

RICHMOND

Friends of Rail

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Contact: Nancy Finch 272-6188
Daniel Plaughter 864-5193

RICHMOND FRIENDS OF RAIL ENDORSES CRUPI RAIL SUGGESTIONS

Improved rail service from Richmond to Washington has always been a major goal of Richmond Friends of Rail. But the Crupi Report, released last week, puts a new spin on the goal.

“You need high speed dedicated rail from Richmond to Dulles. You’re there in an hour. Your airport could be Washington’s fourth airport.” said Dr. James Crupi, president of Strategic Leadership Solutions and author of the study that looked at Richmond’s strengths and weaknesses. Crupi made that comment to nearly 400 Richmonders at the Siegel Center November 19. His report is a follow-up to a similar report, 15 years ago. He challenged Richmonders to broaden their thinking on rail.

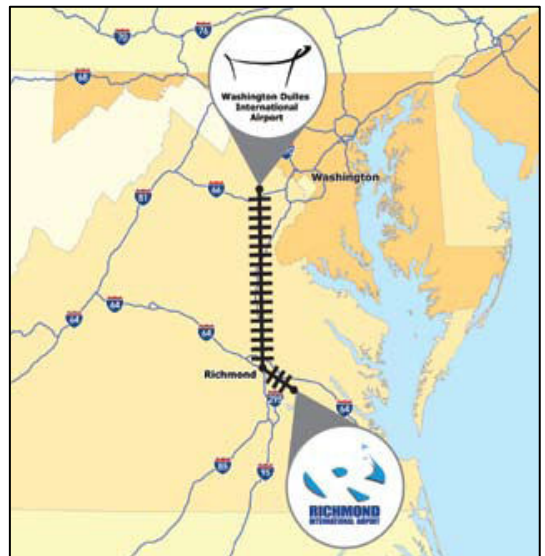
Chip Louthan, chairman of Richmond Friends of Rail, an advocacy organization, commended Crupi for his ‘out of the box’ proposal on high-speed rail.

“Dr. Crupi’s rail and transportation recommendations are what we need. He suggests establishing a regional transportation authority to plan for future transportation needs, to coordinate growth along transportation corridors and to put in place a multi-modal transportation system.” Louthan said.

Richmond rail advocates are familiar with the complaint that there is no rail service from Dulles International Airport to Richmond. Executives from the growing number of foreign companies located in Richmond complain about the complications of getting from Dulles to Richmond.

Crupi’s report says that a high-speed rail link to Dulles will enable Richmond to capture a major international and freight airport without having to build its own. High-speed rail access to Richmond will allow the region to become a “back office and corporate relocation” location for defense companies that would be attracted to the lower cost of living and the “emerging military industrial crescent” from Tyson’s Corner to Ft. Lee.

“The Dulles to Richmond rail idea isn’t the only idea that we should pick up on. Dr. Crupi believes the Port of Richmond could serve a much larger role as a rail import and export shipping center,” Louthan said.



Dr. Crupi’s suggested high-speed rail line from Richmond to Northern Virginia.

Louthan continued by citing the numerous transportation proposals in the Crupi report that says addressing transportation means much more than public transit. Rail, transit, ports and continued airport improvements that recognize its phenomenal growth must be addressed, Crupi said.

“Richmond Friends of Rail couldn’t agree more. We stand ready to work toward developing a regional transportation authority that has been talked about for far too long,” Louthan said.

Richmond Friends of Rail grew out of a Greater Richmond Chamber Foundation project in the 1990s to advance rail service in the Richmond area and Virginia.

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