



Memorandum of Agreement Update: DRPT/NCDOT

Commonwealth Transportation Board

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Purpose

- The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) awarded DRPT and NCDOT a \$200,000 **FY22-23 Interstate Rail Compact Grant** to continue efforts to improve passenger and freight rail in both states and the Southeast.
- Virginia and North Carolina are to provide \$100,000 each for the non-federal match, which is to be memorialized in a **memorandum of agreement between DRPT and NCDOT**. (VA funds included in DRPT Rail Planning section of the FY25 SYIP.)
- Code of Virginia § 33.2-221 and CTB policy requires Board approval for an MOA with another state.



Background

- § 33.2-1400 establishes the Virginia-North Carolina Interstate High-Speed* Rail Compact
 - To study, develop, and promote a plan for the design, construction, financing, and operation of interstate high-speed rail service through and between points in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of North Carolina and adjacent states;
 - To coordinate efforts to establish high-speed rail service at the federal, state, and local governmental levels
 - To advocate for federal funding to support the establishment of high-speed interstate rail service within and through Virginia and North Carolina and to receive federal funds made available for rail development
 - To provide funding and resources to the Virginia-North Carolina High-Speed Rail Compact Commission from funds that are or may become available and are appropriated for that purpose
- Compact is comprised of five legislators from Virginia and five legislators from North Carolina

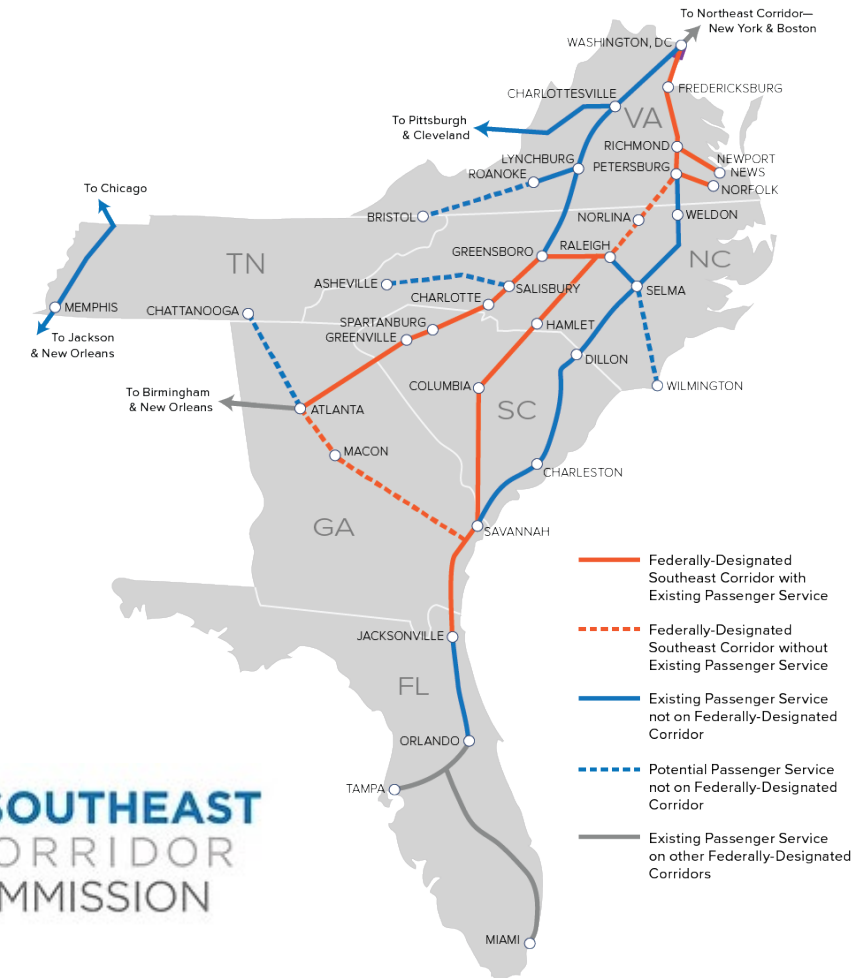
*High-performance rail is proposed in VA and NC, rather than high-speed rail. Planned maximum authorized speeds between Richmond and Raleigh are not to exceed 110.



Interstate Rail Compacts Grant

- Awarded to conduct a **Southeast Rail Network Analysis** that will evaluate the Southeast rail network constraints and identify opportunities to improve the fluidity of the network to benefit passenger and freight rail.
- Awarded for **administrative and operational expenses** related to VA-NC Compact and other technical coordination among states, Amtrak, FRA, and railroads to advance rail connections throughout the Southeast, including the Southeast Corridor Commission (SEC), which extends to TN, SC, GA and FL.

Virginia-North Carolina Interstate Rail Compact evolved with passenger rail conditions. SEC formed to include entire region, similar to the Northeast Corridor (NEC), to support rail projects of regional significance.



What does this do for Virginia?

- Participation in Southeast Corridor Commission (SEC) gives Virginia a seat at the table as multi-state rail plans and federal funding strategies are developed
 - Vehicle to advocate for Virginia's freight needs as the SEC produces a network analysis, including the needs of the Port of Virginia.
 - Builds support and awareness for the value of Virginia's Corridor Identification and Development (CID) rail corridors - Commonwealth, DC to Bristol, and DC to Charlotte.
- Past results
 - VPRA's Transforming Rail in Virginia projects, including Long Bridge, are priorities for the SEC and get support from member states.
 - Bristol to DC Corridor included in the SEC network map, opening doors to collaboration with fellow member state TN.



Timeline for MOA

- 2023**
 - Grant application submitted to FRA with \$100,000 DRPT match commitment, if awarded (DRPT Director-authorized allocation of under \$200,000)
- 2024**
 - FRA announced Virginia-North Carolina Interstate Rail Compact Award
 - CTB approves DRPT FY2025 Six-Year Improvement Program with \$461,700 in FY25 for federal grant match
 - **December CTB** - DRPT presents information item regarding the DRPT/NCDOT grant match MOA to CTB Workshop
 - DRPT/NCDOT develop MOA that defines two states' lead decision-making role in development of Southeast Rail Network Analysis
- 2025**
 - **January CTB** – DRPT presents MOA at CTB Workshop