



Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

CTB Rail Subcommittee Meeting Agenda

Virginia Department of Transportation

Human Resources Training Room 1st Floor

1221 East Broad Street

Richmond, VA 23219

February 20, 2018

9:00 a.m.

1. Rail Safety in Virginia
2. Legislative Update
3. Director's Comments
4. Public Comment

Rail Safety Regulatory Authority



- Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has nationwide regulatory and inspection responsibilities of all railroads.
 - This includes PTC compliance for freights, Amtrak, and VRE in Virginia.
- FRA safety oversight focuses on compliance and enforcement in:
 - Hazardous Material
 - Motive Power and Equipment
 - Operating Practices
 - Signal and Train Control
 - Track
- Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) has inspectors to supplement FRA inspectors and enforce federal safety regulations for Virginia's railroads.
- VDOT manages federal fund for FHWA rail/roadway crossing
 - Railroads maintain crossing infrastructure

Positive Train Control (PTC)

- PTC is mandated by Congress in order to prevent:
 - Train-to-train collisions
 - Derailments caused by excessive speed
 - Unauthorized movement onto track where maintenance is occurring
 - Movement of a train through a track switch left in the wrong position
- Required where passenger service and/or hazmat trains exist
- PTC equipment must be installed on locomotives and signals, and the two must integrate regardless of the Operator
 - i.e. In Virginia, Amtrak/VRE locomotive equipment must be compatible with CSX/NS/NEC wayside equipment.
- Employees must be trained to operate, maintain, and repair the system.
- Federal deadline for implementation was extended from December 2015 to December 2018, with extension to 2020 to “turn it on.”



Positive Train Control (PTC)

| Railroad (System-wide, including beyond Virginia) | Total Hardware Installed (On-board & Wayside Hardware) | Employees Trained |
|--|---|-------------------|
| Virginia Railway Express | 100% | 0/108 |
| Amtrak | 96% | 9,817/10,985 |
| CSX | 91% | 18,711/19,234 |
| Norfolk Southern Railway | 83% | 17,325/18,832 |

- Both CSX and NS are on track to meet the federal PTC mandate by December 2018
- VRE and Amtrak are on track to meet the federal PTC mandate by December 2018
- CSX Progress in Virginia
 - 3 of 8 Subdivisions already operating with PTC
 - 3 of 8 Subdivisions operational in Q2 2018
 - Remaining 2 Subdivisions installed by 2018 deadline.
- Buckingham Branch has a federal exemption because of low density traffic.
 - Amtrak long-distance Cardinal service 3x per week.



Railroad Crossings

- FHWA Railway-Highway (Section 130) program provides funding and guides standards for elimination of hazards at railroad crossings.
 - Administered by VDOT through the Highway-Safety Improvement Program, which includes the Railroad Crossing Safety Program
- Grade crossing signals are owned and maintained by host RR
- FRA oversees safety and enforcement for passenger and freight. Virginia State Corporation Commission inspects railroad infrastructure to FRA standards.
- No federal or state regulation requires upgrade of safety mechanisms after a grade-crossing accident.
 - VDOT Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Program utilizes 'Accident Prediction Model' which includes highway-rail crashes and other variables to develop ranking of crossings in need of further review for safety improvements.

| | Crossings without Gates | Crossings without Gates on Amtrak Routes |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Total in Virginia | ~ 2,600 | ~385 |

