the Virginians for High Speed Rail nominating committee.

Mr. James A. Overton has been active in the Portsmouth community for over twenty years. He formerly served as a member and vice-chairman of the Portsmouth Planning Commission, and as a member of the Portsmouth Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mr. Overton currently works for Nordstrom’s, and is a member and former chairman of the Portsmouth Economic Development Authority, in addition to being a member of the Portsmouth Urban Design Committee. He also serves as president of the Wilson Ward Civic League.

Mr. Shawn M. Healy is a 2006 graduate of Radford University, where he earned a BS in Political Science. During his time at Radford University, he got involved in politics and issues that affected young people. Mr. Healy founded the Legislative Action Committee for the Radford University Student Government Association, and the Radford University Virginia 21 Student Chapter. He also served on Virginia 21’s Student Leadership Committee as the representative from Radford University. During his final semester, he served as an intern for Massachusetts Senator Edward M. Kennedy. Mr. Healy also served as legislative analyst for Delegate Adam Ebbin during the 2007 Virginia General Assembly session.

Mr. Healy currently serves as the Political Director for the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance, in addition to serving as campaign manager for Delegate Adam Ebbin of Arlington.

Virginians for High Speed Rail is a 501 © (3) non-profit, that educates, advocates, and promotes rail transportation as an energy-efficient, environmentally friendly, mode of transportation for which there is a substantial and growing market, as reflected by user trends, and unmet demand, in both freight and passenger transport.

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