



December 13, 2022
Board & MIC Meeting
10 a.m. to noon



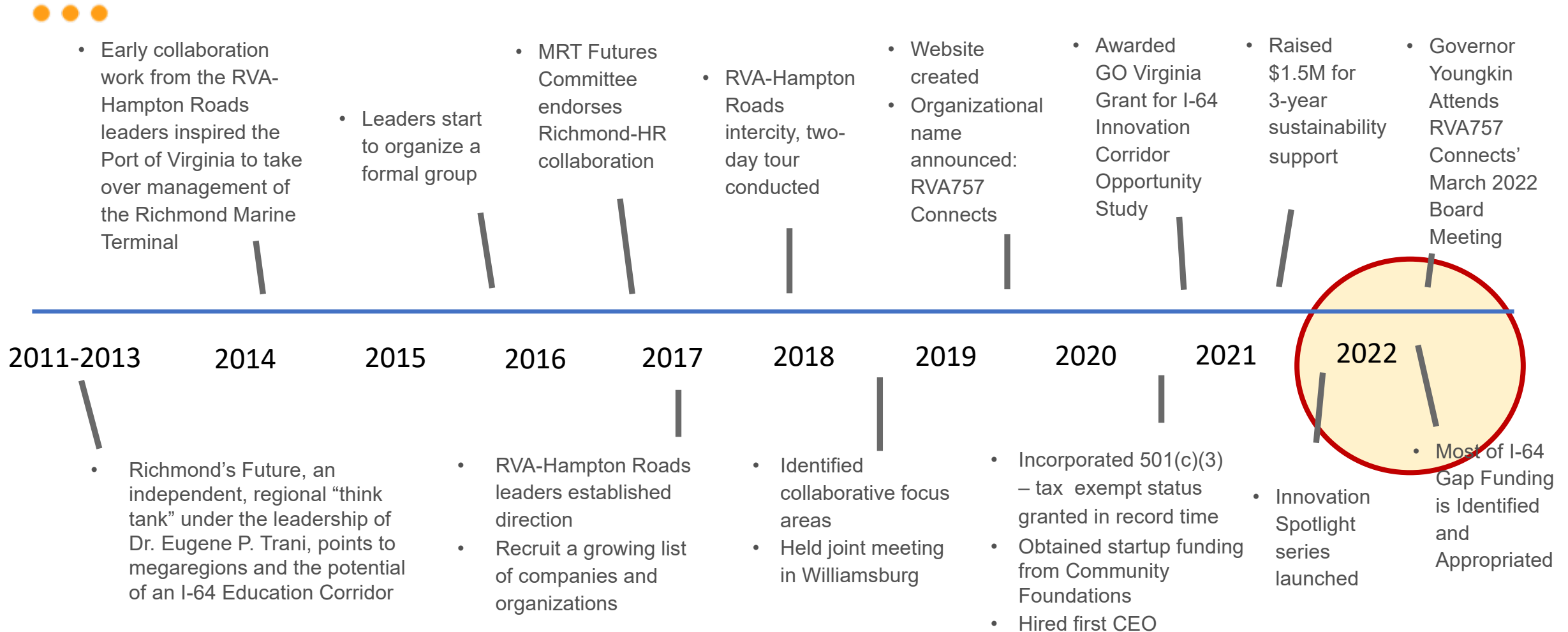


Welcome

Theodore L. Chandler, Jr.
Co-founder, NRV
Co-Chair, RVA757 Connects



The Real Significance of This Year: 2022?



The Real Significance of This Year: **2022?**



Our Purpose

Improve the economic success and quality of life for everyone in the RVA and 757 regions.

Our Mission

We identify, support, and advance major opportunities, initiatives, and projects that will meaningfully benefit our communities for generations to come.

We Are Focused: RVA757 Connects' Priorities



1. Advocate for I-64 widening (29-mile gap from RIC to Williamsburg)
2. Help the I-64 Innovation Corridor become a Global Internet Hub
3. Support the extension of the Virginia Capital Trail – the BoAT Trail
4. Remove barriers to increase passenger rail service
5. Drive and showcase greater collaboration and innovation
6. Support directors' and members' initiatives (VNG, Dominion, Jeff Lab)
7. Advance our megaregion's brand – I-64 Innovation Corridor

RVA757 Connects' Priorities



1. Advocate for I-64 widening (29-mile gap from RIC to Williamsburg)

2. Help the I-64 Innovation Corridor become a regional hub

3. Support the I-64 Innovation Corridor as a regional trail

4. Remove barriers

5. Drive and

6. Support directors' and members' initiatives (VNG, Dominion, Jeff Lab)

7. Advance our megaregion's brand – I-64 Innovation Corridor

**We Are Disciplined –
Following Strategic
Plans for Our Priority
Focus Areas**

Recap of Our Strategic Plans



Area	Strategic Plan Status
RVA757 Connects Overall Strategic Plan	Complete - Opportunity Study – 2021
I-64 Gap	Complete - White Paper Plan Created in 2021
Virginia Capital Trail / BoAT Trail	Complete - September 2022 Board/MIC Meeting
Passenger Rail Plan	This Meeting – December 13
Global Internet Hub	GIH Steering Committee Plan Completed in 1st QTR 2023

**We couldn't do this work
without great Directors and
Megaregion Institutional
Council Members.**

Welcome

Thomas Ransom

President
Virginia Region
Truist



Welcome

Jeff Wassmer

Chief Executive Officer
Spectrum





Bryan Stevens
Hampton Roads Chamber



Brian Anderson
Chamber RVA

Co-Chairs, RVA757 Connects Megaregion Institutional Council

And Our Great Staff: Laura, Greg, and John



Photobomber: Vint Cerf, father of the internet

Today's Agenda

Organizational Update – John W. Martin

2022 Accomplishments – John W. Martin

Board / MIC Member Survey Findings and Implications – John W. Martin

2023 Government Relations Plan – Christopher Lloyd and Ross Grogg

Increasing Passenger Rail – DJ Stadtler, Executive Director, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

Breakout Session

Discussion and Input on RVA757 Connects 2022 & 2023 & Beyond

Discussion and Input on Passenger Rail Situation

Close – Thomas R. Frantz



RVA757 Connects' Organizational Update

John W. Martin

5 Minutes

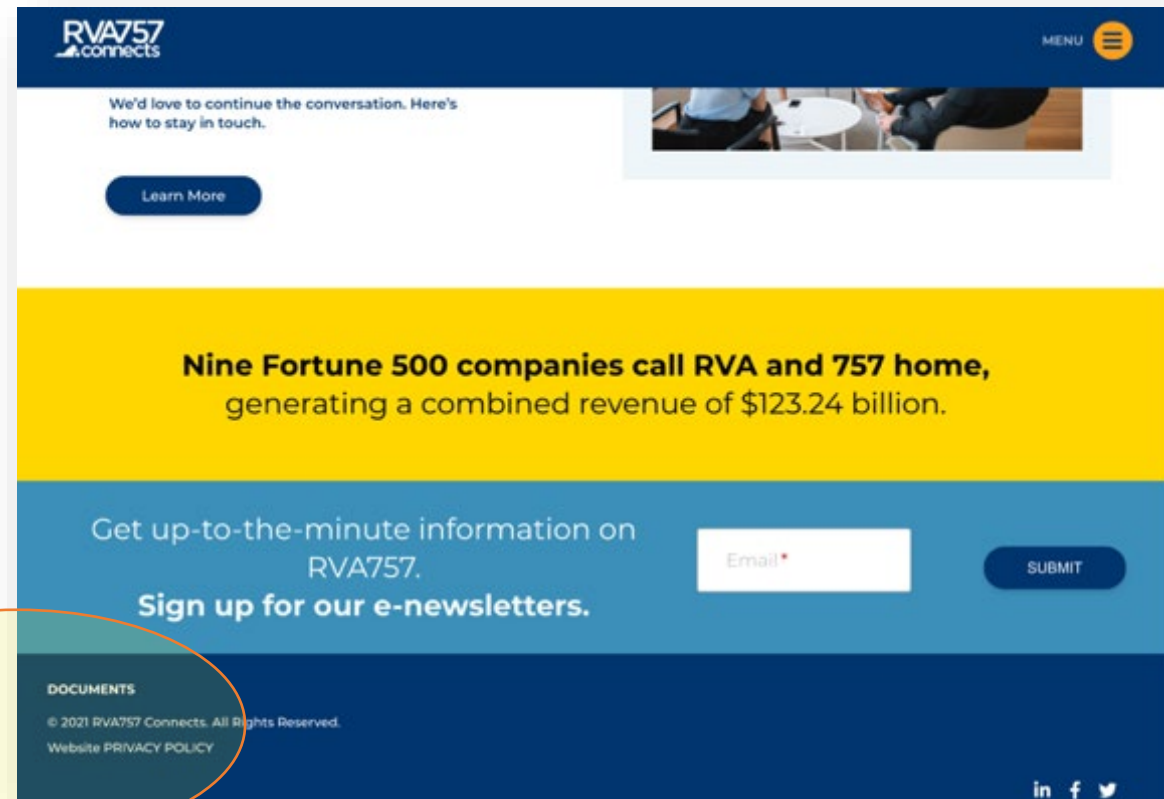
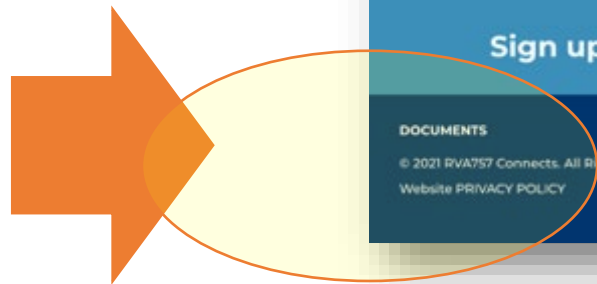


Key Documents

All of our legal documents, taxes, meeting materials and minutes, and presentations are all available for you on RVA757Connects.com

Scroll all the way to the very bottom of the homepage ...click on...

DOCUMENTS

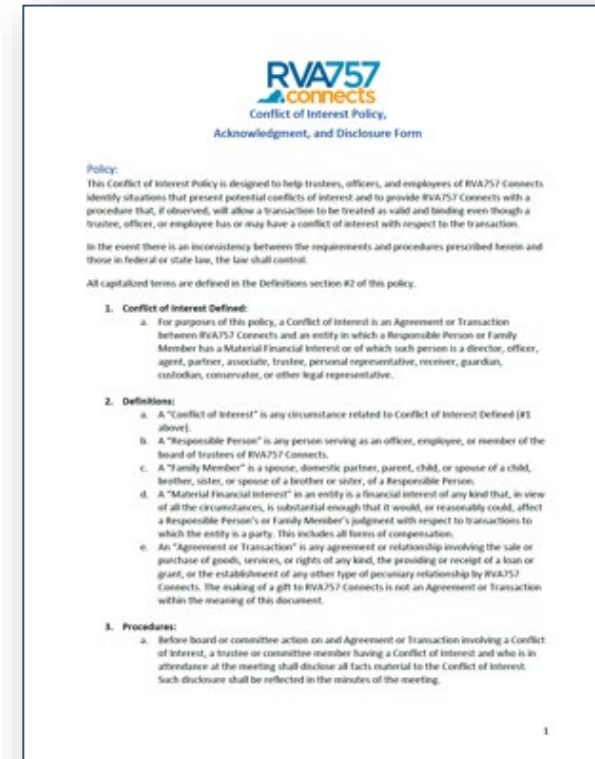


O&D Insurance



The coverage limit is \$1,000,000.

Conflict of Interest Executive Committee



Filed Our 990 for 2021

** PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COPY **

Form **990** **Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax** OMB No. 1545-0047
2021
Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service
 ▶ Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.
 ▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

A For the 2021 calendar year, or tax year beginning and ending

B Check if applicable:
 Address change
 Name change
 Initial return
 Final return/terminal
 Amended return
 Rollover
 Other (specify):

C Name of organization
 RVA HAMPTON ROADS MEGA REGION
 COLLABORATIVE DBA RVA757 CONNECTS

D Employer identification number
 84-4486132

E Telephone number
 804-837-2481

F Name and address of principal officer: JOHN MARTIN

G Gross receipts:
 539,620.

H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? Yes No
H(b) Are all subordinates included? Yes No
 If "No," attach a list. See instructions.

I Tax-exempt status: 501(c)(3) 501(c) () (insert no.) 4947(a)(1) or 527

J Website: WWW.RVA757CONNECTS.COM **H(c)** Group exemption number ▶

K Form of organization: Corporation Trust Association Other ▶ **L** Year of formation: 2019 **M** State of legal domicile: VA

Part I Summary

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC SUCCESS AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR EVERYONE IN THE RVA AND 757 REGIONS.

2 Check this box if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.

3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a) 63

4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a) 63

5 Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2021 (Part V, line 2a) 0

6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary) 79

7a Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12 0.

7b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, Part I, line 11 0.

	Prior Year	Current Year
8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	235,000.	539,609.
9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	0.	0.
10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	5.	11.
11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	0.	0.
12 Total revenue - add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	235,005.	539,620.
13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)	0.	0.
14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	0.	0.
15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)	0.	0.
16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	0.	0.
16b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶	29,200.	
17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24e)	137,763.	465,889.
18 Total expenses. Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	137,763.	465,889.
19 Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	97,242.	73,731.
20 Total assets (Part X, line 16)	97,242.	395,297.
21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	0.	224,324.
22 Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	97,242.	170,973.

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here *John W. Martin* Date **June 7, 2022**
 Signature of officer Date
 JOHN MARTIN, PRESIDENT AND CEO
 Type or print name and title

Preparer Print/Type preparer's name: JENNIFER N. FRENCH, CPA Preparer's signature: JENNIFER N. FRENCH, Date: 06/01/22 Preparer's PTIN: P00659678
 Firm's name: PEMARES, LLP Firm's EIN: 54-0737372
 Firm's address: 701 TOWN CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 900 Newport News, VA 23606 Phone no. 757-873-1587

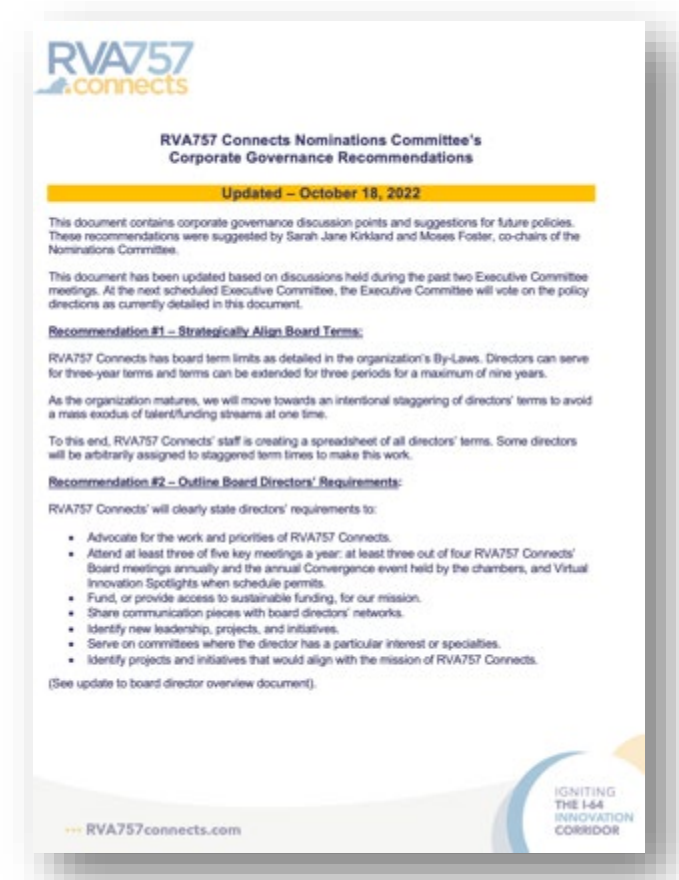
May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions Yes No

132001 12-09-21 LHA For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions. Form **990** (2021)

Nominations & Governance Committee

Co-Chairs:
Sarah Jane Kirkland
Moses Foster

Governance Recommendations



Only a few recommendations require minor by-laws changes that will happen at a later date.

Two New EC-Approved Governance Policies

RVA757 Connects' Trustee Responsibilities:

- Advocate for the work and priorities of RVA757 Connects.
- Attend at least three of our four core meetings: 3 RVA757 Connects' Board/MIC meetings and the annual Convergence event.
- Whenever possible, watch our Innovation Spotlights.
- Provide financial support.
- Share communication pieces with your senior team and network.
- If possible, serve on committees where you have a particular interest or expertise.
- Identify future projects and initiatives that would align with the mission of RVA757 Connects.
- Identify future directors.

Financial Support – Individuals:

For individual board directors and EC members (who are not part of a company / organization or who are with a non-profit or educational institution):

- Leadership Level – \$1,000 plus
- Champion Level – \$501 to \$999
- Supporter Level – Up to \$500

Financial Support – Corporations / Organizations:

For corporate directors representing companies and organizations:

- Gold Level – \$50,000-plus
- Silver Level – \$25,000
- Bronze Level – \$10,000

Development Committee

Mitch Haddon
Chair
Development Committee

2022 Pledges and Invoicing

2022 Pledges	\$492,100
2022 Pledges Invoiced to date 12-8-2022	\$492,100
2022 Pledge payments received to date at RVA757 Connects	\$403,000
2022 Projected Remaining Pledges to Receive	\$89,100

Thank You RVA757 Connects' Corporate Supporters



Thank You RVA757 Connects' Corporate Supporters



Hampton Roads
Community Foundation



community
foundation
for a greater Richmond

. . . And RVA757 Connects' Individual Supporters



- Matt Anderson
- Theodore L. Chandler, Jr.
- Kelsey Daugherty
- Cliff Fleet
- Wilson H. Flohr, Jr.
- Thomas R. Frantz
- Moses Foster
- Robbyn Gayer
- Ross Grogg
- Kasia Grzelkowski
- Bob Holsworth
- Harvey Johnson
- Martin A. Joseph
- Sarah Jane Kirkland
- Peggy Layne
- Harry T. Lester
- John A. Luke, Jr.
- John W. Martin
- John F. Reinhart
- Bernard Robinson, Sr.
- Douglas L. Smith
- James Spore
- Jim Ukrop
- John O. "Dubby" Wynne

2022 Budget Management

Carry Forward from 2021	+	2022 Fundraising	=	Available 2022 Funds
\$125K		\$492K		\$617K

Our 2022 Operating Expenses: **Under \$500K**

2022 Budget Management

RVA757 Connects
Financial Update – Flash Report
December 8, 2022

2022 Overall Budget, \$500,000

Expense Item	Budget
SOB	\$125,000
80000	\$60,000
Communications Director (ad benefits)	\$130,000
Studies & Thought Leader Activities	\$20,000
Legal Services Budget	\$5,000
Analytics Services Budget	\$0,000
Information Technology	\$20,000
Compliance 2022 International Bus. Year Support	\$5,000
Misc. 2140, Website registration, Dept. of Agriculture, etc.	\$1,000
Unallocated as of 12-8-22	\$10,000
TOTAL	\$500,000

2022 Sources of Cash

2021 December 31 End-of-Year Balance	\$306,196
2021 Expenses Paid - January 2022	\$224,524
2022 Pledges Received - January 2022	\$14,300
2021 Pledges Received - February 2022	\$2,500
2022 Pledges Received	\$45,600
2021 Carryover	\$125,872
2022 Pledges	\$424,100
Available 2022 Funds	\$613,872

*2021 carry forward was \$170,872. \$45,800 in 2021 pledges were not received, bringing the carry forward amount down to \$125,072.

2022 Pledges and Investments

2022 Pledges	\$424,100
2022 Pledges Involved to date 12-8-2022	\$450,100
2022 Pledge payments received to date at RVA757 Connects	\$450,200
2022 Pledged Restricted Pledges to Revenue	\$60,100

Maximum (\$10,000) and Trust (TRC) will be added to sign on for a 3-year commitment starting in 2023.

Flash Reports are on the Website

Executive Committee reviews Quarterly Financial Reports



PBMares Reviews End of Year Report

We will post 2022 financial report on our website in January and notify Board Directors / MIC members when posted.



RVA757 Connects' 2022 Accomplishments

John W. Martin

20 Minutes



10

Top Accomplishments

RVA757 Connects' Priorities



1. Advocate for I-64 widening (29-mile gap from RIC to Williamsburg)

2. Help the I-64 Innovation Corridor become a true Innovation Hub

3. Support the I-64 Innovation Corridor as a true Innovation Trail

4. Remove barriers to innovation and growth

5. Drive and support innovation and growth

6. Support digital innovation (e.g., Jeff Lab)

7. Advance our megaregion's brand – I-64 Innovation Corridor

**Listen for How We Are
Advancing Each Priority
Focus Area**

10

Advanced RVA757 Connects' and the I-64 Innovation Corridor's Brand

Early 2022, We Shared Copies of Our Opportunity Study (Our Strategic Plan)



Sent to:

- Cabinet members
- General Assembly members
- State agency heads
- RVA-757 Federal delegations
- Local city/county administrators
- Business leaders

Expanded RVA757 Connects' Database

Jan. 2022

270

Contacts

Dec. 2022

3,300

Contacts

BOLD THINKING

Removing 'I-64 Gap' will create game-changing growth

BY THEODORE L. CHANDLER JR.,
THOMAS R. FRANTZ AND
JOHN W. MARTIN

A big barrier stands in the way for both the Richmond and Hampton Roads regions to realize their full economic growth potential.

That obstacle is the 29-mile stretch of Interstate 64 from the Bottoms Bridge exit in New Kent County to the Lightfoot exit near Williamsburg — a section that transportation officials call the "I-64 Gap." This is the one remaining segment of I-64 between Richmond and Hampton Roads that still is only two lanes in each direction. It's a major chokepoint that limits economic opportunities.

The truth is many regions are growing faster than Richmond and Hampton Roads — in population, workforce and, in turn, economic output and gross domestic product. We are falling behind.

We need bold thinking and actions to shift our economic

trajectory. This starts with the realization that collaboration, not competition, drives scale and the economic success of nearby localities.

There's a great example on the West Coast in the Cascadia mega-region. Leaders in three cities — Vancouver, B.C., Seattle and Portland, Ore. — are working together to plan and build an ultra-high-speed rail project linking the metro areas. Closer to home, Atlanta and Charlotte, N.C., are in conversations related to a similar high-speed rail connector between their airports.

In Virginia, RVA757 Connects has been advancing collaboration between the Richmond (RVA) and Hampton Roads (757) regions. Leaders have been pointing to game-changing opportunities that can benefit both economies and all of our residents in what we call the I-64 Innovation Corridor mega-region. Closing the I-64 Gap tops our list and inspires us to see

I-64 GAP, Page D3

The Virginian-Pilot

OTHER VIEWS

Time for Virginia to widen I-64 and 'close the gap'

By Aubrey Layne
Rva757 Connects

If you have ever traveled on Interstate 64 between Norfolk and Richmond, you know exactly what I am talking about.

Leaving Hampton Roads heading west, the slowdown or standstill usually starts after the Lightfoot exit in York County. Leaving Richmond heading east, traffic problems begin after the Bottoms Bridge exit in New Kent County.

The problem is what transportation officials call the "I-64 gap" — the only part of I-64 between Richmond and Hampton Roads that still has just two lanes in each direction.

Discussions of widening I-64 from Hampton Roads to Richmond had been ongoing for years and were supported by our state and regional transportation leaders.

Adding a third lane is an investment in the vitality of our megaregion, benefiting businesses, workers, residents, tourists and the military. It will help the economic competitiveness while relieving congestion, improving safety and increasing reliability for commuters, truckers and tourists.

Fortunately, improvements to I-64 were

Now is the time to take actions to completely close the gap — to finish the I-64 widening as planned. Here's why.

■ **Economic growth:** Connecting the two major employment centers in Richmond and Hampton Roads will lead to the creation of more job opportunities for all. Completing the project helps secure Virginia's investment in the Port of Virginia, where thousands of trucks use I-64 daily to haul items to distribution centers in the Richmond region and beyond. The I-64 corridor also plays a major role in Virginia's tourism.

■ **Improve safety/reliability and relieve congestion:** I-64 serves millions as the primary evacuation route during a hurricane or other disasters. The interstate is congested, especially in the summer, causing significant loss of time for truckers, commuters, and tourists.

■ **Connected, reliable network:** I-64 will work best when the system is built as planned with three lanes in each direction.

■ **Leveraging federal grant opportunities:** As part of the infrastructure act, the U.S. Department of Transportation is poised to award billions of dollars to transportation projects. The larger the amount of state funding that is directed to closing the I-64 gap, the more VDOT will have as matching dollars when applying for those grants.

Channel Expansion Important To Hampton Roads

By bob@peninsulachronicle.com

October 21, 2022



WILLIAMSBURG – It's no secret the expansion of the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel and the widening of Interstate 64 will have major impacts on the area. However, dredging the Thimble Shoal Channel just off the coast of Virginia Beach could prove just as important.

At a conference October 13 in Williamsburg that brought together leaders from Hampton Roads to Richmond, Virginia Port Authority CEO and executive director Stephen Edwards gave a presentation explaining the objectives of the project.

When finished, which is expected to be in 2024, the channel will be deep enough to accommodate full container ships and wide enough to allow two of them to travel side by side.

"If you really think about it in the same way as the HRBT, we are going from a one-way road system to a two-way road system," Edwards said. "That's why it's so important on the width. It means we can bring ships in and out at the same time."

He noted that it can't be done in Savannah, GA, the port's main competitor, or in the New York/New Jersey port.

More I-64 Widening On The Way

By [Bob Flynn](#)

WILLIAMSBURG – Shep Miller knew from the time he was named Virginia's secretary of transportation in January, the widening of Interstate 64 from Bottoms Bridge to Williamsburg was important. Despite no funds for that 29-mile stretch at the time, he insisted the administration would find a way.

"It's been a priority of this group. They've been pushing it. I've been pushing it. We're all pushing together," he said at Convergence 2022, a conference held October 13 at the Williamsburg Lodge that brought together CEOs, business leaders, and education leaders from Hampton Roads to Richmond.

Funds are now available for the \$720 million project. The general assembly approved \$470 million in its most recent two-year budget. The Central Virginia Transportation Authority has committed \$100 million, and an application was submitted for another \$150 million from a Virginia Department of Transportation grant.

"We're pretty excited about it," Miller said.


The annual conference was a collaboration among Chamber RVA, Hampton Roads Chamber, and RVA757 Connects, a nonprofit in Richmond that works to bring together groups and organizations from Richmond to Hampton Roads. The goal of the conference was to show everyone benefits when they work together. I-64 was a big topic of discussion.

In December 2021, work was completed on a 21-mile stretch of I-64 in Newport News, York County, and James City County that widened the interstate from two to three lanes in each direction. About a five-mile stretch of I-64 from Richmond to Bottoms Bridge also was recently widened to six lanes. But there's a 29-mile gap from Exit 234 (in York County) to Exit 205 (Bottoms Bridge) that remains two lanes in each direction. That's the final piece to improving travel between Richmond and Hampton Roads.

While Miller said the project will take a few years, requests will go out by the end of the year and construction could start late next year. He expects the work to be done in phases, just as the most recent project was.

SECTION 6 • RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH • SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2022 • RICHMOND.COM

INSIGHT



This map shows the network of underwater cables spread across the world. The lines are not exact geographically, but they show the broad path of the cables and which territories they connect.

VIRGINIA'S DIGITAL CONNECTION TO THE WORLD

Just five years ago, all of the subsea cables along the U.S. Eastern Seaboard landed in New Jersey-New York or Florida. But in 2012, Hurricane Sandy caused so much destruction that it prompted the development of a third East Coast landing site in Virginia Beach. The area is now home to three international cables, and another one is in development. These cables come ashore in Virginia Beach and end in Henrico County at the Meta (Facebook parent company) data center and the QTS data center next door.

Subsea cables

WHAT ARE THEY?
Though many may think global connectivity is made possible by satellites, there's actually a huge global communication web and under the ocean.

How do they work?
Nearly all international connectivity — voice, data and internet — travels through subsea cables. These cables, known as submarine or subsea cables, by using the sea floor closer to shore, they are used for additional protection.

The cables are laid along the sea floor, which is a relatively flat surface. They are made of steel, copper, aluminum and other materials.

Some cables are short, like the Atlantic Cable between Ireland and the United Kingdom, which carries an incredible long line of the world's first transatlantic submarine cable that runs across the North Ocean. Nearly all countries that have a coastline are connected to subsea cables, and anyone accessing the internet has the potential to use them.

99.7% of international data is carried via subsea cables.

Virginia Beach's International cables

Three subsea cables come ashore in Virginia Beach and connect the U.S. to Africa, South America, Europe and Asia. The cables are currently under development, and construction is expected to begin in 2023. When completed, it will be the first landing site for subsea cables in the U.S. South Atlantic as a result of the cables' ability to connect to Virginia Beach with nearly 100% availability for data center and cable landing station facilities.

Henrico data centers

Virginia's subsea cables come ashore in Virginia Beach and end in Henrico County, connecting to two major data centers: Meta (the parent company of Facebook) and QTS. Meta is investing more than \$1 billion to build a 2.5 million square foot data center campus in the White Oak Technology Park. The first phase is expected to be completed in 2023.

QTS, which acquired a former semiconductor plant in 2019 and turned it into a 1.5 million square foot mega data center in response to the demand for the world's largest data center — provides access to more than 100 network providers. QTS acquired an additional 200 acres next to its existing campus and construction is underway to double the size of its campus.

Meta built this new data center at White Oak Technology Park in Henrico County.

Meta built this new data center at White Oak Technology Park in Henrico County. The company is investing more than \$1 billion to build a 2.5 million square foot data center campus in the White Oak Technology Park. The first phase is expected to be completed in 2023.

How fast data travels

Subsea cables are used to transmit data back and forth from Henrico to South Africa.

Route	Latency (ms)
London to New York	60
New York to London	60
London to London	60
London to London	60

Satellites

Satellites can be used to reach areas that aren't yet wired with fiber optics, but the cables can carry much more data at a lower cost than satellites. According to the QTS, satellites account for just 0.3% of all U.S. international capacity.

WIRELESS SIGNALS
When you use your cell phone, the signal is carried wirelessly only from your phone to the nearest cell tower. From there, the data will be carried over land and subsea fiber-optic cables.

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Richmond's Morning News with John Reid

NEWSRADIO WRVA 1140 AM

Greg Gilligan: September 30, 2022

September 30, 2022 8 min Download

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CATEGORY: News

Share



Area's role in subsea cables has not been by accident

By John Shulson
Correspondent

The Hampton Roads and Richmond megaregion, positioned at the crossroads of global digital superhighways, aims to become a global internet hub that attracts data users to the Interstate 64 Innovation Corridor.

Giant data users, such as Facebook, Microsoft and Google, have developed subsea cables that land in Virginia Beach. Three connect the region to Europe and South America, and a fourth cable under development will soon connect the region to South Africa. RVA757 Connects explained the role of these subsea cables in a Nov. 2 webinar.

Achieving the global internet hub designation depends on many assets, a number of which are already in place, said Greg Gilligan, RVA757 Connects communications director. An important initial step forward is the 119-mile fiber optic connectivity ring funded by five South Hampton Roads localities that will eventually extend to the Peninsula and up to Richmond.

Linking the I-64 Innovation Corridor to the subsea cable initiative, Gilligan explained that the cables coming into Virginia Beach connect at the other end of the corridor in Richmond-Henrico County. There, Meta, the parent company of Facebook, has a 2.5 million-square-foot data center. Facebook had partnered with Telxius and Microsoft to build subsea cable Marea in 2017.

Meta's neighbor, QTS Richmond, is also doubling in size by expanding its 1.3 million-square-foot campus by another 1.5 million square feet to become a "mega data center" with access to two subsea cables and more than 20 network providers.

It is worth noting that, in addition to the I-64 corridor, Northern Virginia is known as "Data Center Alley," through which 70% of the world's digital internet traffic moves.

Virginia Beach's prominent positioning has not been by accident. In 2012, Hurricane Sandy caused substantial damage to all subsea cables coming into New Jersey-New York. Charlie Bauman, business development coordinator for Virginia Beach Economic Development, said that devastation resulted in the selection of Virginia Beach as a third landing site, with the other in Miami.

Inspired by the fiber optic growth within the Richmond-Hampton Roads megaregion and, as Bauman noted, the collaborative partnerships among federal, state and local entities, technology companies have taken note and began investing in the future.

"It's the private sector that's moving this forward for the commonwealth of Virginia," he said. "If not for the collective partnerships of all involved, we wouldn't be where we are today."

Returns on investments are seen in several subsea initiatives run by Telxius and Globalinx, located about a half mile apart in Virginia Beach's Corporate Landing Parkway Center, also called the Corporate Landing Data Center Park.

Greg Bonilla, head of sales for North America for Telxius, said that the company is one of the largest networks in the country linking the United States to Europe, with subsea cable assets in 21 countries and cities and 19 landing stations.

Its Marea subsea cable, owned by Microsoft and Meta and operated by Telxius, is

Subsea Cables

from Page 3

the first trans-Atlantic cable system in the mid-Atlantic region, running 4,100 miles with up to 200 terabits per second from Virginia Beach to Spain.

Brusa, owned and operated by Telxius starting in 2018, connects with Brazil and runs 6,800 miles at 138 terabits per second. Google's Dunant subsea cable, which went live from Virginia Beach in early 2021, runs 4,100 miles to France at 300 terabits per second capacity.

Globalinx founder and CEO Greg Twitt explained that the company operates a carrier-neutral data center and cable landing station that serves as Virginia Beach's "network access point." Sitting on nearly 12 acres, Globalinx hosts internet service providers via terrestrial and subsea capabilities that form global internet backbone access to over 7,000 locations worldwide, including North America, Europe, Asia, South America, the Middle East and Africa.

Four fully permitted cable pipes are also lined up for Sandbridge for connectivity to Globalinx and expansion of the landing station by early 2024. Twitt said continued expansion could make Virginia Beach the largest subsea hub on the Eastern Seaboard.

Turn to *Subsea Cables*, Page 9

INSIDE BUSINESS

With ultrafast fiber network underway, Hampton Roads leaders aim for 'smart region' status

By John Shulson

Correspondent

Oct 15, 2022 at 10:31 am

Hampton Roads is ready to ride on a superfast information highway.

Collaboration and planning from regional leaders led to the development of an ultrafast fiber connectivity ring aimed at bringing faster and more reliable internet and data services to the 757. Ultimately, one goal is to attract attention to Hampton Roads and Richmond as a recognized global internet hub.

RVA 757 Connects, a nonprofit group of Hampton Roads and Richmond leaders focused on marketing the combined area as a megaregion, hosted an update on regional digital infrastructure development on Oct. 4.

When tech companies began investing in trans-Atlantic subsea cables that would land in Virginia Beach, leaders saw a game-changing opportunity.

"How do we take advantage of these incredible fiber internet speeds and really offload this ultrafast opportunity, this network, into the Hampton Roads region to not only improve our quality of life, to create job opportunity, to provide more cost-effective and more reliable broadband service in our region, and really use this as an economic driver?" Robert Crum, executive director of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, told webinar attendees.

Such an economic driver could lead to the development of a true data

ecosystem that could sprout or grow innovation or entire industries. High-speed fiber could also attract businesses seeking support for remote work environments, a trend accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, Crum said.

The plan from a regional broadband task force called for developing a South Hampton Roads fiber ring to connect with the subsea cables, then move through the tunnels to connect with a companion ring on the Peninsula and then across the James River to the southwest, Crum said. Much like roadway investment, the idea is to build an information highway that attracts internet service providers to ride that highway to provide services to businesses and homes.

Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake and Suffolk have joined forces to create a 119-mile ultrafast fiber ring. They agreed to commit \$5 million each for the initial development, and so far, three groundbreaking this year kicked off construction, including a \$37 million project that will bring broadband to western Suffolk and to Isle of Wight and Southampton counties.

The regional ring, which will eventually connect 17 cities and counties, is already starting to serve as a catalyst for local governments to develop additional fiber network connections, Crum said.

Crum said a federal grant application was submitted that will — if the South Hampton Roads fiber phase succeeds — be a \$45 million project allowing the ring to expand through the two bridge-tunnels into the Peninsula.

00 IN THE SPOTLIGHT
ADVERTORIAL

THE WORLD'S NEXT GLOBAL INTERNET HUB ISN'T A CITY: IT'S A MEGAREGION

Located in Central and Southeastern Virginia, just 2 hours south of Washington, D.C.

By John W. Martin, President & CEO of RVA757 Connects



In an issue eight of *InterGlobix Magazine*, we shared how nearby cities are learning that collaboration, not competition, drives scale and the economic success of both localities. In Virginia, RVA757 Connects has been advancing this practice for the Richmond (RVA) and Hampton Roads (757) regions. The result has put the I-64 Innovation Corridor on the map of America's megaregions, 12 micro-economies that make up 70% of the US population, jobs, and gross domestic product.

Our intercity collaboration is now focused on putting our megaregion on the map of major global interconnection hubs. To this end, RVA757 Connects has convened more than 60 top leaders from 10 different industry and business categories including corporations, higher education, military, and government, to create a strategic plan.

We're building on what already makes us the fastest, most diverse, and resilient digital connection between the US and Europe and South America through three of the most modern, highest capacity cables coming ashore in Virginia Beach (757). A fourth cable to South Africa is next.

In Henrico (RVA), Facebook has invested more than a billion dollars in a 2.5-million-square-foot data center campus, and is home to the 14 million-square-foot QTS Richmond NAE the world's fourth largest integration center that it is in the process of doubling its size. We're also part of DEX, the largest inter-connected digital ecosystem in North America.

We'll share our strategic plan with *InterGlobix* readers in early 2023. Until then, you can learn more about our megaregion-wide planning effort at www.globalinternethub.org.

INSIGHTS FROM INDUSTRY LUMINARIES ABOUT I-64 INNOVATION CORRIDOR MEGAREGION



STEPHEN CIMMINO
Virginia Secretary of Finance
"The Commonwealth of Virginia is a digital port to the world. The incredible digital infrastructure assets that we have across our state are the backbone of business today and tomorrow. Having these digital assets in part of the most secure, lowest economic development success, the Commonwealth is delighted to be part of an initiative that is creating a strategic plan to make the I-64 Innovation Corridor a Global Internet Hub. We've proved that our business leaders, universities, military, economic development agencies, subsea cable owners, and local terrestrial operators are all working together to make this happen."



JOHN W. MARTIN
President and CEO of RVA757 Connects
"This strategic plan will continue to accelerate the development of our megaregion's digital infrastructure. Becoming a Global Internet Hub will do more for Hampton Roads' and Richmond economies and quality of life in the 21st century than the construction of I-64 and I-95 highways did for our regions in the 20th century."

About the Author
John W. Martin is the President and CEO of RVA757 Connects, the nonprofit organization that works to support and advance the I-64 Innovation Corridor that runs from Richmond (RVA) to Hampton Roads (757). www.RVA757Connects.com



DOUG SMITH
President and CEO of Hampton Roads Alliance
"Megaregions are becoming the new competitive units in the global economy, nearby cities no longer compete, but instead collaborate on initiatives that all make them competitive on the world stage. For the Hampton Roads-Richmond megaregion, the approach includes accelerating our position as a global digital port. We are delighted to be working with our economic development counterparts in the Richmond area on a plan that will ensure our megaregion becomes increasingly important to the 21st century economy."



VINAY NAGPAL
President of InterGlobal, Executive Director & Founding Member of IIG
"The subsea cable landings, data centers, and international internet business exchange (IIBX) building is slated to open in late 2023. The subsea cable landings, data centers, and international internet business exchange (IIBX) building is slated to open in late 2023. The subsea cable landings, data centers, and international internet business exchange (IIBX) building is slated to open in late 2023."



STAN BLACKWELL
Director of Customer Service and Strategic Partnerships for Dominion Energy
"Dominion Energy is proud to be a part of the strategic planning team focused on making the I-64 Innovation Corridor a major part of the world's digital infrastructure. Supporting data centers is a priority for Dominion Energy since this segment of business accounts for 20 percent of the electricity sold by the utility. The I-64 Innovation Corridor is well positioned for success, given its access to inexpensive, reliable power, sustainable energy, and fiber."



TAYLOR ADAMS
Deputy City Manager and Director of Economic Development for the City of Virginia Beach
"We are pleased the world's subsea cable industry has selected Virginia Beach for its next generation connection points. Today we have three of the world's fastest cables connecting us with Europe and South America and, in the near future, to South Africa. This has occurred, in part, as a result of our working relationship with the RVA757 Connects Initiative. We look forward to advancing Virginia's global digital connectivity given the presence of the industry in Virginia Beach."



GLENN BALLARD
President and CEO of Draper's Design
"The I-64 Innovation Corridor from Hampton Roads to Richmond has one of the highest concentrations of national security and cyber-related workers than in any other part of the country—nearly 10,000 of them. The heart of this cybersecurity industry is having access to the fastest and most reliable internet service, and that's what we have here today. As a private sector player, we're thrilled to be part of this Global Internet Hub strategic planning process that will ensure continued investment in our world class digital infrastructure."



HAKIM J. LUCAS
President of Virginia Union University
"The world doesn't need just another Global Internet Hub, what's really needed is the critical mass of an interconnection hub that delivers an advantage for everyone in that location and in particular the underserved population. What I'm so excited about being on this strategic planning committee is building on the enthusiasm to make this I-64 Innovation Corridor a Global Internet Hub that enables everyone to thrive in a 21st century economy."



ANTHONY ROMANELLO
Executive Director of the Henrico County Economic Development Authority
"I'm excited to become one of the world's fastest internet connection points. While we have seen to 18 percent of the East Coast's internet traffic in the short term, we could not have done this without our partners in Virginia Beach building out their subsea cable landings, data centers, and local terrestrial networks. Together, we are making the world's next Global Internet Hub not just a city, but a megaregion."



MORRIS FOSTER
Vice President of research at Old Dominion University
"ODU is thrilled to be part of the team that's helping this strategic planning process. We have already started to work on anticipated contributions for the jobs needed to support our growing digital infrastructure. We are partnering with Virginia Beach economic development organization and other universities in the I-64 Innovation Corridor. To be working side-by-side with more than 60 people that represent every aspect of our economy speaks to what our megaregion is all about—connecting, connecting and collaborating."



JENNIFER WAKEFIELD
President and CEO of the Greater Henrican Partnership
"Between Richmond and Hampton Roads, Virginia, we have one of the most robust digital infrastructure systems in the world. And companies have begun to realize what a unique value proposition our megaregion offers. We're proud to be a part of the effort to make this world well known globally."

WWW.RVA757CONNECTS.COM | WWW.GLOBALINTERNETHUB.ORG

IN THE SPOTLIGHT 00
ADVERTORIAL

THE GROWTH OF THE I-64 INNOVATION CORRIDOR'S WORLD-CLASS DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE



THE WORLD'S NEXT GLOBAL INTERNET HUB
RVA757 CONNECTS
I-64 INNOVATION CORRIDOR

<https://www.interglobixmagazine.com/the-worlds-next-global-internet-hub-isnt-a-city-its-a-megaregion/>

9

Held A Successful Convergence 2022

2022

CON ERGENCE



2022 CONVERGENCE

135 Attended

85 Stayed for
Dinner

(Audrey Layne Keynote
Speech)

- [Overview of the leading initiatives of the 757 region](#)
- [Overview of the leading initiatives of the RVA region](#)
- [Convening, Connecting, and Collaborating to Advance the I-64 Innovation Corridor](#)
- [Realizing the Full Potential of the I-64 Innovation Corridor](#)



Richmond Times-Dispatch

\$2.00 • SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2022 • WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES • FINAL

Layne urges Richmond, Hampton Roads to team up on initiatives

He says regions must join to develop I-64 Innovation Corridor

BY MICHAEL MARTZ
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Before Aubrey Layne served in Richmond for eight years as secretary of both finance and transportation, he was a businessman and accountant in Hampton Roads.

Now, Layne is a senior executive at a Hampton

Roads health care company and chairman of a state authority governing a system of ports that touches almost every part of Virginia's economy.

With a close perspective on both regions, he said this week that the Richmond and Hampton Roads areas must act with "a sense of urgency" to collaborate on big initiatives, including unified oversight of three metropolitan airports, widening the final stretch of Interstate 64, expanding

passenger rail and inter-regional bike trails, and investing in offshore wind and advanced pharmaceutical manufacturing.

"Think Big. Act Boldly. Embrace Urgency" was the message Layne delivered to about 90 people at a dinner in Williamsburg on Thursday night for a conference sponsored by RVA757 Connects and the chambers of commerce for both regions to promote development of the I-64 Innovation

CORRIDOR, Page A5



During "Convergence 2022" at the Williamsburg Lodge, Aubrey Layne spoke on how to realize the full potential of the I-64 Innovation Corridor megaregion. Convergence is an annual gathering of RVA757 Connects, ChamberRVA and the Hampton Roads Chamber.

RVA757 CONNECTS

Corridor

From Page A5

Corridor.

Layne served under two Democratic governors — Terry McAuliffe and Ralph Northam — and as an unpaid adviser to Gov. Glenn Youngkin, a Republican

mond, you've got something," he said.

Layne, who was transportation secretary under McAuliffe, said Virginia also has to finish widening I-64 from two to three lanes in each direction between Richmond and Williamsburg, a \$750 million project that is a top

and eco-tourism is very important," he said in the interview.

Layne was unsparing in the outlook if the two regions don't work together on common priorities, especially in Hampton Roads, which he said is lagging almost every major metropolitan area in job

dersea telecommunications cables that connect Hampton Roads and the Richmond area with Europe and South America. Those cables are already driving economic development opportunities in the Richmond area, including data centers in eastern Henrico County and new



Showcased Greater Collaboration and Innovation

RVA757 Connects Virtual Innovation Spotlight



Virtual Innovation Spotlight
Please join us for the kickoff of RVA757 Connects' virtual lunch series featuring one of the RVA region's most exciting industry growth stories:

The Rise of RVA's Advanced Pharmaceutical Manufacturing

Presenters

- Robby Demeria, Chief of Staff of Phlow
- Eric Edwards, Co-Founder and CEO of Phlow
- Jeff Gallagher, Interim Executive Director of the Advanced Pharmaceutical Manufacturing and R&D Cluster Accelerator

This open-invitation lunchtime briefing will be held via the following link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81852795775?pwd=ZHp5RnpRMWpOYiBYalNTdWpKeG5oUT09>

Meeting ID: 818 5279 5775. Passcode: 070358

For questions, contact Laura Robidoux at (443) 285-9151 or laura.robidoux@slrhq.com

Hosted by:


Feb. 1: RVA's Advanced Pharmaceutical Manufacturing



Virtual Innovation Spotlight
Tuesday, March 1, 2022
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Please join us for RVA757 Connects' virtual lunch series featuring one of the RVA region's most exciting industry growth stories:

Jefferson Lab's Plans for Supercomputing

Presenter

- Stuart Henderson, Director, Jefferson Lab

This open-invitation lunchtime briefing will be held via the following link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81852795775?pwd=ZHp5RnpRMWpOYiBYalNTdWpKeG5oUT09>

Meeting ID: 818 5279 5775. Passcode: 070358

For questions, contact Laura Robidoux at (443) 285-9151 or laura.robidoux@slrhq.com

Hosted by:


March 1: Jefferson Lab's Plans for Supercomputing

RVA757 Connects Virtual Innovation Spotlight

April 5: Cybersecurity



Virtual Innovation Spotlight #3

**“Another Day at the Breach:
Cybersecurity for the Country,
I-64 Innovation Corridor,
and Your Company”**



**May 3: Virginia’s drone
technology industry**



**FLYING HIGH:
VIRGINIA DRONE
TECHNOLOGY
INDUSTRY**



RVA757 Connects Virtual Innovation Spotlight

June 7: Transportation and Logistics Growth in the Megaregion



Aug. 2: Hydroponic Growing Facility in Goodland Producing Leafy Greens



RVA757 Connects Virtual Innovation Spotlight

Sept. 6: Expanding digital infrastructure in Virginia



RVA757
connects

DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM
CONNECTIVITY

**QTS EMBARKING ON
MAJOR DATA CENTER
EXPANSION IN HENRICO**

The graphic features the RVA757 Connects logo on the left, followed by the text 'DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM CONNECTIVITY' and 'QTS EMBARKING ON MAJOR DATA CENTER EXPANSION IN HENRICO'. The right side of the graphic shows a photograph of a data center aisle with rows of server racks and yellow overhead lighting, set against a dark background with blue and orange circular accents.

Oct. 4: Breakneck broadband:
Regional fiber ring to bring
faster internet to Hampton
Roads



RVA757
connects


BREAKNECK BROADBAND

**REGIONAL FIBER RING
TO BRING FASTER
INTERNET TO
HAMPTON ROADS**

The graphic features the RVA757 Connects logo on the left, followed by the text 'BREAKNECK BROADBAND' and 'REGIONAL FIBER RING TO BRING FASTER INTERNET TO HAMPTON ROADS'. The right side of the graphic shows a stylized, colorful fiber optic network with purple and blue lines, set against a dark background with blue and orange circular accents.


RVA757 Connects Virtual Innovation Spotlight

Nov. 1: Digital Port: Subsea Cables Connecting Continents Countries, and Cities



CONNECTING CONTINENTS,
COUNTRIES, AND CITIES

**A DEEPER DIVE ON THE
SUBSEA CABLES THAT COME
ASHORE IN VIRGINIA BEACH**



Dec. 6: Becoming the Next Global Internet Hub

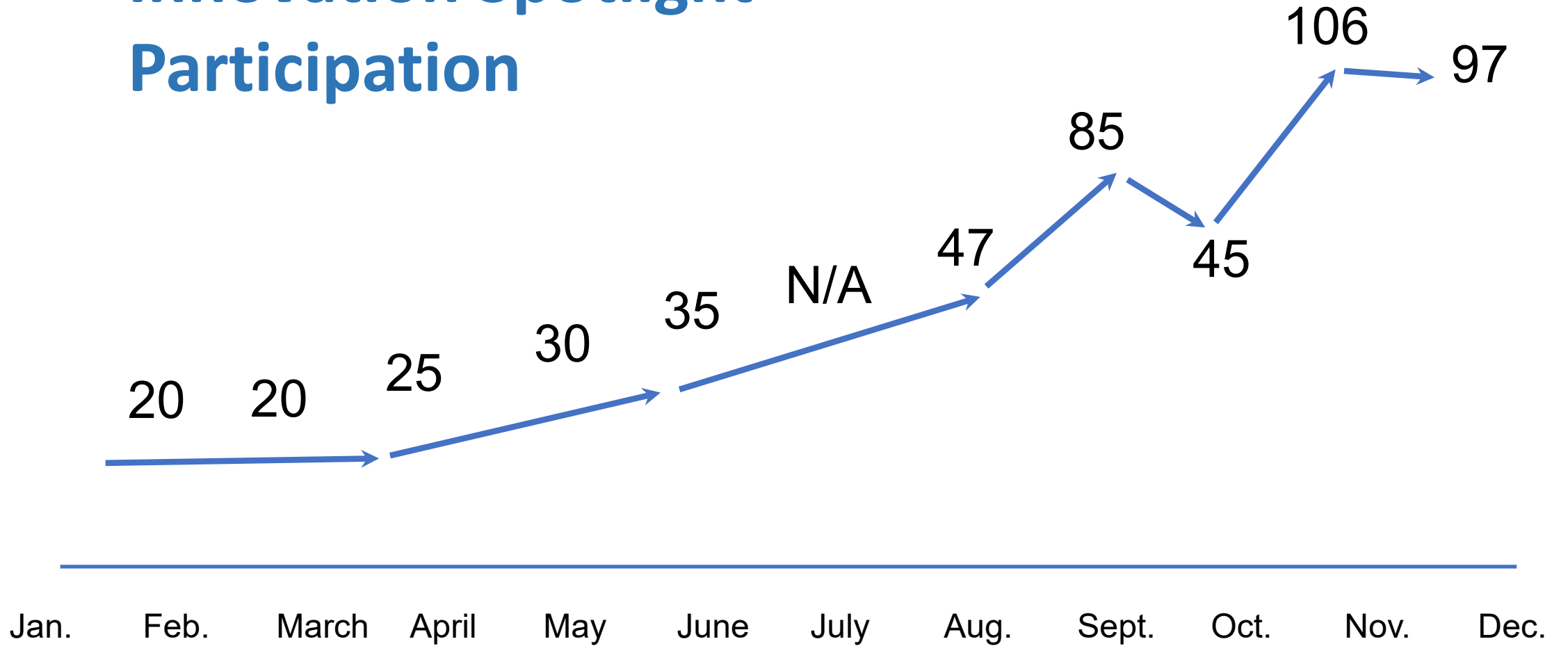


BECOMING THE
WORLD'S NEXT
GLOBAL INTERNET HUB

WHAT DOES IT MEAN
FOR THE MEGAREGION



Innovation Spotlight Participation



Innovation Spotlight: First Wednesdays in 2023



Next up:

**Entrepreneurial
Ecosystem:**

**The megaregion's
startup community
is growing and
thriving yet has
challenges**

**Wednesday
January 4, 2023**

Noon to 1 p.m.



Further Advanced Collaboration in the Corridor to Support Our Priorities

Greater Peninsula Now



2023-2024 Strategic Framework

November 28, 2022

1



4. Plan's Strategic Framework

GPN's Purpose:

Ensure that the Virginia Peninsula reaches its full potential.



GPN's Vision:

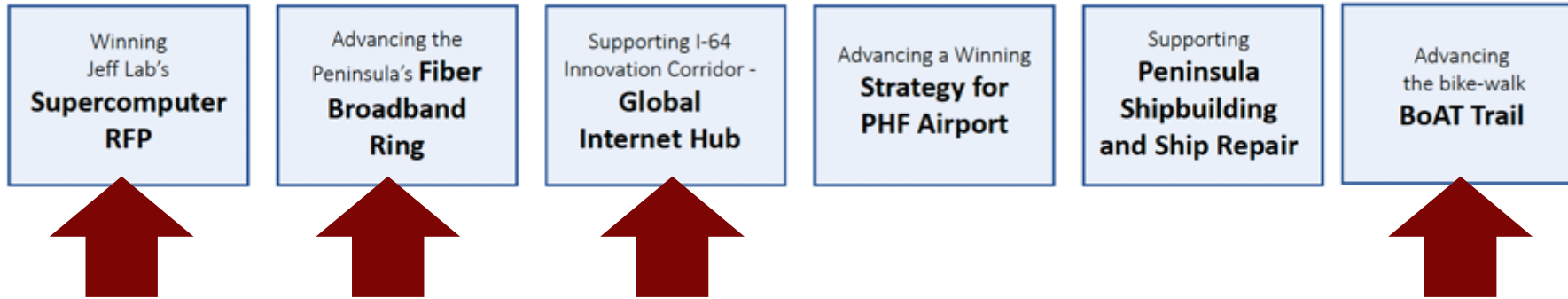
The Virginia Peninsula will be a major force in driving the success of the entire Hampton Roads region and the I-64 Innovation Corridor as a national and global leader in the latest scientific breakthroughs, inclusive relationships, diverse cultural experiences, and exceptional quality of life.



GPN's Mission:

Through our collective voices and resources, we advance local and regional strategic initiatives that continuously improve the Virginia Peninsula's economy, vitality, reputation, and quality of life.

GPN's Strategic Initiatives:



6

Created a Government Relations Committee and Formulated Our Advocacy Approach



2023 Government Relations Plan

Ross Grogg and Chris Lloyd

We will share our plan in the next part of this meeting.



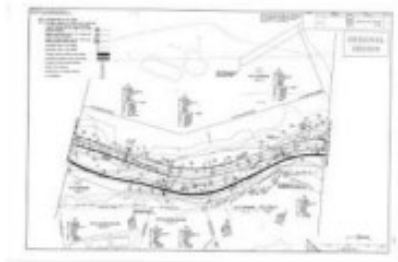
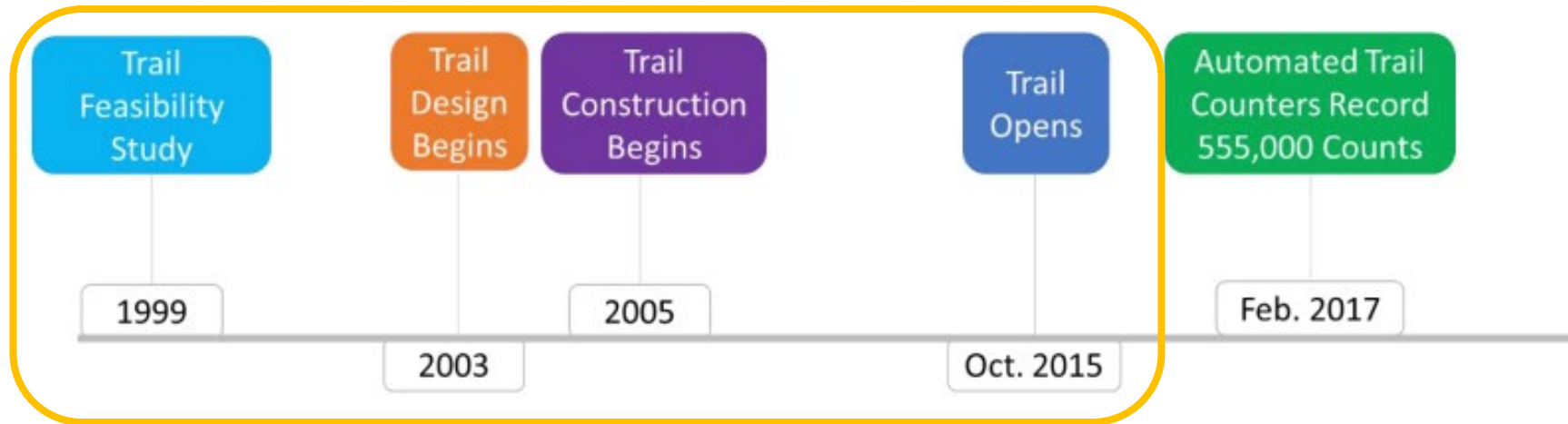
5

**Created a Strategic Plan
to Advance the BoAT Trail.
Our Plan Is Already Adding Value.**

The Virginia Capital Trail took 15 years to go from planning to opening.



FIGURE 5: FROM VISION TO REALITY, VIRGINIA CAPITAL TRAIL TIMELINE



Source: Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO), Birthplace of America Trail Study, 2017

Virginia Capital Trail Has Been a Huge Success



ANNUAL USAGE COUNTS OF OVER

1.2 MILLION



OVER
750
VOLUNTEERS
EST. **2,635** HOURS of
SERVICE

Estimated Annual Impact*

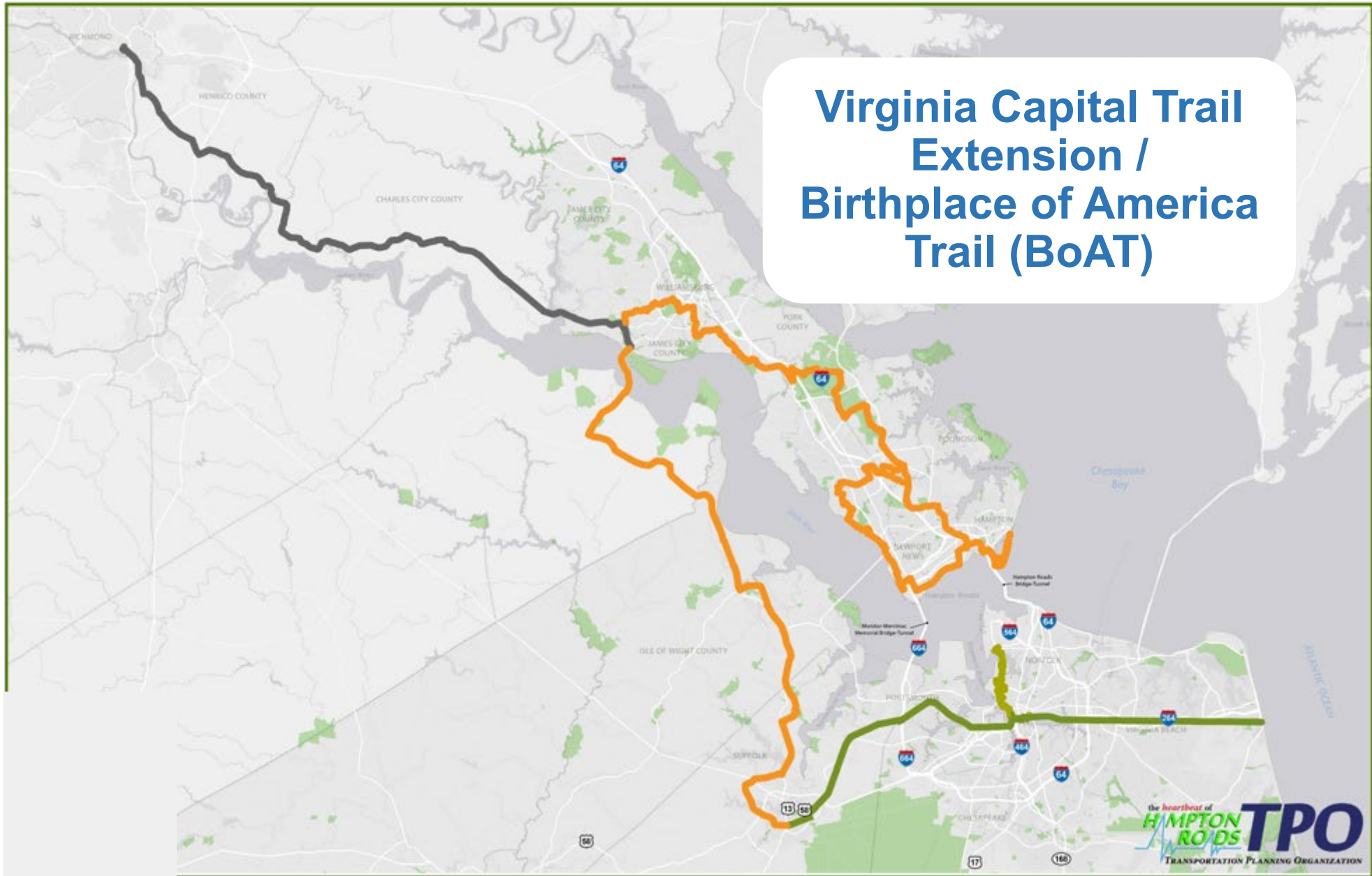
- Stimulated \$8.5 million-plus in economic activity within 50-miles of the trail*
- Supports 100+ FTE jobs in the state*
- Is responsible for more than \$3.6 million in wage and salary income*
- Generated \$613,000 in state and local tax revenues in Virginia*

* For the 2018-19 fiscal year

Source: Pilkington, L., Magnini, V., and Wyatt, C. (2019). The Economic and Fiscal Impacts of the Virginia Capital Trail: Fiscal Year 2018-19. University of Richmond in collaboration with the Institute for Service Research.

Source: Virginia Capital Trail Foundation, 2020 Impact Report

Virginia Capital Trail Extension / Birthplace of America Trail (BoAT)



RVA757 Connects' BoAT Strategic Plan



[Va Capital Trail Plan 09-02-22.pptx](#)

[Executive Summary: How RVA757 Connects Can Advance the BoAT Trail](#)

1. Help **identify and engage trail champion(s)**.
2. Help **raise awareness and benefits of the trail** by creating a project website, promoting the project through RVA757 Connects' communications efforts, and generating earned media.
3. **Advocate for funding** from the new state bike agency to support all of the "Big Four" trails (Eastern Shore Trail, Fall Line Trail, Shenandoah Trail, and BoAT). Note that the RVA region is advancing the Fall Line Trail, so RVA757 Connects needs to support all trail development.
4. **Conduct a return-on-investment (ROI) study** that makes a powerful economic case for investment in the BoAT. Most successful trails in other cities benefited from having an ROI study to advance investment in their facilities.
5. **Provide organizing support to make the case for financial support for the BoAT.** This could include organizing and packaging "adopt-a-trail" funding opportunities for corporations and others that give them recognition on signage, websites, and e-newsletters. Craft a public-private partnership approach.
6. **Facilitate BoAT stakeholder discussion on the best name for the new trail.** Trail advocates currently call the route from Williamsburg to Virginia Beach the BoAT Trail – the Birthplace of America Trail.

“RVA757 Connects’ BoAT strategic plan is a tremendous resource for the Tidewater Trails Alliance. We are already using this document to advance our board recruitment and strategic direction while ramping up our advocacy efforts to make the BoAT trail a reality.”

Tom Cosgrove
Newport News Shipbuilding and
Tidewater Trails Alliance Board

4

Created a Game Plan to Advance Passenger Rail

RVA757 Connects' Passenger Rail Plan



RVA757 Connects' Action Plan

[Growing Passenger Rail Service: RVA757 Connects' Action Plan](#)

We will share the plan in the next part of this meeting

3

Supported Our Directors' and MIC Members' Initiatives

RVA757 Connects' Support

For the planned Virginia Beach Trail

A 12-mile segment that will serve as the destination of the planned Birthplace of America Trail.



September 7, 2022

Patrick A Duhaney, City Manager
City of Virginia Beach
Municipal Center Building 1
2401 Courthouse Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Re: Support for The Virginia Beach Trail

Dear Mr. Duhaney:

We write to support Virginia Beach's efforts seeking the necessary funds to complete the \$15 million funding package to build the Virginia Beach Trail — the easternmost segment of the planned South Hampton Roads Trail — that promotes equitable access to an active transportation network, increases pedestrian and bicycle user safety, and spurs economic strength and vitality.

The Virginia Beach Trail is a 12-mile paved shared-use path spanning the city on the city-owned former Norfolk Southern railroad right-of-way. This trail serves as the final destination of the planned Birthplace of America Trail, giving it regional reach and significance. The eastern 1.5 miles of the trail already constructed near the oceanfront and ViBE District are well-utilized by residents and tourists, providing proof of concept. The western 3-mile segment connecting the Hampton Roads Transit multi-modal hub at Newtown Road to Town Center with a pedestrian/bicycling bridge over Independence Boulevard will provide safety, connectivity, and recreational benefits for the region's workforce, students, and residents.

RVA757 Connects is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to improving the economic success and quality of life for everyone in the Richmond (RVA) and Hampton Roads (757) regions. We are an inclusive, mutually supportive network of leaders representing business, community, and higher education. (A list of our Board Directors is included at the end of this letter.) We are advancing the Richmond-Hampton Roads megaregion as the I-64 Innovation Corridor, a national model of innovation and interregional collaboration.

Bike trails are a priority for RVA757 Connects — including the Birthplace of America Trail or BoAT Trail (from Williamsburg to Fort Monroe on the Peninsula and from Williamsburg across the Surry Ferry to the ocean front, both as an extension of the Virginia Capital Trail), the Fall Line Trail in the Richmond region, and the Virginia Eastern Shore Trail.

Bicycling in America — as well as in Virginia — has become a popular leisure activity that has seen increasing interest and use during the last five years. COVID pandemic has accelerate this trend. Biking is not only a more popular sport, but cycling has become a great alternative for transportation.

That interest has boosted the use and the number of bike trail networks. Localities have been

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RVA757 Connects' Support For the Advanced Pharmaceutical Manufacturing and R&D Cluster in Petersburg

Virginia Biotechnology Research Partnership
Authority Coalition Phase 2 Application to
the Build Back Better Regional Challenge



March 11, 2022

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Herbert Clark Hoover Building
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Re: Virginia Biotechnology Research Partnership Authority Coalition Phase 2 Application to the Build Back Better Regional Challenge

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

We are writing to express our support for the application of Activation Capital on behalf of an extensive regional coalition for the EDA's ARPA Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant to accelerate the growth of the emerging Advanced Pharmaceutical Manufacturing and R&D Cluster in Petersburg, Virginia. Petersburg is part of the greater Richmond region.

RVA757 Connects is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to improving the economic success and quality of life for everyone in the Richmond (RVA) and Hampton Roads (757) regions. We are an inclusive, mutually supportive network of leaders representing business, community, and higher education. (A list of our Board Directors is included at the end of this letter.) We are advancing the Richmond-Hampton Roads megaregion as the I-64 Innovation Corridor, a national model of innovation and interregional collaboration.

We recently had the opportunity to feature a Zoom webinar with Eric Edwards, Co-Founder and CEO of Phlow, Robby Demeria, Chief of Staff of Phlow and founding Board Chair of the Pharmaceutical Cluster Accelerator, and Jeff Gallagher, Executive Director of the Advanced Pharmaceutical Manufacturing and R&D Cluster Accelerator. Our audience and Board were immediately struck by the clear articulation of a key factor of their success – COLLABORATION – and we are eager to help!

We were impressed in the way that the cluster has teamed up with exceptional partners with vested interests to drive industry change and how this has brought a whole new end-to-end supply chain to the pharmaceutical industry, workforce development to Virginia State University (VSU) and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), and greater infrastructure and economic well-being to the City of Petersburg.

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CORRIDOR

RVA757 Connects' Support

For the I-64 Gap Project

The Virginia Department of Transportation applied for a federal grant to widen a 29-mile section of Interstate 64 from the Bottoms Bridge exit in New Kent County to the Lightfoot exit near Williamsburg.



May 6, 2022

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. S.E
Washington, D.C. 20590

SUBJECT: I-64 OpportUNITY Connector

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

A big barrier stands in the way for both the Richmond and Hampton Roads regions to realize their full economic potential.

That obstacle is the 29-mile stretch of Interstate 64 – from the Bottoms Bridge exit in New Kent County to the Lightfoot exit near Williamsburg, a section that transportation officials call the I-64 Gap. This is the one remaining segment of I-64 between Richmond and Hampton Roads that is still two lanes in each direction and a major chokepoint that limits our economic opportunities.

This is why we are pleased to provide this letter of support for the Virginia Department of Transportation's application with the U.S. Department of Transportation for the FY 2023 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program. This grant request will allow much needed improvements along I-64 that is a critical link between two major regions, the Richmond Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and the Hampton Roads MSA.

RVA757 Connects is a non-profit organization made up of business and higher education leaders from the Richmond (RVA) and Hampton Roads (757) regions (a list of our board directors is attached). We believe that collaboration, not competition, between nearby cities drives scale and the economic success of both localities. We work on game-changing opportunities that benefit both regions and improve the quality of life of all our residents. We call our combined region the I-64 Innovation Corridor. Closing the I-64 Gap tops our list of priorities and inspires us to see it as the I-64 OpportUNITY Connector.

Funding this project will deliver many economic, cultural, national security, environmental, and equity-related benefits, all of which will help our megaregion's economy recover from the pandemic and become even more resilient to future shocks.

1

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CORRIDOR

RVA757 Connects' Support

For the Columbia Gas Transmission's Virginia Reliability Project (VRP)

The Virginia Reliability Project is modernizing the natural gas transmission infrastructure in Hampton Roads, Petersburg, and Emporia.



RVA757 Connects' Support

For Jefferson Lab's proposed High Performance Data Facility (HPDF)

Jefferson Lab's pending \$43 million request for a shell building to house a future High Performance Data Facility.



November 17, 2022

The Honorable Glenn A. Youngkin
Governor
Commonwealth of Virginia
PO Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Youngkin:

On behalf of RVA757 Connects, we are writing today in support of Jefferson Lab's pending \$43 million request for a shell building to house a future High Performance Data Facility.

RVA757 Connects is an organization dedicated to improving the economic success and quality of life for everyone in the Richmond (RVA) and Hampton Roads (757) regions. We are an inclusive, mutually supportive network of leaders representing business, community, and higher education. (A list of our Board Directors is at the end of this letter.) We are advancing the Richmond-Hampton Roads megaregion as the I-64 Innovation Corridor, a model of innovation and interregional collaboration.

As you are aware, Jefferson Lab is now pursuing a proposed High Performance Data Facility (HPDF), an anticipated \$300-\$500 million federally funded construction project.

The HPDF, when completed, would be the world's most modern supercomputing and data analysis facility. This facility would bring together state-of-the-art high-performance computation coupled with advanced data storage, wide-area networking, and artificial intelligence/machine learning capabilities to support the U.S. Department of Energy's computing needs across the full breadth of the agency's basic and applied research programs.

Unlike competitor national labs that may compete for such a project, Jefferson Lab does not have onsite the necessary unused space to be repurposed.

Therefore, having the Commonwealth fund the building will help ensure Jefferson Lab is postured to submit the strongest HPDF proposal.

Most importantly, this project provides an opportunity to make Jefferson Lab a dual-purpose facility and provides commercialization opportunities in the High-Performance Computing (HPC) space.

A recent study by Hyperion (<https://www.hpcuserforum.com/ROI/>) showed the Return-on-Investment from HPC funding to be \$507 per every \$1 invested.

Consequently, such a facility would be a huge win for Jefferson Lab, the I-64 Innovation

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CORRIDOR

2

Advanced the Region's Ascendency in Becoming a Global Internet Hub



\$160K Cash Funding in Place

- Dominion Energy: \$10,000
- City of Virginia Beach: \$10,000
- Henrico County: \$10,000
- Hampton Roads Alliance: \$10,000
- Old Dominion University: \$10,000
- Dragonfli (Williamsburg): \$10,000
- GO Virginia Grant: \$100,000

\$100K In Kind Contribution



Steering Committee

- Educational institutions, including the major universities and colleges in the I-64 Innovation Corridor.
- Leading Chambers:
 - ChamberRVA
 - Hampton Roads Chamber
- Companies representing multiple digital infrastructure users
- Data
 - Defense
 - Telecom
 - Energy / Utilities
 - Technology
 - Finance
 - Health
 - Transportation / Supply Chain
 - Higher Education
 - Agriculture
- Military representatives
- Workforce development organizations

62 Leaders

Steering Committee

More than 60 leaders from 10 different industry and business categories are members of the Steering Committee:

Misty Allen, Vice President, Government and Regulatory Affairs, Community Impact, Comcast – Beltway Region

Mitchel Allen, Executive Vice President, Business Development, Greater Richmond Partnership

Brian Anderson, President and CEO, ChamberRVA

Shawn Avery, President and CEO, Hampton Roads Workforce Council

Glenn Ballard, President and CEO, Dragonfil Group, LLC

Serena Barry, Communications Director, GROW Capital Jobs Foundation, GO Virginia, Region 4

Capt. Lamont Bazemore, Coast Guard District Five, Chief of Planning and Force Readiness

Stan Blackwell, Director, Customer Service and Strategic Partnerships, Dominion Energy

Gerardo Bonilla, Head of Sales, Telxius

Keith Boswell, President and CEO, Virginia Gateway Region

Scott Brown, Owner, Pixel Factory Data Center

Lt. Luis Caquias, Coast Guard District Five, C5I

Morris Foster, Vice President of Research, Old Dominion University

Nancy Greden, President and CEO, Reinvent Hampton Roads

Tracy Gregorio, CEO, G2Ops

Ram B. Gupta, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Affairs, College of Engineering, Virginia Commonwealth University

William R. Hardy Jr., Director, Network Enterprise Center, Fort Lee

David Harold, Director, Technology Operations, CarMax

Steve Harrison, Vice President, Business Intelligence and Communications, Hampton Roads Alliance

Stephen Hartka, Vice President of Research, Virginia Economic Development Partnership

Martha Heeter, Executive Director, PlanRVA

Stuart Henderson, Director, Jefferson Lab

Steve Herbert, Economic Development, City of Virginia Beach

Robert Holsworth, Managing Partner,

Kelly Newman, General Manager, PointOne

Angela Oakes, Vice President of Strategy, Greater Richmond Partnership

Joel Ogren, CEO, Assured Communications Advisors

Paula P. Pando, President, Reynolds Community College

Mark Pike, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Chief Information Officer/N6

Bernard Robinson, President and CEO, Networking Technologies + Support

Anthony Romanello, Executive Director, Henrico Economic Development Authority

Katherine Rowe, President, William and Mary

Douglas L. Smith, President and CEO, Hampton Roads Alliance

James Spore, Board of Directors, RVA757 Connects

Bryan Stephens, President and CEO, Hampton Roads Chamber

Gary Tarpley, CEO, Cable Associates Inc.

Jeffrey Thomas, Vice President and Chief





VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY



WILLIAM & MARY



TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
From here, go anywhere.™



GTS



VCU



Reynolds COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Southside Network Authority



dragonfli



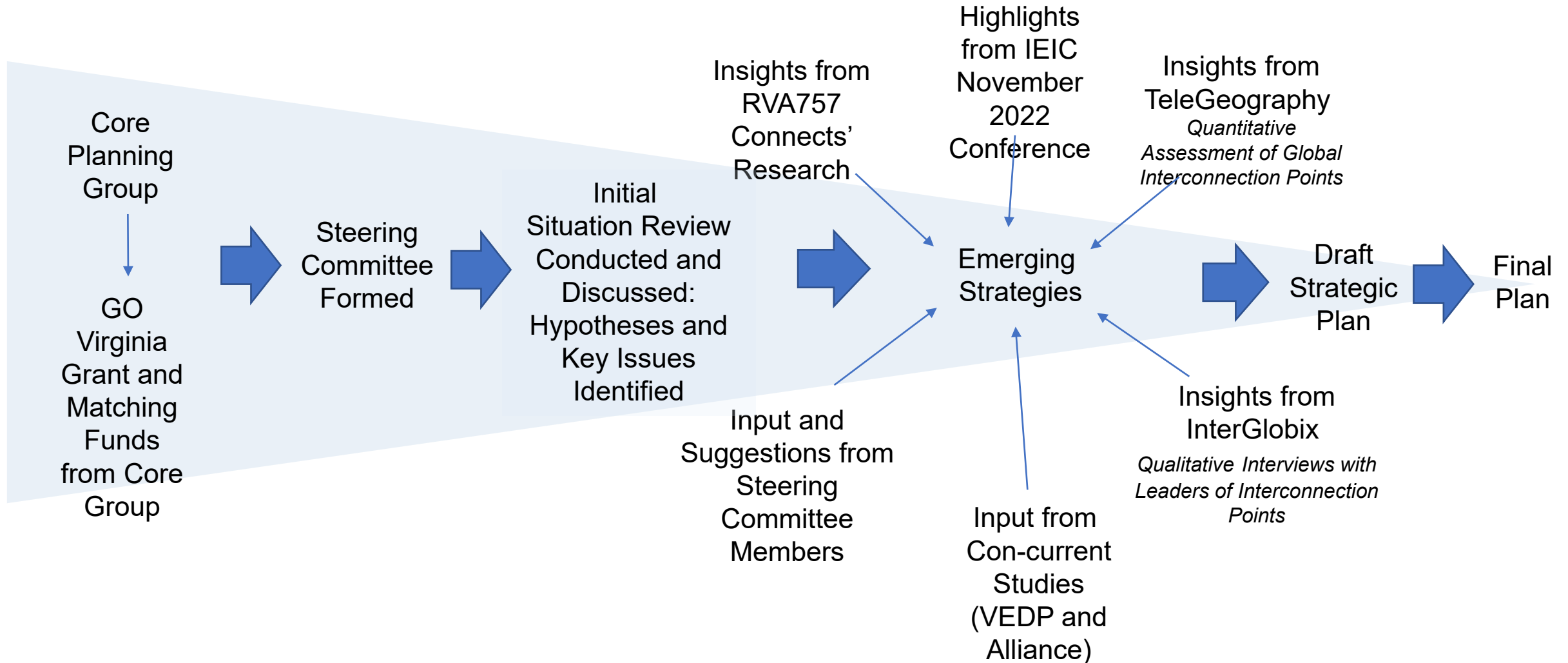
OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY®



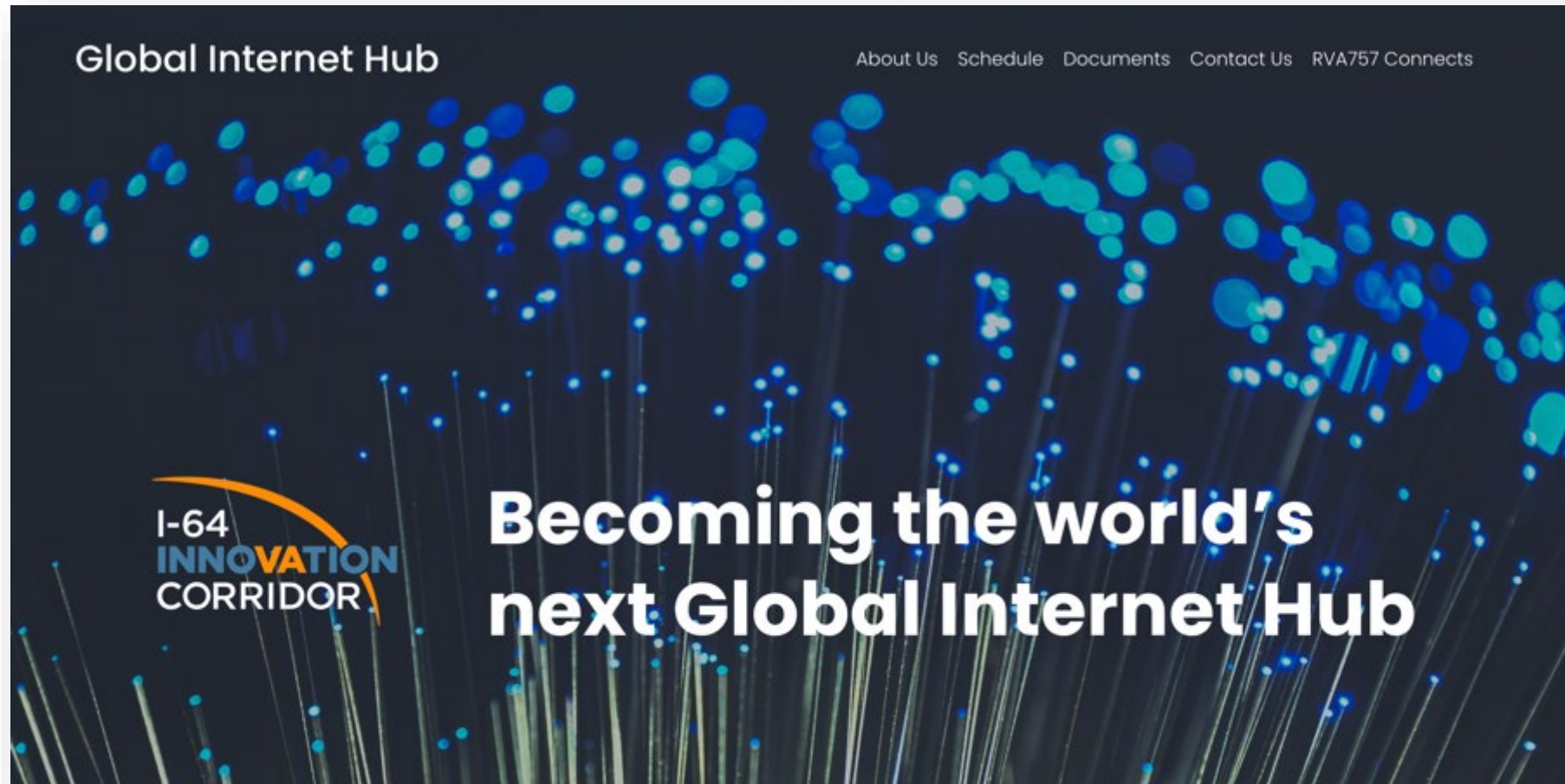
TELXIUS



Our Strategic Planning Process



Project Website: www.globalinternethub.org



1

Made THE Difference
on Closing the I-64 Gap

Convergence 2022 Event:

Secretary Miller Thanks RVA757 Connects for Our Work On I-64 Gap



Governor Youngkin Addresses RVA757 Connects' Board – April 2022



Copy of Remarks on RVA757 Connects' Website

"It is all about your foundational principles of increasing collaboration ... and making sure that we're innovating...."

"RVA757 Connects' foundational principles literally overlap with our ambitions for Virginia in such extraordinary ways. That's why I'm excited to be with this group..."

"Thank you for the work that this group does!"

Q&A

On Our Performance In 2022



Director / MIC Member 2022 Survey Findings & Implications

John W. Martin

15 Min.



Survey Responses

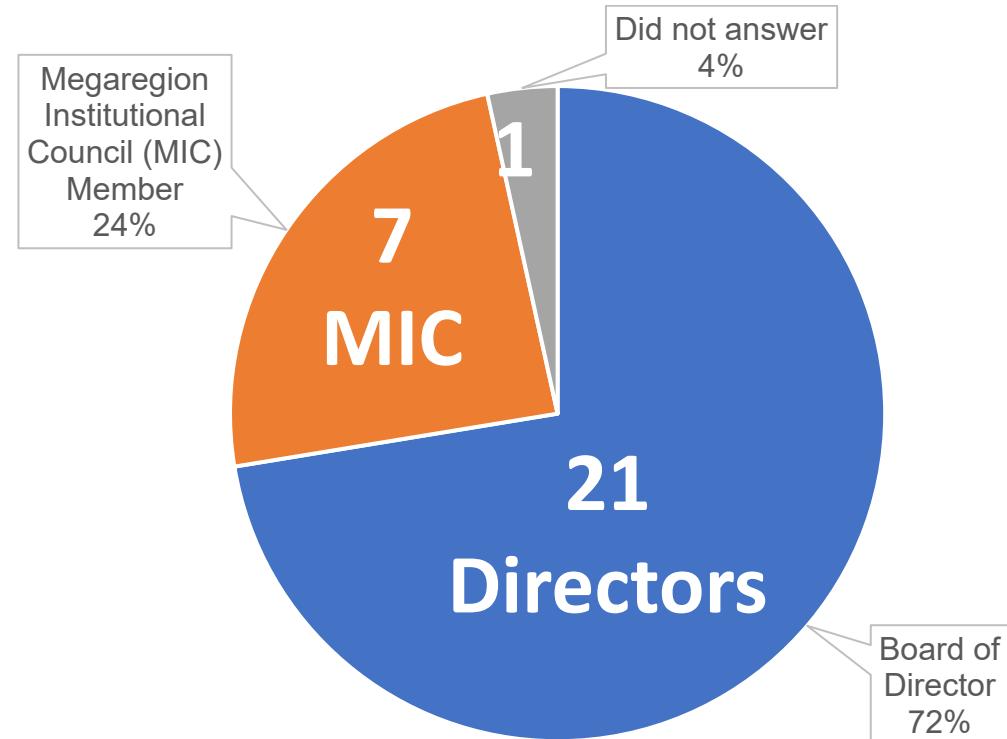


Total universe / survey invites: **79**

Total Responses: **29**

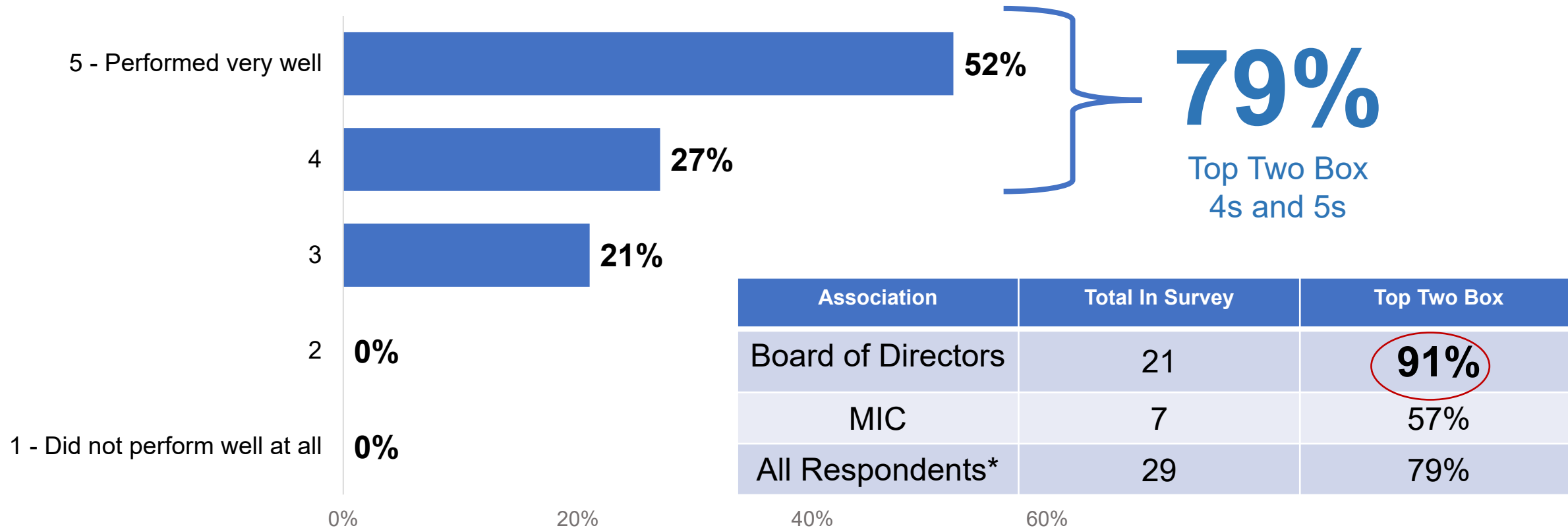
Response Rate: $29/79 =$ **37%**

Initial survey invite and one reminder email sent.



Q10. Please indicate your association with RVA757 Connects:

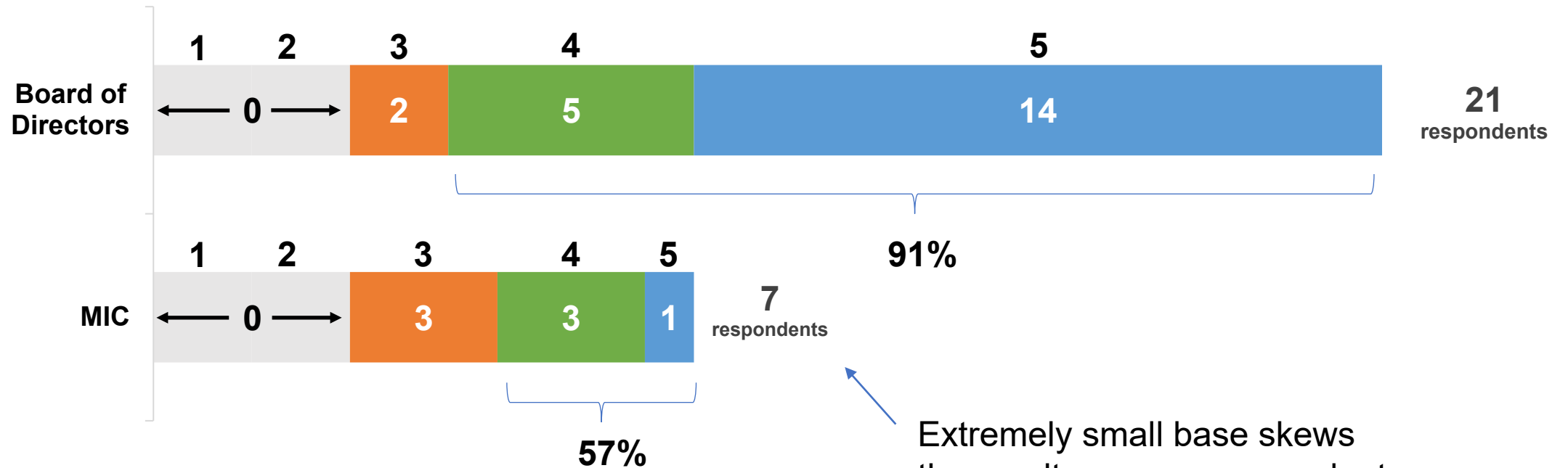
Most are satisfied with RVA757 Connects' Overall Performance



Q1. Please rate RVA757 Connects' overall 2022 performance.

*All Respondents" includes 1 response that did not self-identify as MIC or Board of Directors

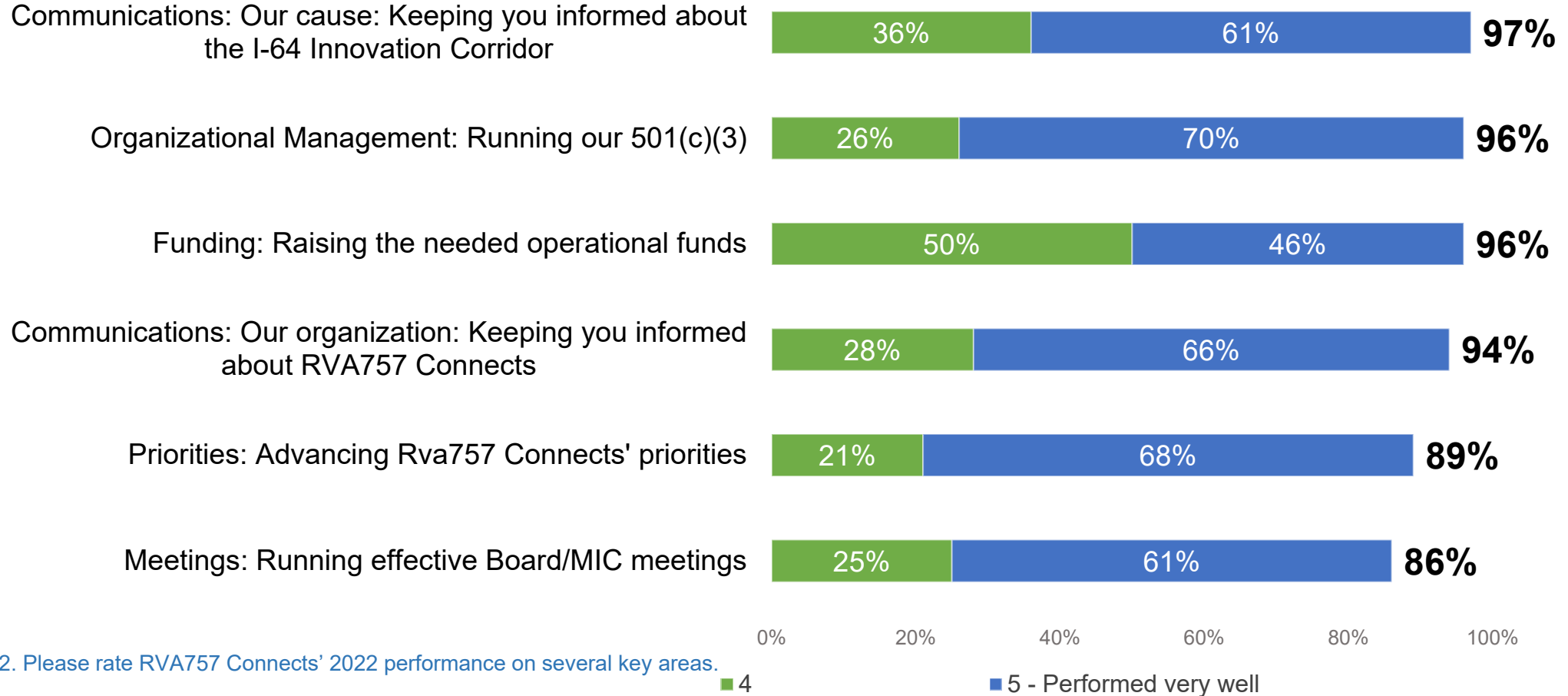
The MIC response is Based on a Small “n.” Nevertheless, We Must Focus Here.



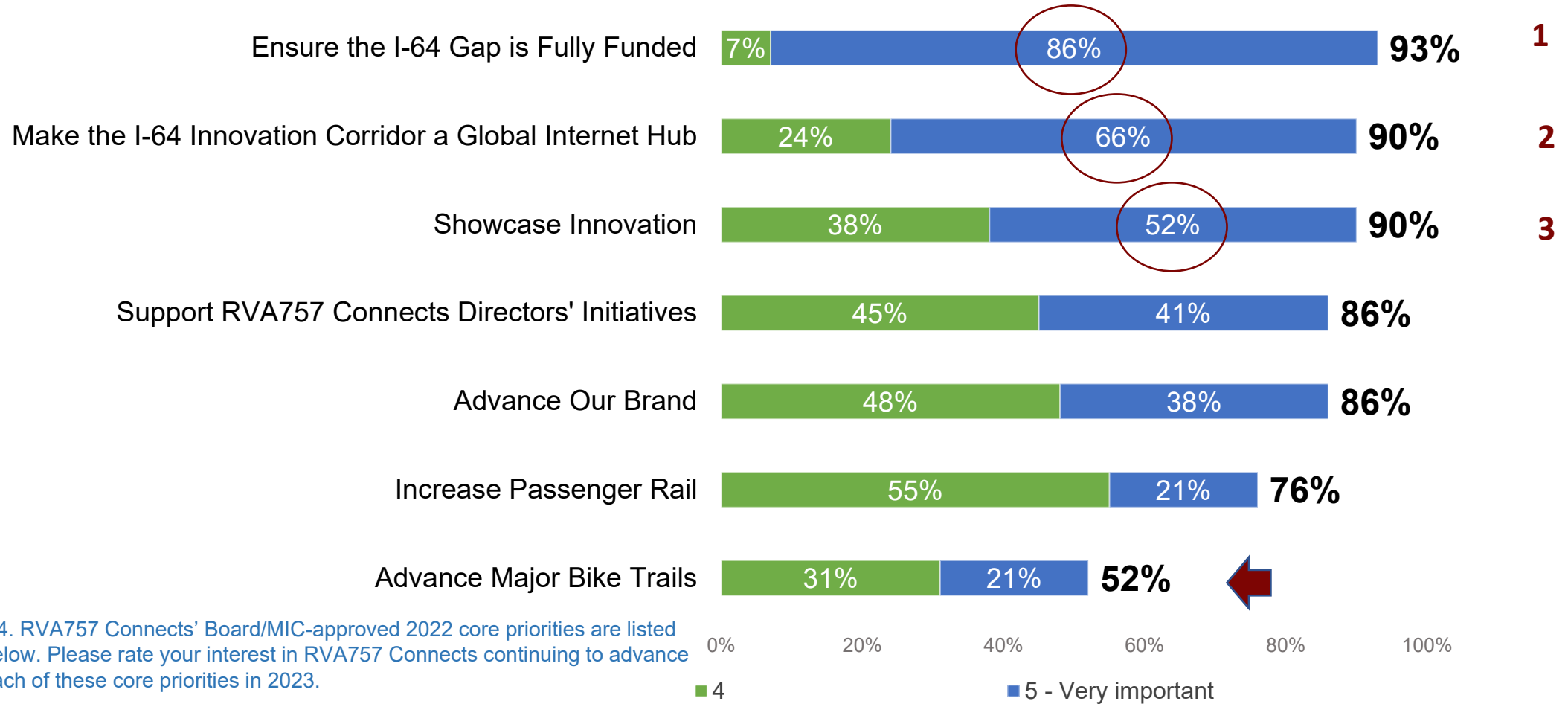
Extremely small base skews the results – every respondent represents 14% of the base

Q1. Please rate RVA757 Connects' overall 2022 performance.

Most are Satisfied with RVA757 Connects' Performance Across Key Areas

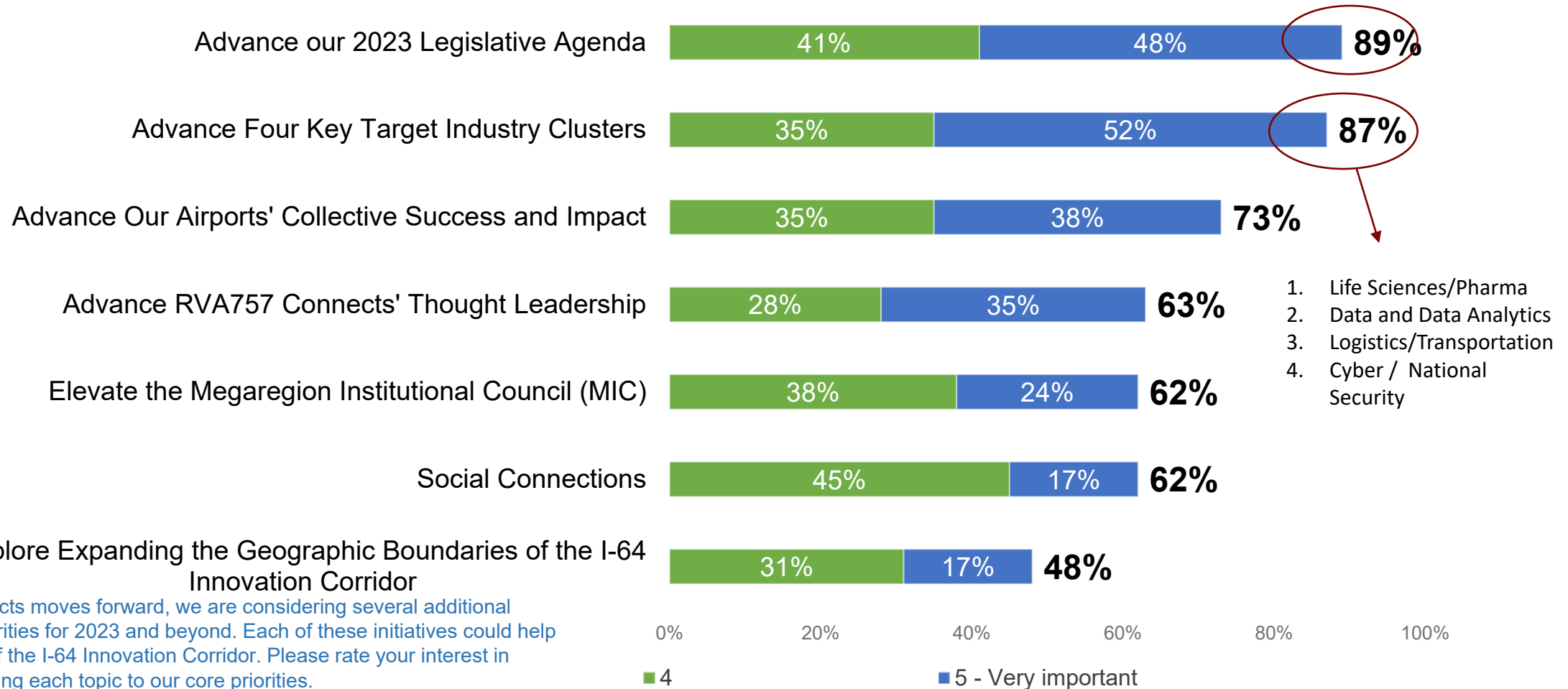


Most Want RVA757 Connects to Continue to Advance Our 2022 Key Priorities In 2023



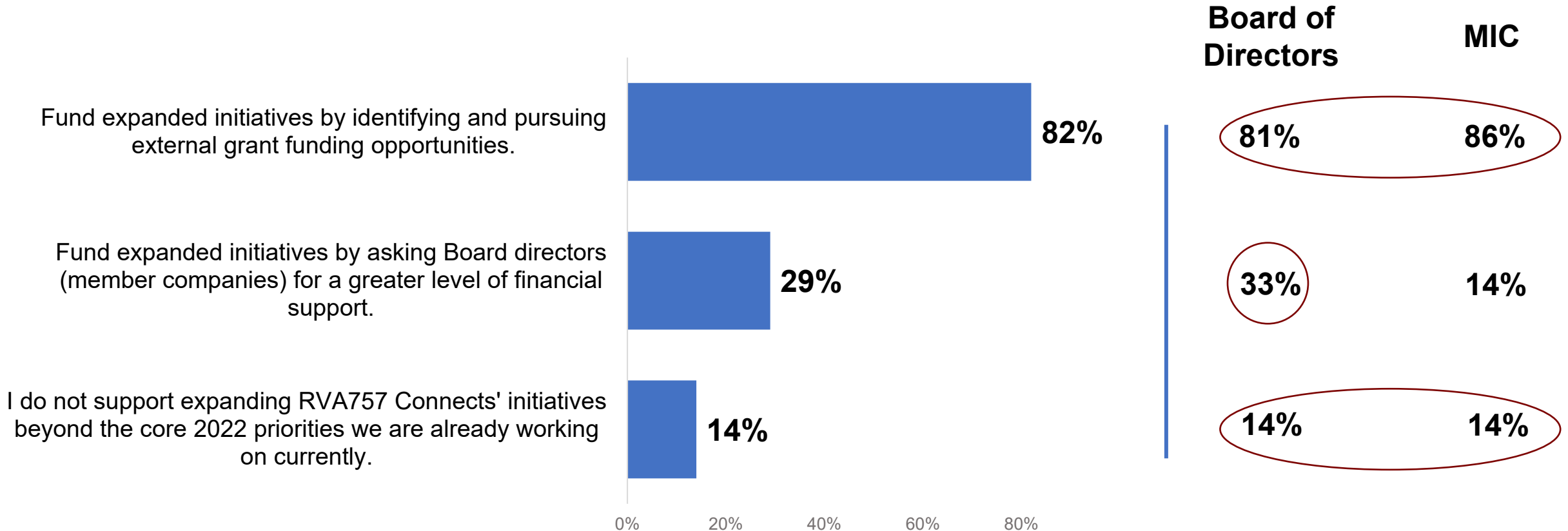
Q4. RVA757 Connects' Board/MIC-approved 2022 core priorities are listed below. Please rate your interest in RVA757 Connects continuing to advance each of these core priorities in 2023.

There Are Additional Priorities That Resonate with Trustees and MIC Members



Q6. As RVA757 Connects moves forward, we are considering several additional RVA757 Connects priorities for 2023 and beyond. Each of these initiatives could help advance the success of the I-64 Innovation Corridor. Please rate your interest in RVA757 Connects adding each topic to our core priorities.

For Expanded Initiatives, Look for External Grant Funding

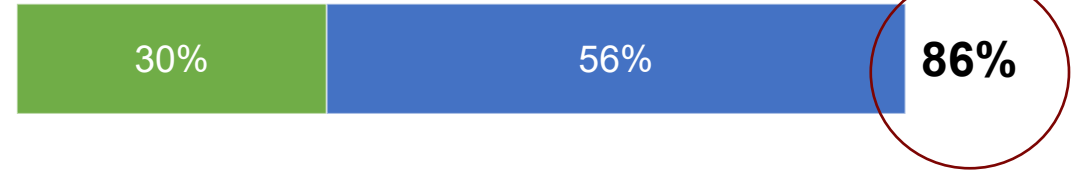


Q7. Adding new RVA757 Connects future priorities in 2023 and beyond comes with the need for greater resources. In what ways do you support ramping up RVA757 Connects' work and funding that work? Select all that apply.

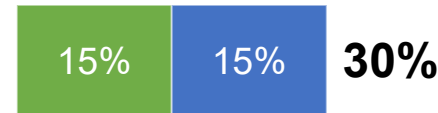
Almost Everyone Likes the Idea of Combining a Board Meeting with Convergence



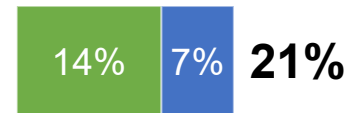
Hold just three Board/MIC meetings and make the fourth meeting the Convergence 2023 event.



Hold a small group 60-minute virtual (lunch break) gathering with participant introductions and informal sharing.

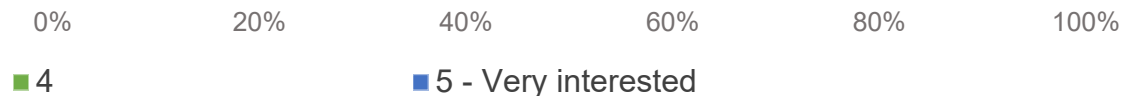


Have an RVA757 Connects tent at an RVA or 757 regional social event such as the Folk Festival (RVA) or Harbor Fest (757).



Social engagement concepts not as popular

Q8. One of the suggestions raised at past meetings is to find more ways to get us together beyond the four Board/MIC Zoom meetings. Listed here are a few suggestions. Please rate your interest in these options.



Last Question – Open End - Verbatim Comments



Any final comments? Please provide any suggestions for RVA757 Connects and the I-64 Innovation Corridor. This could include how we should operate, communicate, socialize, and prioritize our work for 2023 and beyond.

The One Consistent Theme:

Stay Focused

Research Conclusions:

Implications for RVA757 Connects' 2023 Scope



1. Overall, we are doing well. 91% of our investors are satisfied.
2. We need to work on MIC satisfaction / engagement.
3. We have the right priorities – stay the course. Prioritize the I-64 Gap, GIH, and showcasing innovation.
4. Top two expanded priorities – Legislative Agenda and Targeted Industries.
5. For expanded initiatives, look for grant funding over increased corporate support.
6. Hold four Board/MIC meetings with one being Convergence.
7. Don't take on too much – focus intensely on where we can move the needle.

Q&A

On Our Survey Findings
and 2023 Direction



2023 Government Relations Plan

Ross Grogg and Chris Lloyd

Co-Chairs

Government Relations Committee

15 Min.



Our Political Might



	Richmond Region (RVA)	Hampton Roads Region (757)		Combined: Richmond and Hampton Roads	Northern Virginia Region
Legislators	25	30		52	41
Committee Chairs	3	8		10	7
Subcommittee Chairs	12	12		22	9
Budget Conferee	2	6		6	5
Appropriators	6	8		12	12
Leadership	3	5		8	2

RVA757 Connects' Government Relations 2023 Plan



Goal:

- Advance a board-approved legislative agenda that's focused on our priorities.

Target Audiences:

- Local, state, and Virginia's U.S. congressional delegation
- Members of their ecosystem

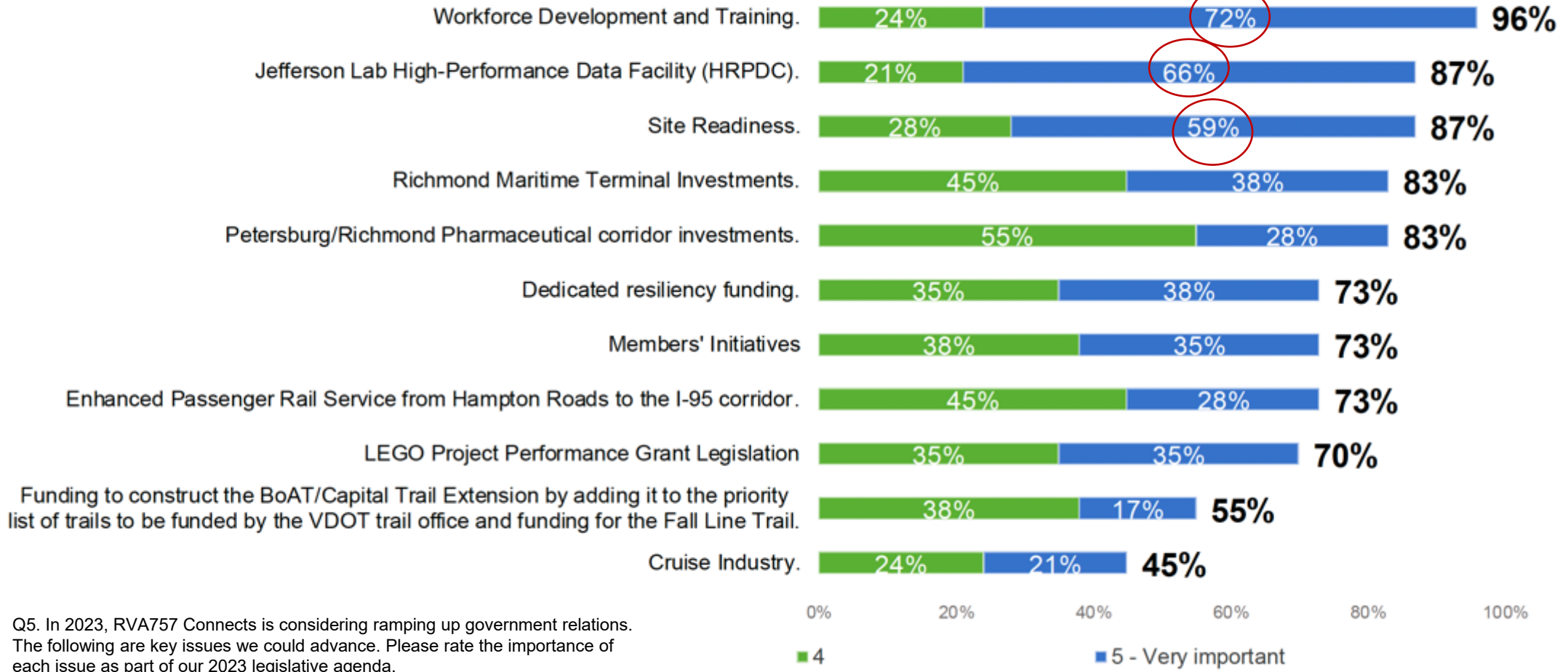
Approach:

- Board approves 2023 Legislative Agenda
- Prepare materials
- Give briefings to joint-RVA and 757 regional caucus.
- Organize calls and visits to key state government leaders and elected officials.
- Hold RVA757 Connects' Government Relations Committee meetings.

2023 Legislative Agenda



Look at top box
"5" rating



Q5. In 2023, RVA757 Connects is considering ramping up government relations. The following are key issues we could advance. Please rate the importance of each issue as part of our 2023 legislative agenda.

Recommended 2023 Legislative Agenda

PRIMARY

1. Workforce:

Industries across the economic spectrum and throughout the region and the Commonwealth are in need of trained employees. The Commonwealth already spends hundreds of millions of dollars on workforce programs. Governor Youngkin is proposing a reorganization of the existing workforce programs to ensure better coordination and to align them with the needs of the employers. Support any efforts to increase funding for workforce programs across the Commonwealth: the Administration's Re-organization proposal, Virginia Community College's HIRE Virginia Plan, and other workforce initiatives).

2. Jefferson Lab High-Performance Data Facility (HRPDC):

Jefferson Lab is competing for a \$300-\$500 million Department of Energy High-Performance Data Facility. State support has been critical to winning potential federal funding in the past. Support contingent one-time funding of \$43 million to create a shell building capable of housing the High-Performance Data Facility that Jefferson Lab is competing for.

3. Site Readiness:

Last year the General Assembly set aside \$159 million in dedicated funding for the Business Ready Sites Program and Governor Youngkin has announced that he intends to introduce amendments adding an additional \$350 million. Support the Governor's proposal for additional funding as it will be needed to ensure that state's most attractive sites are ready for economic development.

Recommended 2023 Legislative Agenda

SECONDARY

Enhanced Passenger Rail Service from Hampton Roads to the I-95 corridor (HRPDC):

- Direct rail service improvements to Richmond and Hampton Roads are constrained by needed improvements in Northern Virginia, including Long Bridge and the Franconia-Springfield Bypass. Support any legislative efforts to accelerate or fund these projects.

Dedicated Resiliency Funding (HRPDC):

- Flooding has become an increasingly frequent problem not just for coastal Virginia, but also localities adjacent to rivers. Protect any efforts to remove or support any efforts to increase dedicated funding for resiliency projects across the Commonwealth.

Richmond Maritime Terminal Investments:

- Since signing a long-term lease in 2010, the Port of Virginia has consistently increased volumes through the Richmond Maritime Terminal and now provides a weekly barge service from the Hampton Roads terminals. Support additional investments both on terminal and outside the gate to improve access and service.

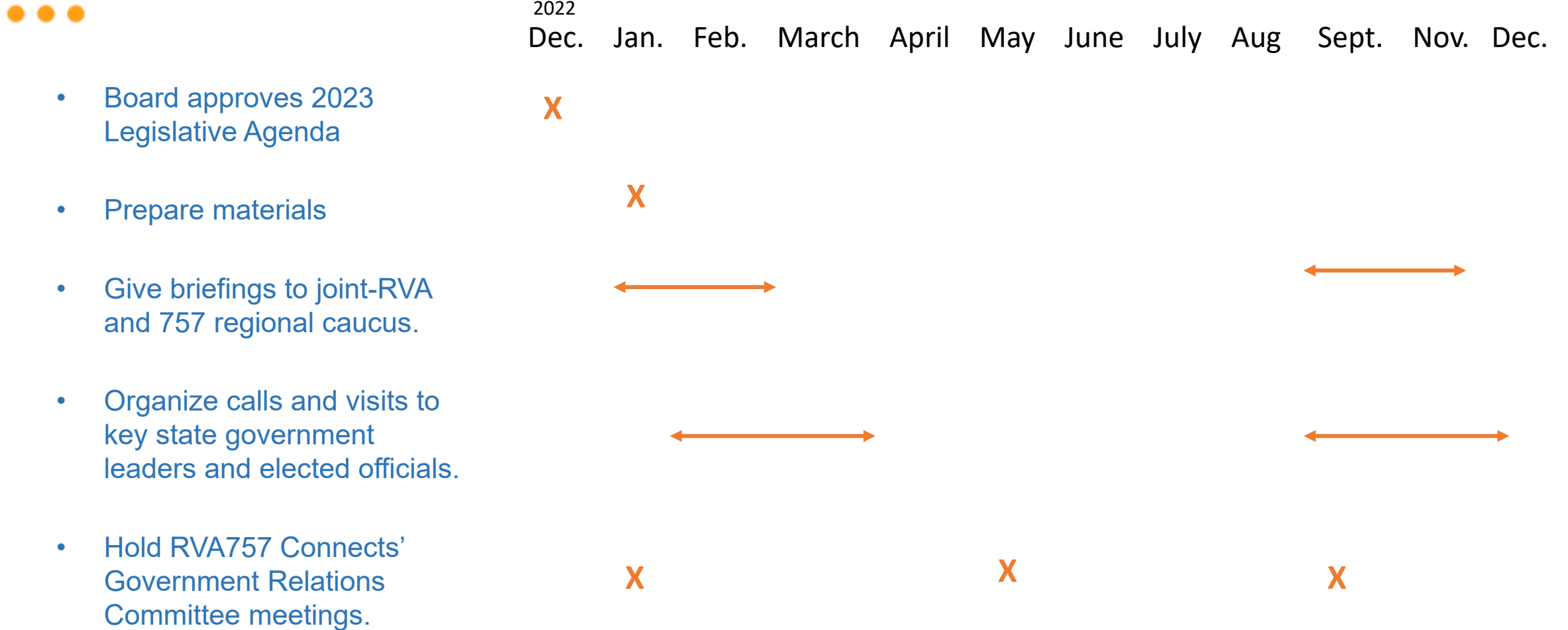
LEGO Project Performance Grant Legislation:

- In June, the LEGO Group announced a \$1 billion investment in Chesterfield County for its first U.S. manufacturing facility, hiring 1,760 employees, plus an estimated \$19 million in site improvements. Support legislation creating the \$56 million custom performance grant approved by the Major Employment and Investment Project Approval Commission.

Petersburg/Richmond Pharmaceutical Corridor Investments:

- The Alliance for Building Better Medicine was recently awarded a \$52.9 million grant from the federal government to create a research and manufacturing hub for essential medicines and their chemical ingredients. Support efforts to leverage the federal grant money for additional state, local and private investments in this growing life sciences corridor.

Government Relations 2023 Plan Timeline



This Is Your Opportunity:



**Join the RVA757 Connects'
Government Relations Committee**

Q&A

Government Relations 2023



Generative Discussion

Increasing Passenger Rail

Special Guest:
DJ Stadtler,
Executive Director,
Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

30 Min.



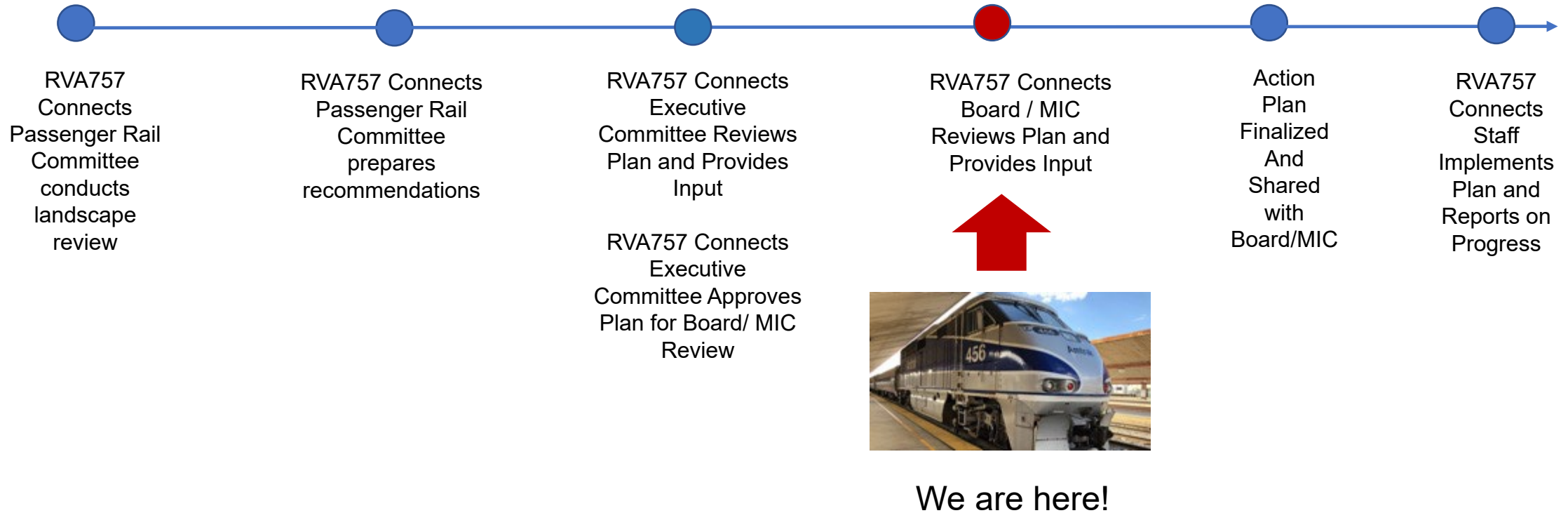
RVA757 Connects' Passenger Rail Advocacy Plan



RVA757 Connects' Action Plan

[Growing Passenger Rail Service: RVA757 Connects' Action Plan](#)

RVA757 Connects' Passenger Rail Action Plan Planning Process



RVA757 Connects' Passenger Rail Plan Inputs



Our Action Plan has been informed by a group of RVA757 Connects' leaders:

Jim Spore (RVA757 Connects Board who also serves on the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority board)

Robbyn Gayer (RVA757 Connects Board who also serves on the board of Virginians for High Speed Rail)

Aubrey Layne (RVA757 Connects Board and former Virginia Secretary of Transportation)

Bob Crum (RVA757 Connects MIC member)

Danny Plaughter (RVA757 Connects MIC and Executive Director of Virginians for High Speed Rail)



RVA757 Connects' passenger rail planning has benefited from input from Virginia's rail leaders:

Jennifer DeBruhl, Director, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)



DJ Stadler, Executive Director, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA)



DJ Stadtler

Executive Director, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority



- Appointed Executive Director of VPRA in April 2021
- Accountable for all strategy, policy development, and operations of the Authority.
- Came to VPRA from Amtrak where he spent 12 years serving in three different Executive Vice President roles as Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Administrative Officer.
- 25 years of experience in the railroad industry also include time at the Federal Railroad Administration where he served as Deputy Chief Financial Officer, overseeing budget, accounting, procurement, and real estate.
- Mr. Stadtler is a two-time graduate of Northeastern University and resides in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

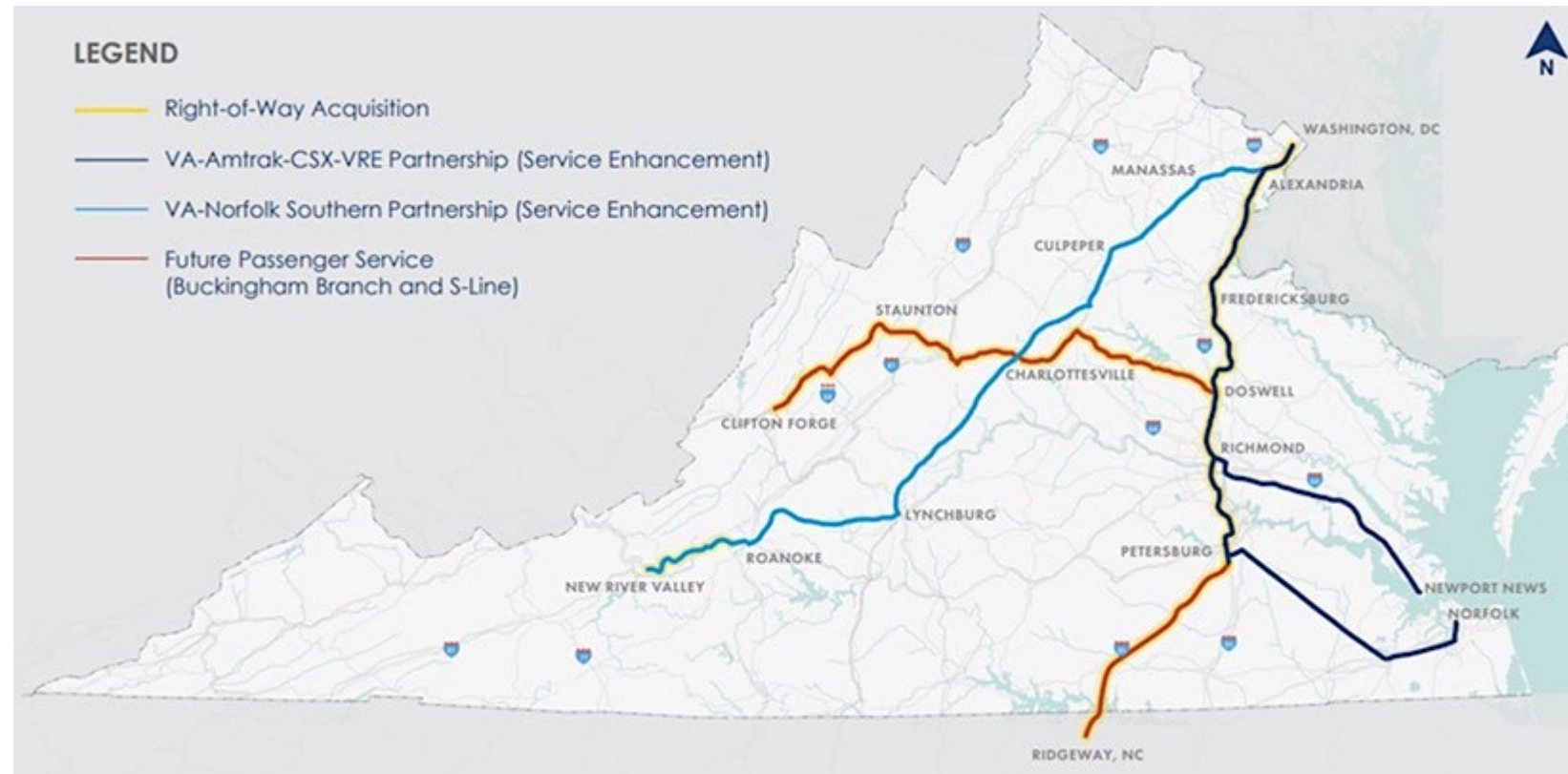
Transforming Rail in Virginia

D.J. Stadtler, Executive Director
Virginia Passenger Rail Authority



Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

- Created by 2020 General Assembly
- Given all powers necessary for carrying out its statutory purposes:
 - Design, build, finance, and maintain rail facilities
 - Direct recipient of USDOT Grants
 - Eminent domain powers in Virginia
- Will own rail assets and right of way
- Will partner with others to operate passenger and commuter rail service
- Governed by a 15-Member Board



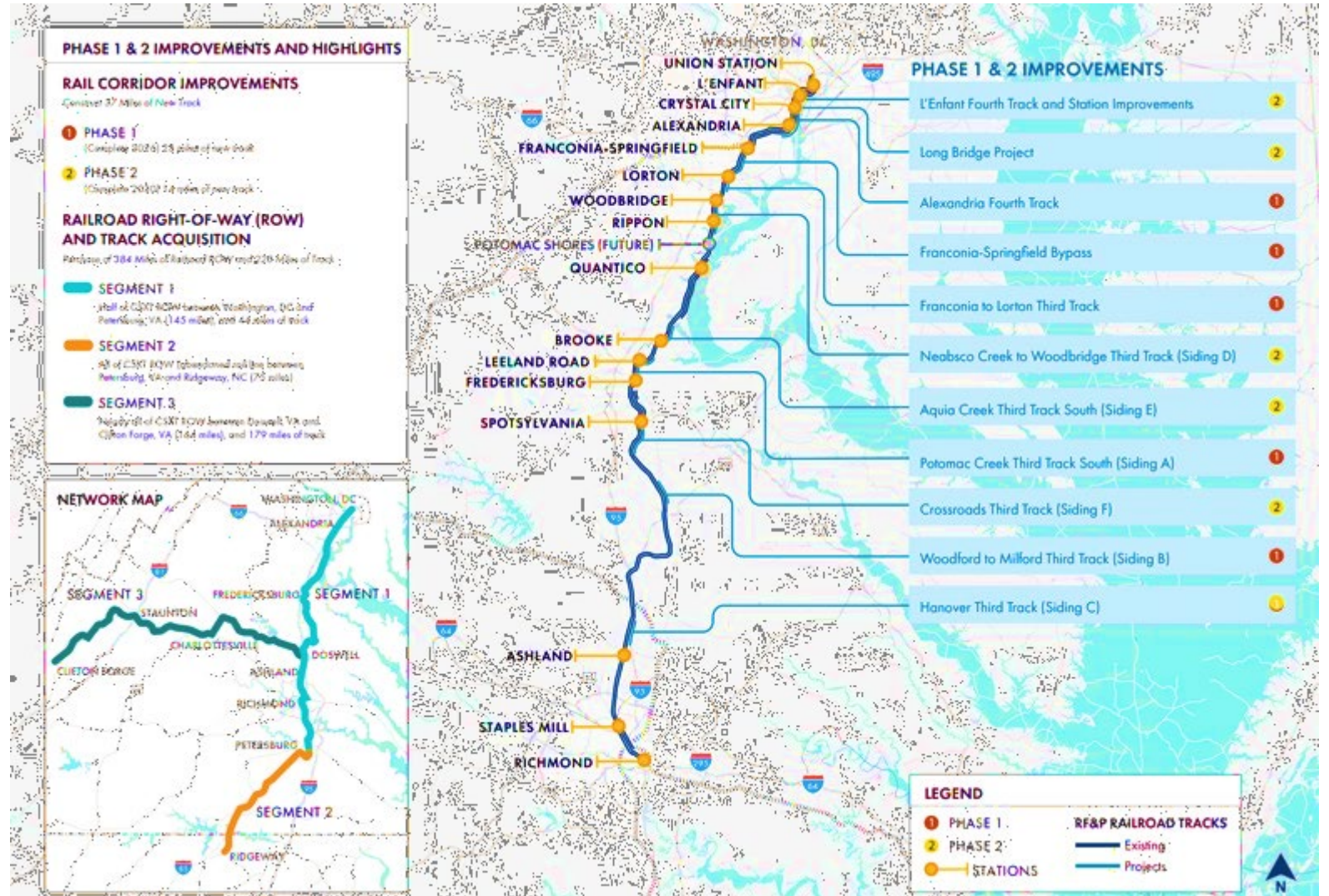
Distribution of VPRA and DRPT Responsibilities

- DRPT continues to carry out statewide planning as it relates to passenger rail in addition to freight rail and transit.
- VPRA is responsible for funding administration, corridor planning, SYIP programming, and policy setting for passenger rail.
- VPRA also responsible for management of design and construction, right-of-way (ROW) acquisition and abandonment, third party coordination, and operations oversight.

	Rail		Transit	Commuter Programs
	Freight	Passenger		
Funding Administration	DRPT	VPRA	DRPT	DRPT
Corridor Planning	DRPT	VPRA	DRPT	
Statewide Planning	DRPT			DRPT
Programming/SYIP	DRPT	VPRA	DRPT	DRPT
Policy Setting	DRPT	VPRA	DRPT	
Design/Construction		VPRA		
ROW/3rd Party		VPRA		
Operations Oversight		VPRA		

Transforming Rail in Virginia

- Infrastructure Improvements including New Long Bridge to Expand Rail Service in Virginia
- Phase 1 Improvements Complete in 2026
- Phase 2 Improvements Complete in 2030
- Each phase will trigger additional VRE and Amtrak service
- Doubling of state-supported Amtrak service into Union Station and 75% increase in VRE commuter rail service



New Service Corresponds with Construction

- 4 new VRE Roundtrips by the end of Phase 1 and 2 additional new VRE Roundtrips by the end of Phase 2 **increases VRE Service by 75% along the Fredericksburg Line.**
- Provides Virginia with control and guaranteed VRE / Amtrak service.
- **More than doubles state-supported Amtrak from 6 to 13**, with nearly hourly service from DC to Richmond.

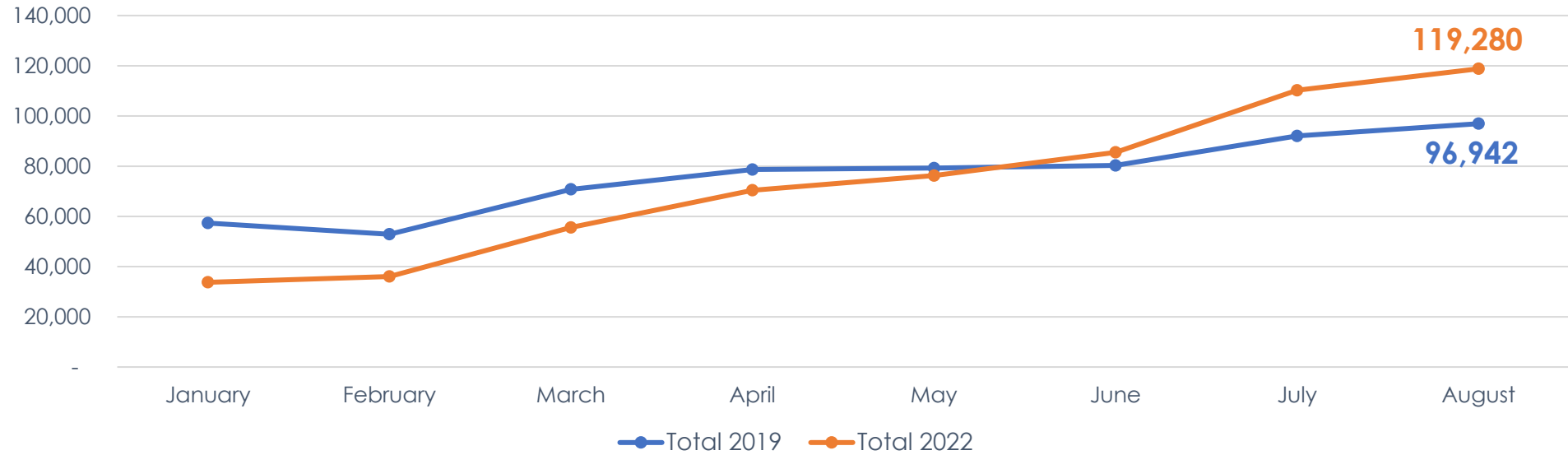


Virginia-Supported Monthly Ridership and Station Activity

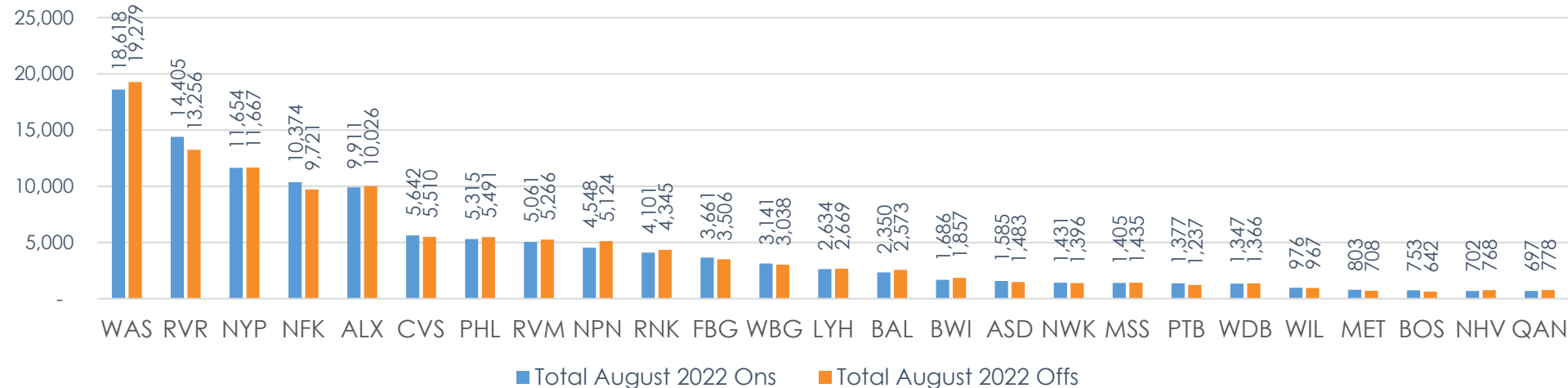
August 2022 was the highest ridership month in the history of Virginia's State-Supported Amtrak Service, exceeding the previous record set in July 2022 110,256 (+8.2%)

Outside of VA WAS, NYP, PHL were most visited stations.

State-Supported Monthly Ridership Comparison



Station Activity at Top 25 Stations in August 2022

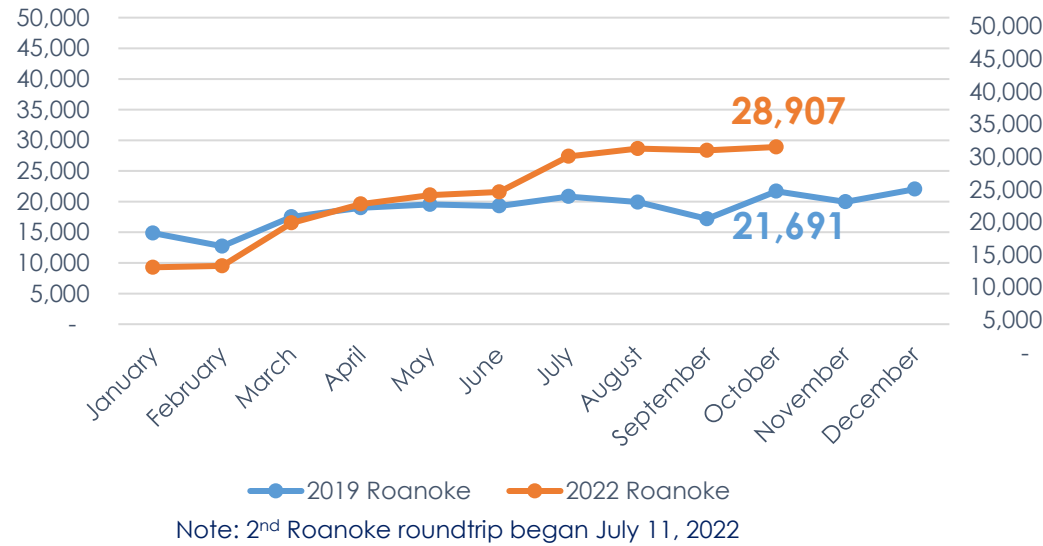


Virginia-Supported Monthly Ridership by Route 2022 vs 2019

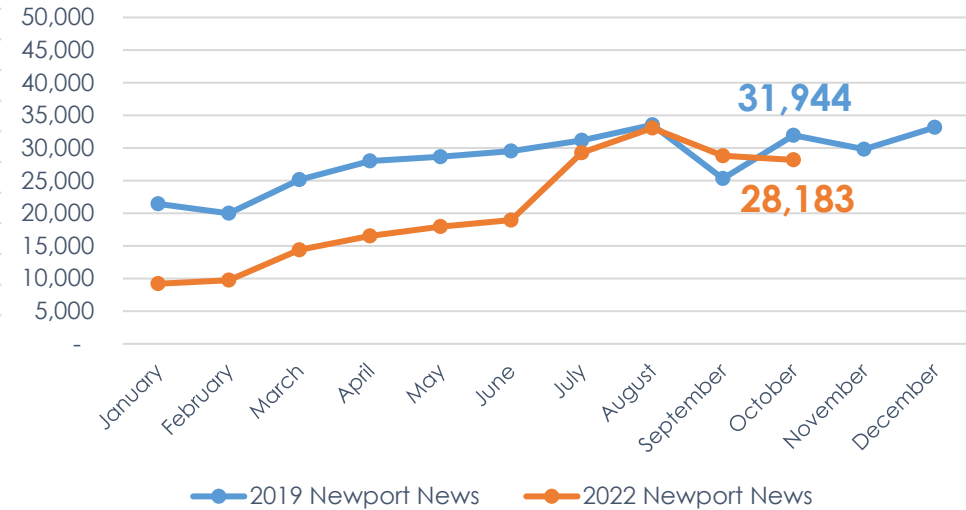
The largest pre-pandemic ridership increase was Route 50: Norfolk at +37.8% (+10,174)

Note: \$10 fares were on sale October 2019 celebrating 10 years of State Supported Service

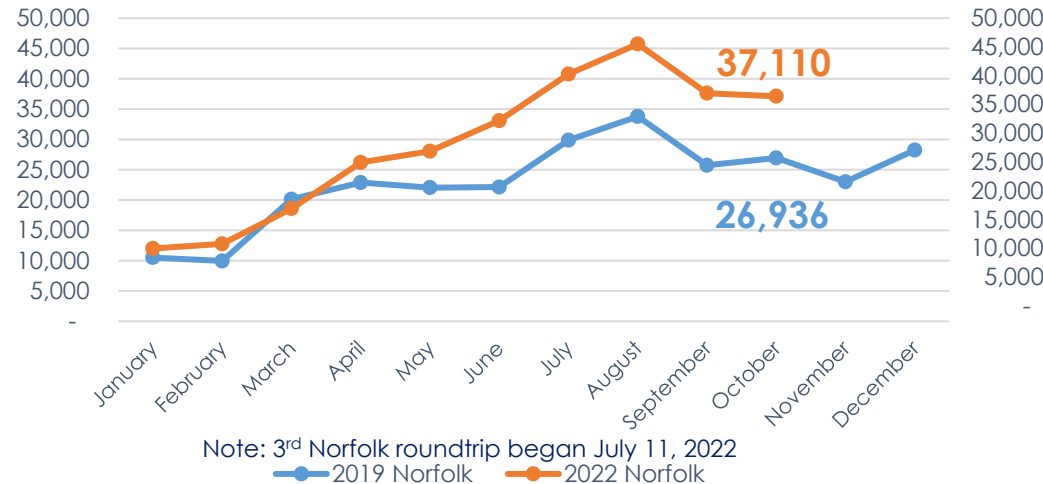
Route 46: Roanoke Ridership



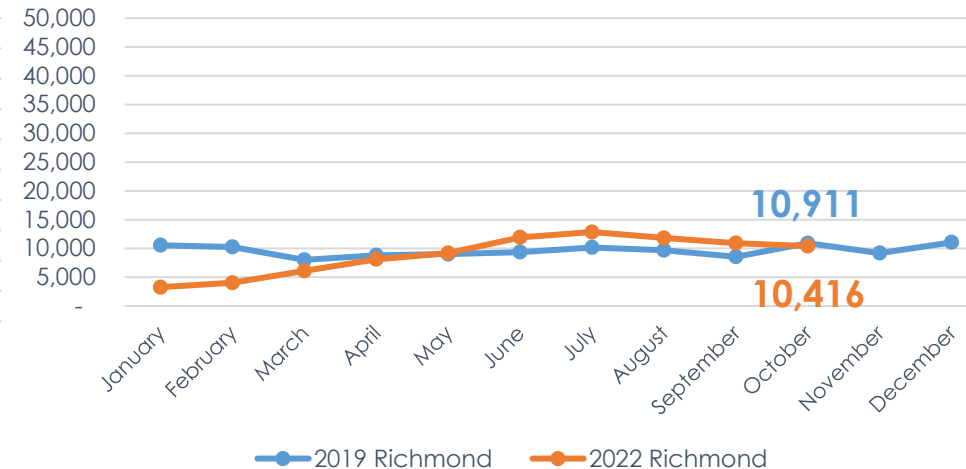
Route: 47 Newport News Ridership



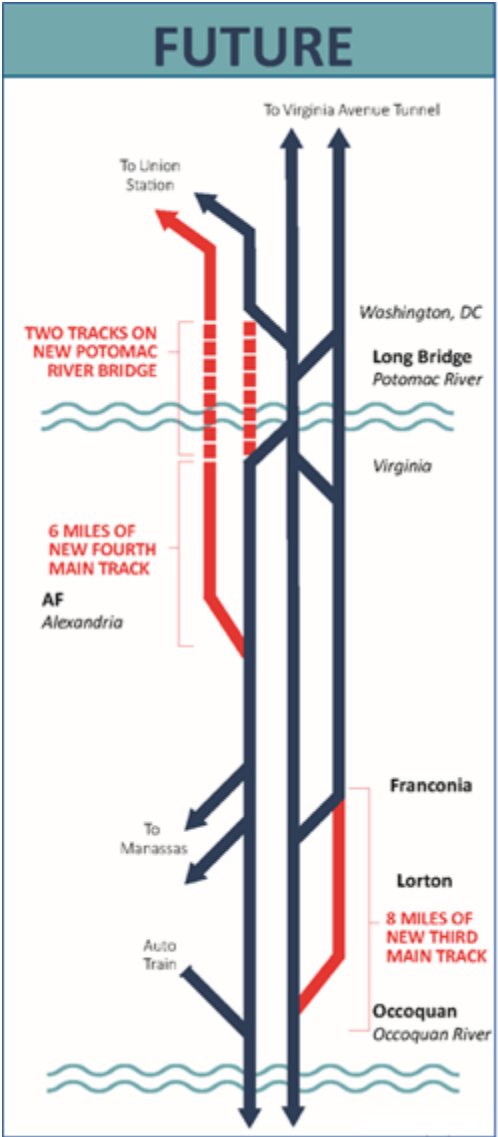
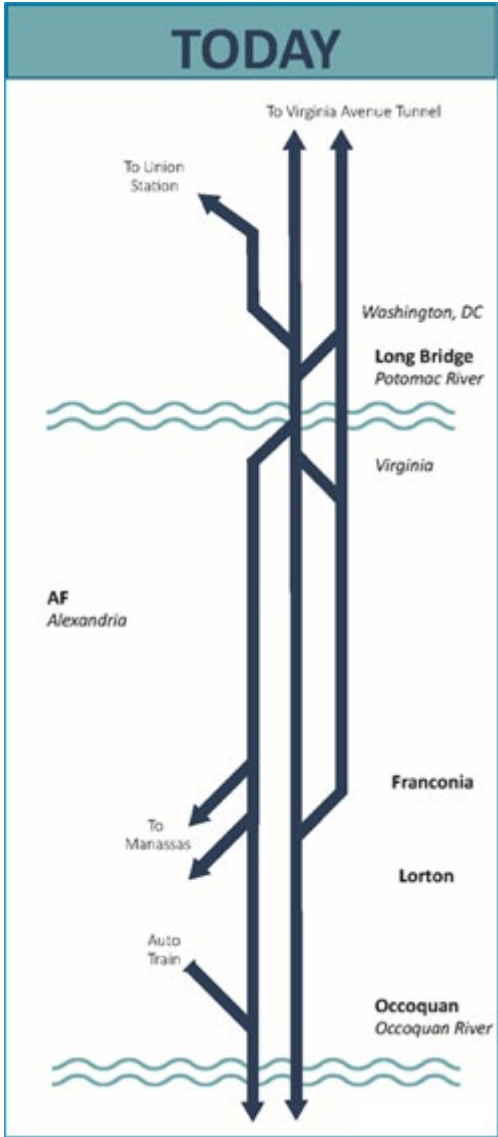
Route 50: Norfolk Ridership



Route 51: Richmond Ridership



Track Investment



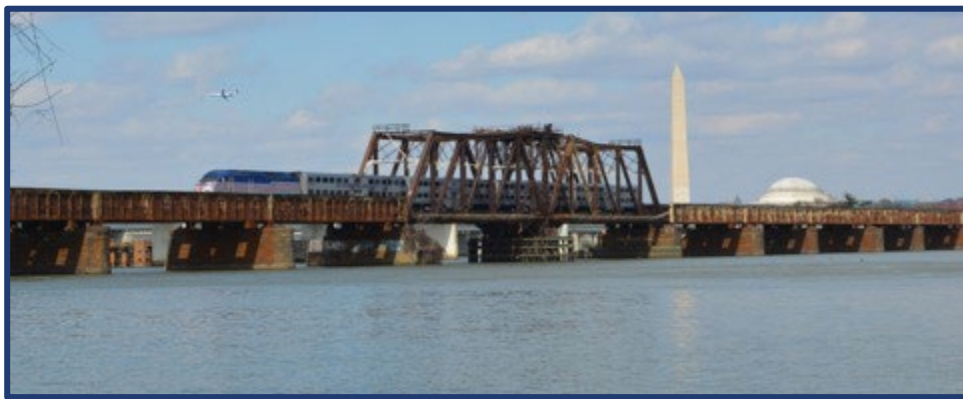
Long Bridge

EIS Phase
2017-2020

PE Phase
2021-2023

Final Design
2023-TBD

Construction
TBD-2030



Focus Areas – RO Interlocking to LE Interlocking

1. RO interlocking to Mt. Vernon Trail
2. Potomac River Crossings
3. WMATA Tunnel Portal & I-395 Crossings
4. I-395 to Ohio Drive SW
5. Washington Channel to Maine Avenue
6. Maryland Avenue Overbuild to LE

Long Bridge

Work Completed

- 15% design development
- Soil boring sampling
- Utility research and mapping
- Survey and property research
- Tree survey and arborist evaluation
- Stakeholder coordination
- Design approvals: CFA and NCPC

Next Steps

- 30% design development in progress
- Procure Project Management Support Services (PMSS) Consultant
- Construction contracts procurement
- Utility test pitting



Soil Boring Sampling in Potomac River

Improvements: Manassas to the New River Valley

- Over \$300M worth of capital improvements
- 80,000 net new riders estimated in first year after the extension to the New River Valley



Transforming Rail in Virginia Richmond Area Improvements

Thru Phase 2: Staples Mill to Main Street

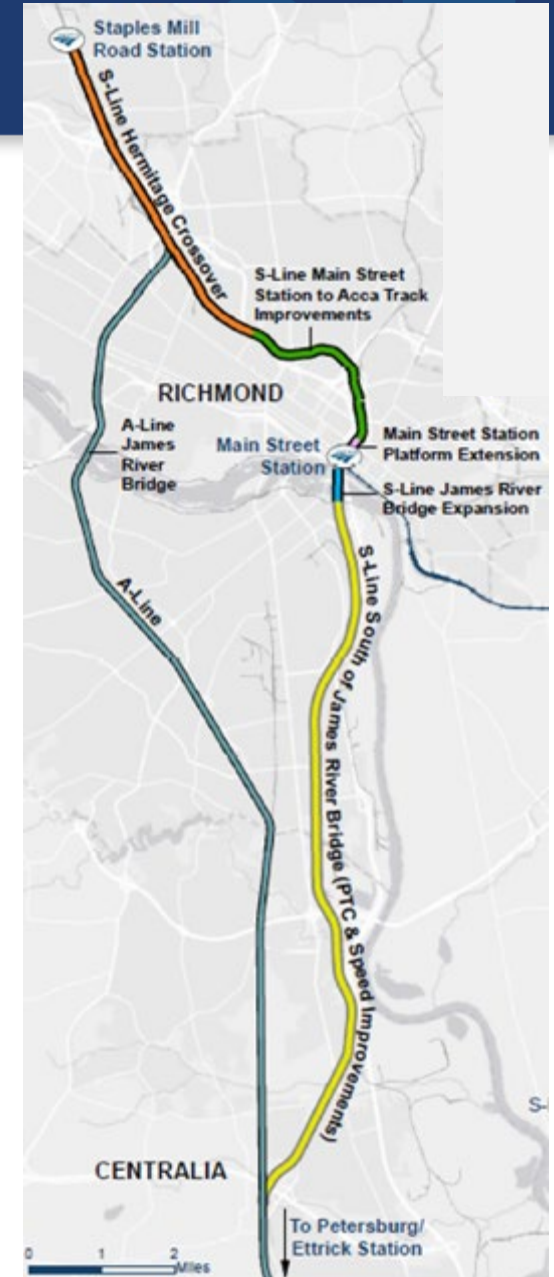
- Virginia acquired the right to extend trains originating and terminating at Staples Mill to Main Street – first extension **September 27, 2021**.
- DRPT and VPRA are planning for improvements to Staples Mill Station.
- VPRA to construct train lay-over/service facility south of Acca Yard to allow for further extension to Main Street.
- Agreement with CSXT does not require additional improvements to start having passenger service between Main Street Station and Petersburg.



Richmond Area Improvements

Beyond Phase 2: Staples Mill to Petersburg

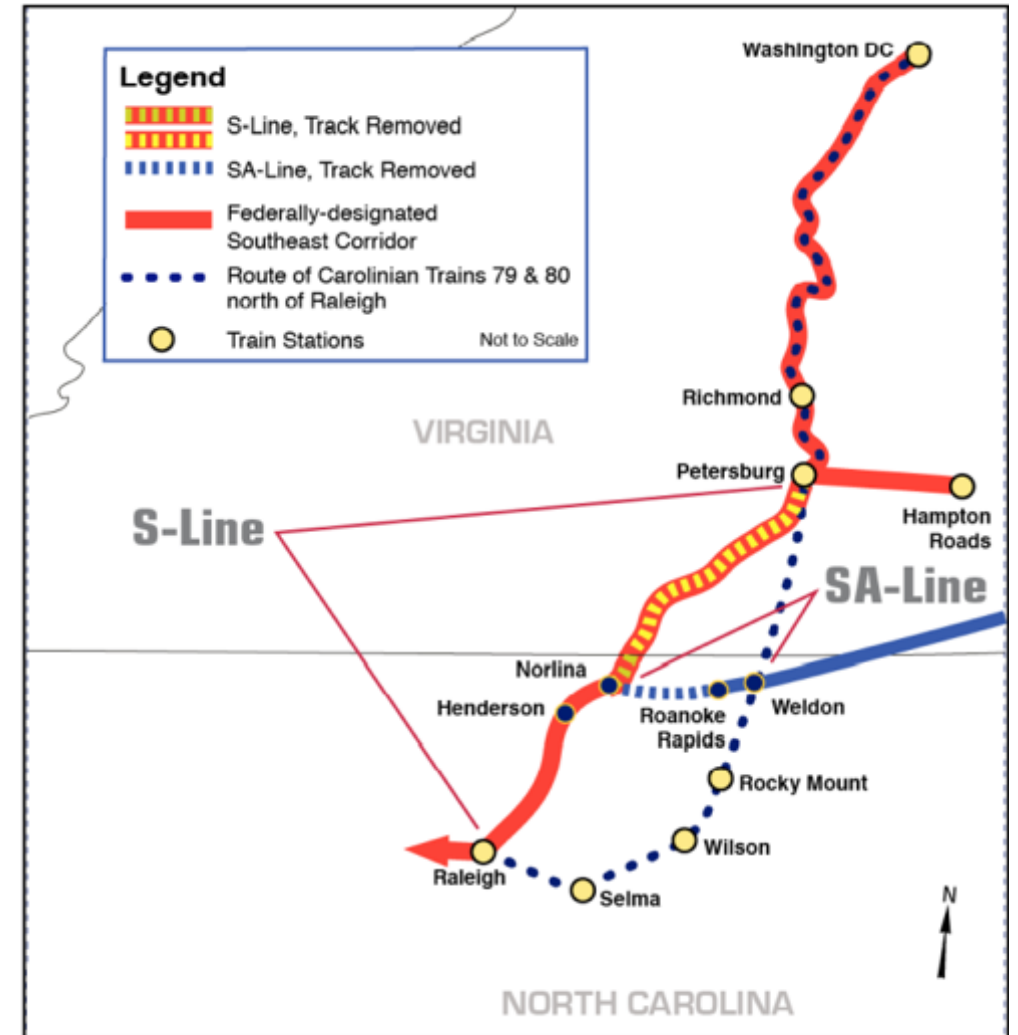
- To allow all Amtrak passenger trains to serve Main Street VPRRA will conduct a planning study to further analyze levels of service and required infrastructure needed between Staples Mill and Petersburg, including the following projects:
 - West Platform Renovation and East Platform Extension at Main Street
 - Dedicated passenger track between Staples Mill and Main Street*
 - New passenger rail eastern bypass at Acca Yard
 - James River to Centralia – track upgrades and track construction required to achieve appropriate passenger rail speeds along passenger-only double track segment.
 - Centralia to Abandoned S-Line – Passenger-only double track segment (except area where ROW only allows for one track)
- **Over 25 total miles of track and infrastructure estimated to be constructed at a cost of over \$1 billion**



Richmond Area Improvements Benefit Whole East Coast

S-Line Development will allow Richmond to Raleigh Improvements

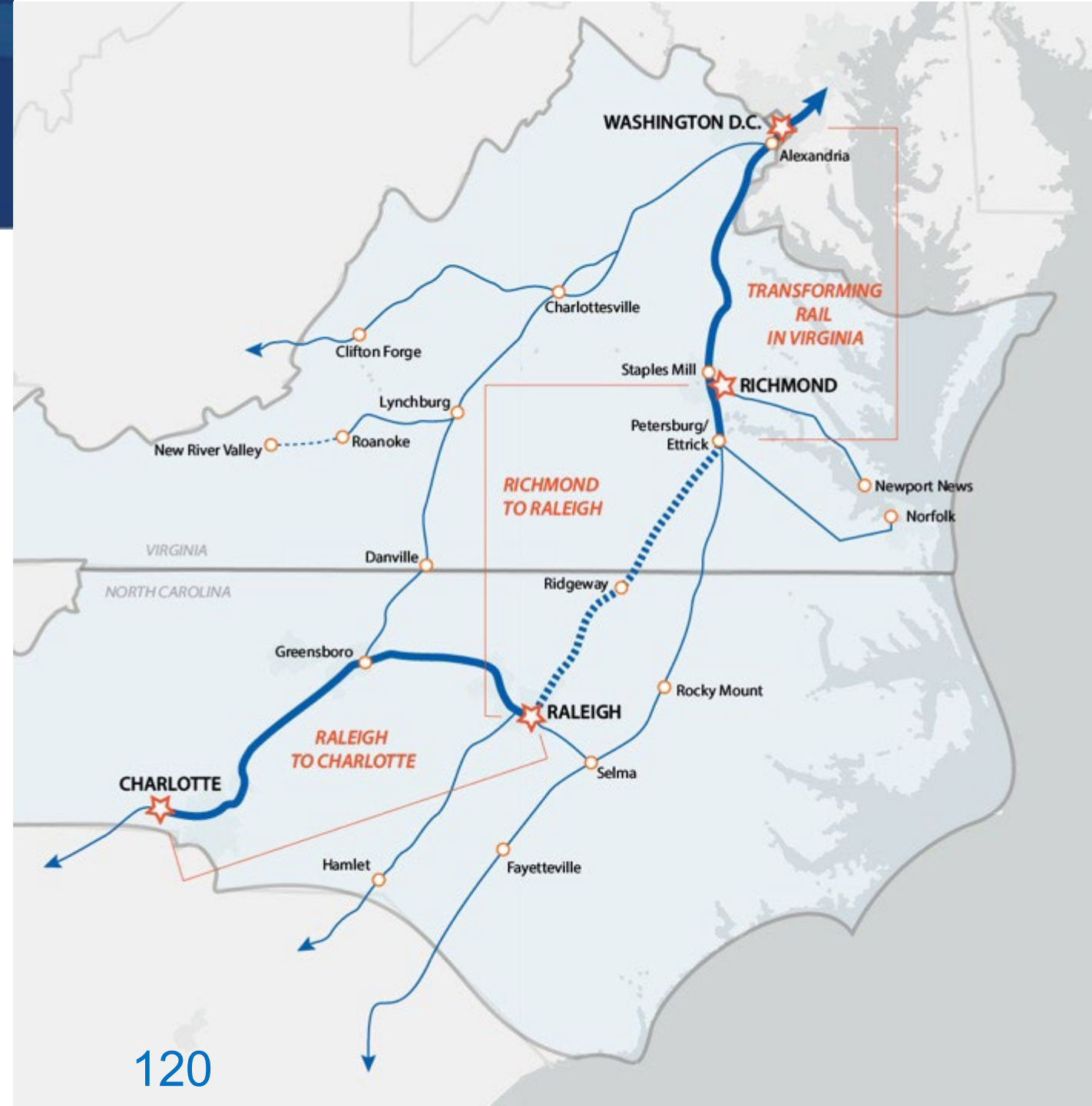
- Improving connections to Main Street will benefit travel from Norfolk and to North Carolina and the Southeast Corridor.
- Richmond to Raleigh EIS envisioned increase in train service to the southeast, with a reduction in travel time of over an hour.
- NC DOT, VPRA, and Amtrak on June 2nd received a \$58M grant from the FRA for preliminary engineering, with a total PE cost of \$95.8M.



Source: NCDOT

DC to Charlotte Intercity Passenger Rail Corridor

- Three Sections
 - DC to Richmond
 - Richmond to Raleigh
 - Raleigh to Charlotte
- Enhancing Amtrak service between NC, VA, and the NEC
- Ridership exceeding 2019 levels on existing services



Q&A

D.J. Stadtler, Executive Director
Virginia Passenger Rail
Authority

Highlights of Our Action Plan

We Will Send the Board/MIC the
Draft RVA757 Connects' Passenger Rail Action Plan



RVA757 Connects' Action Plan

[Growing Passenger Rail
Service: RVA757 Connects'
Action Plan](#)

RVA757 Connects' Passenger Rail Action Plan

- 1) Invite the leadership of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (DJ Stadtler, Executive Director) and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (Jennifer B. DeBruhl, Director) to periodically update the RVA757 Connects' Board/MIC meetings.
- 2) Write letters of support when needed for rail improvement projects that set up success for Richmond and Hampton Roads. One immediate support letter is for the VDRPT / VPRA federal grant request for the Franconia-Springfield Bypass project.
- 3) Keep RVA757 Connects' stakeholders apprised of the Transforming Rail in Virginia initiative and the VDRPT 2022 State Rail Plan – how it impacts the I-64 Innovation Corridor.
 - Feature this topic on Innovation Spotlight
 - Provide updates at Board/MIC meetings
- 4) Follow and support the evolution of the RVA-Raleigh S-Line and the Commonwealth Corridor vision as long-term I-64 Corridor-building opportunities (1. Hampton Roads to Charlottesville and 2. potential megaregion triangle RVA-757-Raleigh).
- 5) Charge the RVA757 Connects' Rail Committee to identify items (such as stations, service levels, travel times, and reliability) to be included in the next statewide rail plan in five years. (A lot of the competitive federal rail grants require that projects be included in the state's rail plan or similar documents.)

Q&A

RVA757 Connects' Passenger Rail Action Plan



Small Group Breakout Session

Remaining Time



Breakout Session Topics

Topic #1:

Discussion and Input on RVA757 Connects' Overall Value Proposition and Priority Focus Area Plans for 2023

Topic #2:

Impressions of / Comments on Richmond-Hampton Roads' Passenger Rail Situation
Any missing information on this topic?

Topic #3:

Input on RVA757 Connects' Action Plan to Advance Passenger Rail



Closing Remarks

Tom Frantz

Co-Chair, RVA757 Connects



The Real Significance of This Year: **2022?**





**What we're
all about . . .**

Convene

Connect

Collaborate

Innovate

Grow

Let's Continue to Connect and Engage



2023 Board-MIC Meetings – Tentative Schedule

- February 15, 2023 – 10 a.m. – noon: Board/MIC Meeting #1 (Virtual)
- April 19, 2023 – 10 a.m. – noon: Board/MIC Meeting #2 (Virtual)
- September 20, 2023 – all day: Board/MIC Meeting #3 as Convergence 2023 (in Williamsburg)
- November 15, 2023 – 10 a.m. – noon: Board/MIC Meeting #4 (Virtual)

We are coordinating 2023 schedules with 5 Chambers, 2 PDCs and the roundtables.

**We're
Adjourned**

