



Putting Passengers on Track



Safe, Efficient, and Convenient Passenger Rail for a Fast Growing Region

A broad-based community initiative to bring passenger train travel to Virginia's New River Valley

New River Valley
RAIL 2020
Putting Passengers On Track

Passenger Rail Service to the New River Valley

New River Valley 2020 represents a unique partnership between business, municipal, legislative, and university leaders with support from all corners of our region.

Now is the Time

Passenger rail arrives in Roanoke in early 2017. Passenger service can be logically and efficiently extended from Roanoke to the New River Valley.

Bipartisan Support

Senators Kaine and Warner, Congressman Goodlatte and Griffith, other state elected officials support bringing passenger rail service to the NRV.

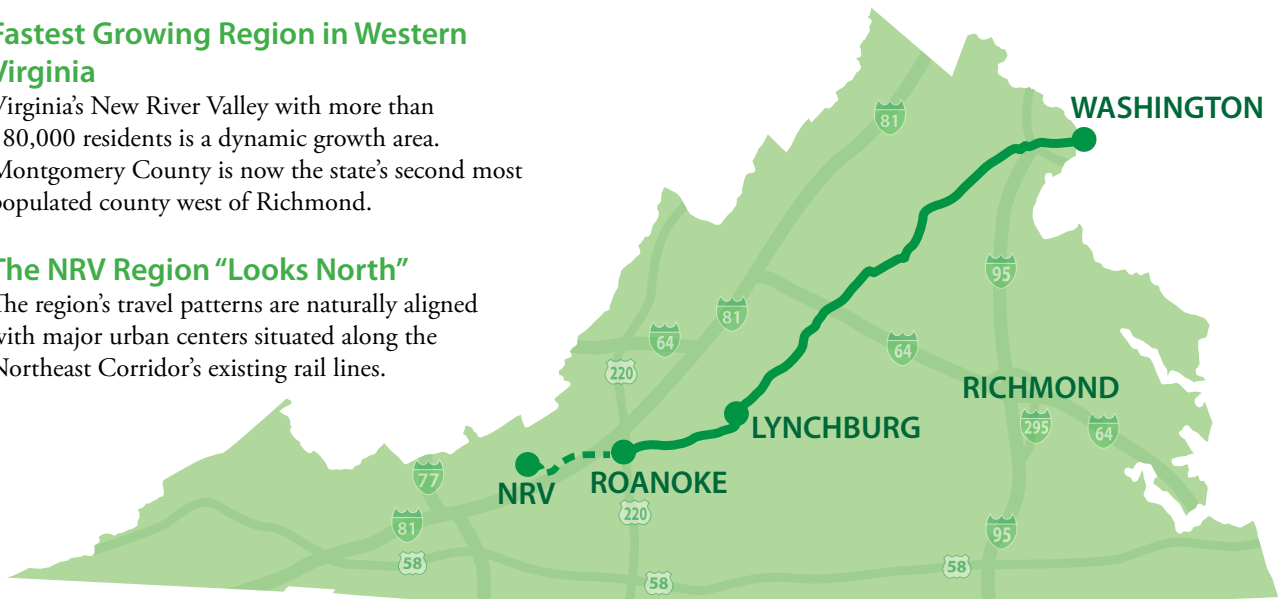


Fastest Growing Region in Western Virginia

Virginia's New River Valley with more than 180,000 residents is a dynamic growth area. Montgomery County is now the state's second most populated county west of Richmond.

The NRV Region "Looks North"

The region's travel patterns are naturally aligned with major urban centers situated along the Northeast Corridor's existing rail lines.



Mid-Atlantic Urban Centers Lie in “Sweet Spot” for Rail Travel

Current studies reveal travel demand to DC Metro, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and NY City. These areas lie in the sweet spot for passenger rail travel from the NRV – too far for convenient auto trips and too costly or inconvenient for air travel, where access requires a hub transfer.

Passenger Rail Ideal for Student Travel

The NRV is home to 40,000 university students. More than 40 percent of Virginia Tech students (about 12,500) hail from Metro DC, Maryland, or points north.

Rail Travel Increasingly Accepted

Flexible transportation options attract tomorrow’s highly skilled workforce, particularly millennials, who are migrating to urban areas without cars and demand mass transit.

Virginia’s highways are increasingly congested

Travelers are increasingly choosing rail travel over congested interstate highways. Amtrak service to Lynchburg was so successful that it never needed the allocated start-up subsidy.

Increased Tourism Opportunities

While most resident or student travel would “look north,” the New River Valley represents an as yet untapped outdoor tourism mecca. Home to major national forests, the famed Appalachian Trail, and pristine river recreation, rail travel is idea for eco-tourists from east coast urban areas.



Next Steps

- Complete demand study
- Identify potential station location(s)
- Petition Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation for operational study funding
- Work with Norfolk Southern to complete operational study and identify costs
- Engage Amtrak
- Petition Virginia General Assembly for support
- Welcome Amtrak Passenger Rail Service in 2020

NRV 2020 is supported by:

- The Blacksburg Partnership
- New River Valley Regional Commission
- NRV Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Montgomery County, VA
- Town of Blacksburg, VA
- Town of Christiansburg, VA
- City of Radford, VA
- County of Pulaski, VA
- Town of Pulaski, VA
- Virginia Tech
- The Virginia Tech Foundation Inc.
- Radford University
- Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
- New River Valley Economic Development Alliance
- Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner, Congressmen Bob Goodlatte and Morgan Griffith, State Senator John Edwards and Delegate Joseph Yost

What can you do?

Express support by contacting local municipal leaders or local legislators

Get involved by contacting:

Diane Akers, diane@blacksburgpartnership.org
The Blacksburg Partnership, 540-443-2008

For more information:

www.nrvpassengerrail.org
www.facebook.com/nrvpassengerrail



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