

# VPRA Update

RVA757 Connects: Convergence 2023

September 28, 2023



# Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

- Created in 2020 by the General Assembly
- Given all powers necessary for carrying out its statutory purposes:
  - Manage passenger rail in Virginia
  - Design, build, finance, and maintain rail facilities
  - Direct recipient of USDOT Grants
- Partners with Amtrak and VRE to operate passenger and commuter rail service
- Governed by a 15-Member Board



# Virginia Passenger Rail Network: 2023

**Existing VA Passenger Rail Network a result of dedicated, bipartisan funding since 2006**

## PASSENGER ROUTES



### Virginia State-Supported Services

- Washington-Roanoke (Route 46)
- Washington-Newport News (Route 47)
- Washington-Norfolk (Route 50)
- Washington-Richmond (Route 51)

### Host Railroads

- CSX** - CSX Transportation
- NS** - Norfolk Southern
- BBRR** - Buckingham Branch
- Passenger Station

### Other Services

- Other Amtrak State-Supported
- Amtrak Long-Distance
- VRE Commuter Rail
- - - Thruway Bus

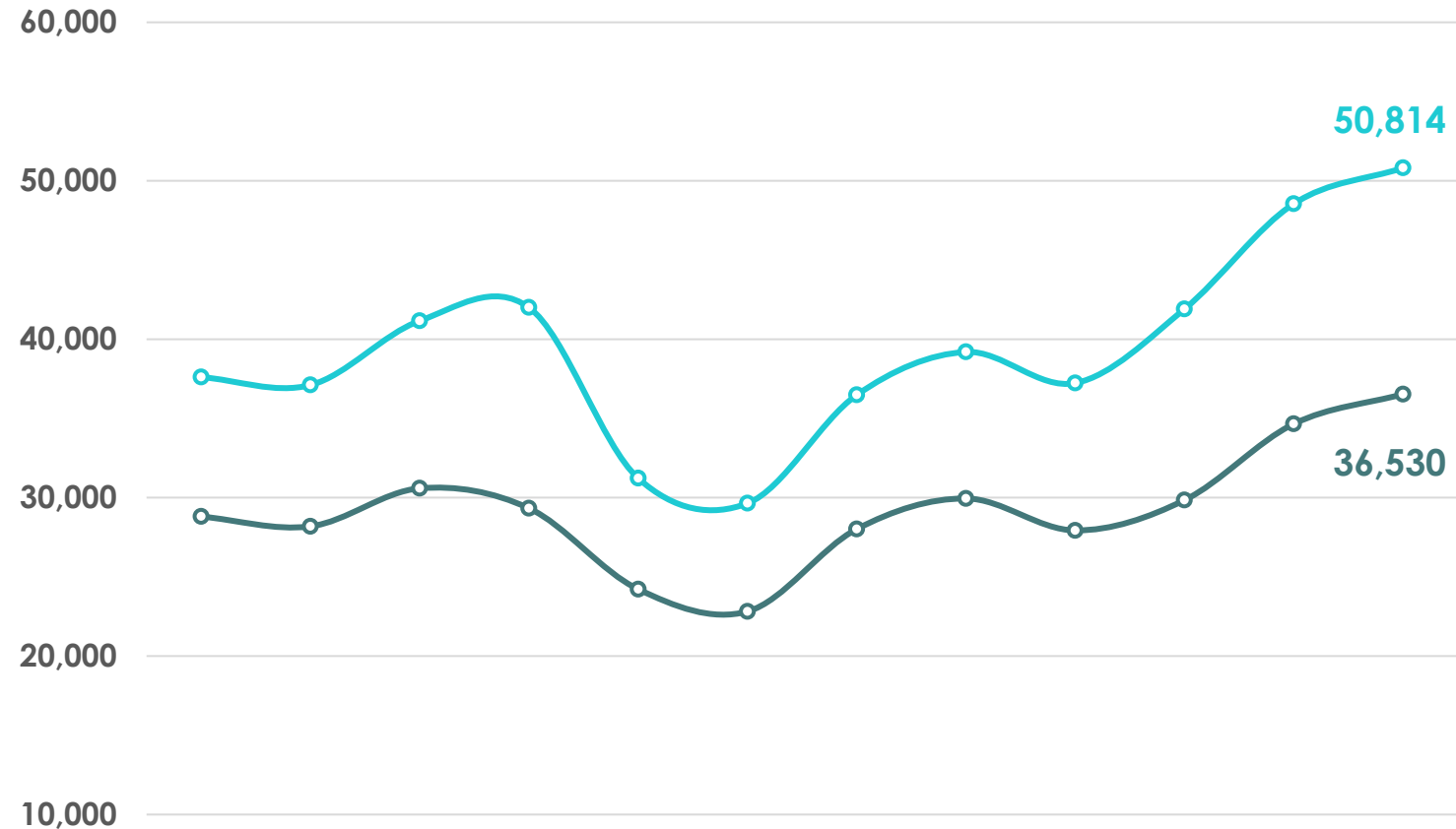
- Four State-Supported Amtrak Routes: 8 daily roundtrips
- Roanoke: 2
- Richmond: 1
- Newport News: 2
- Norfolk: 3
- Five Amtrak Long Distance Roundtrips
- One NC State-Supported Roundtrip
- Two Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Commuter Routes
- 16 daily roundtrips
- Manassas: 8
- Fredericksburg: 8



# Virginia Supported Amtrak Ridership Setting Records

- July 2022 saw the introduction of the third daily roundtrip to Norfolk
- July 2022 also saw the re-introduction of the second daily roundtrip to Newport News
- August 2023 saw our largest state-supported ridership month with 130,998 riders

Hampton Roads Ridership  
Last 12 Months



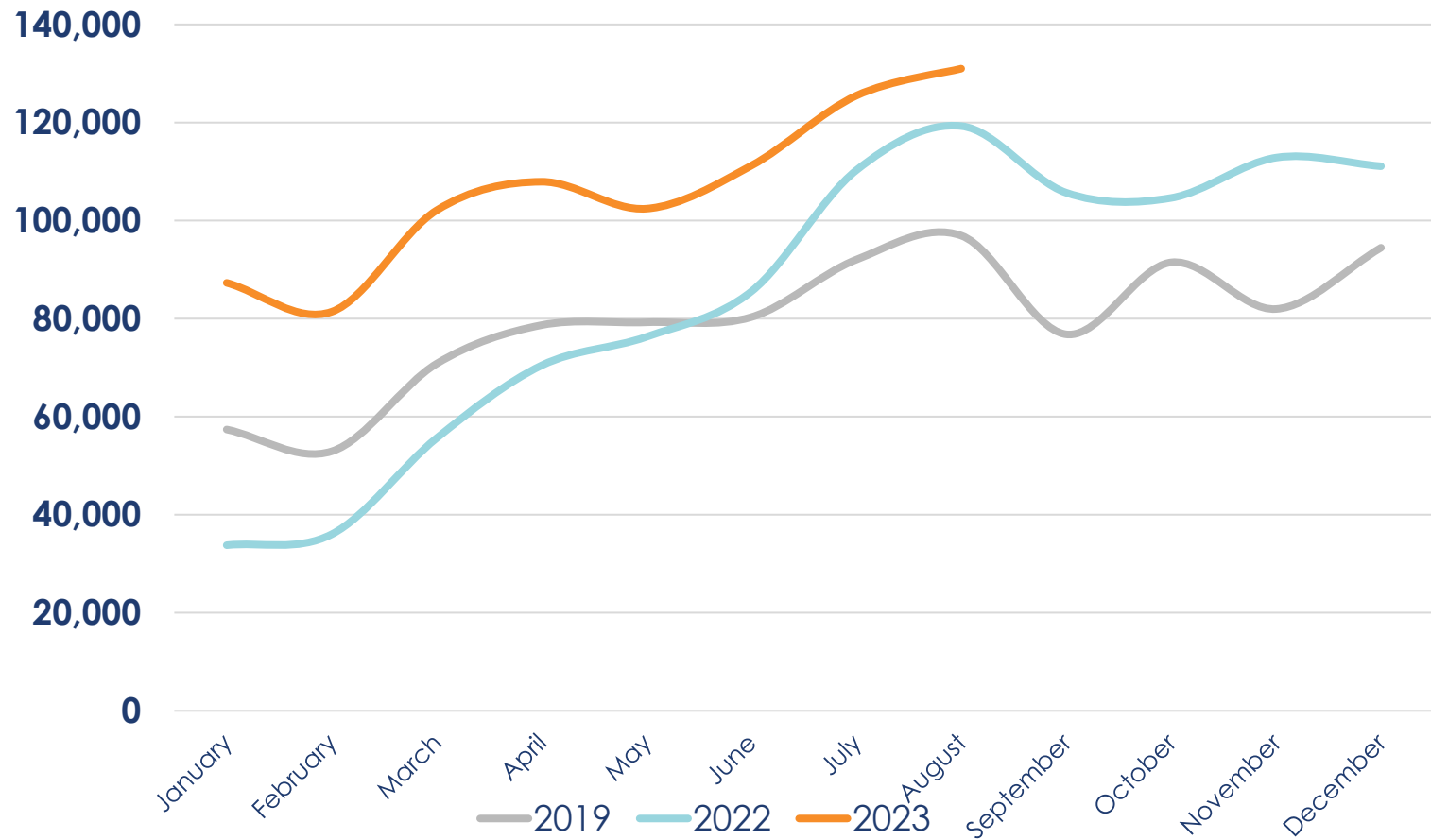
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Norfolk	37,609	37,110	41,163	42,008	31,226	29,644	36,482	39,197	37,234	41,908	48,551	50,814
Newport News	28,805	28,183	30,585	29,327	24,215	22,811	28,011	29,945	27,929	29,839	34,653	36,530



# Virginia Supported Amtrak Ridership Setting Records

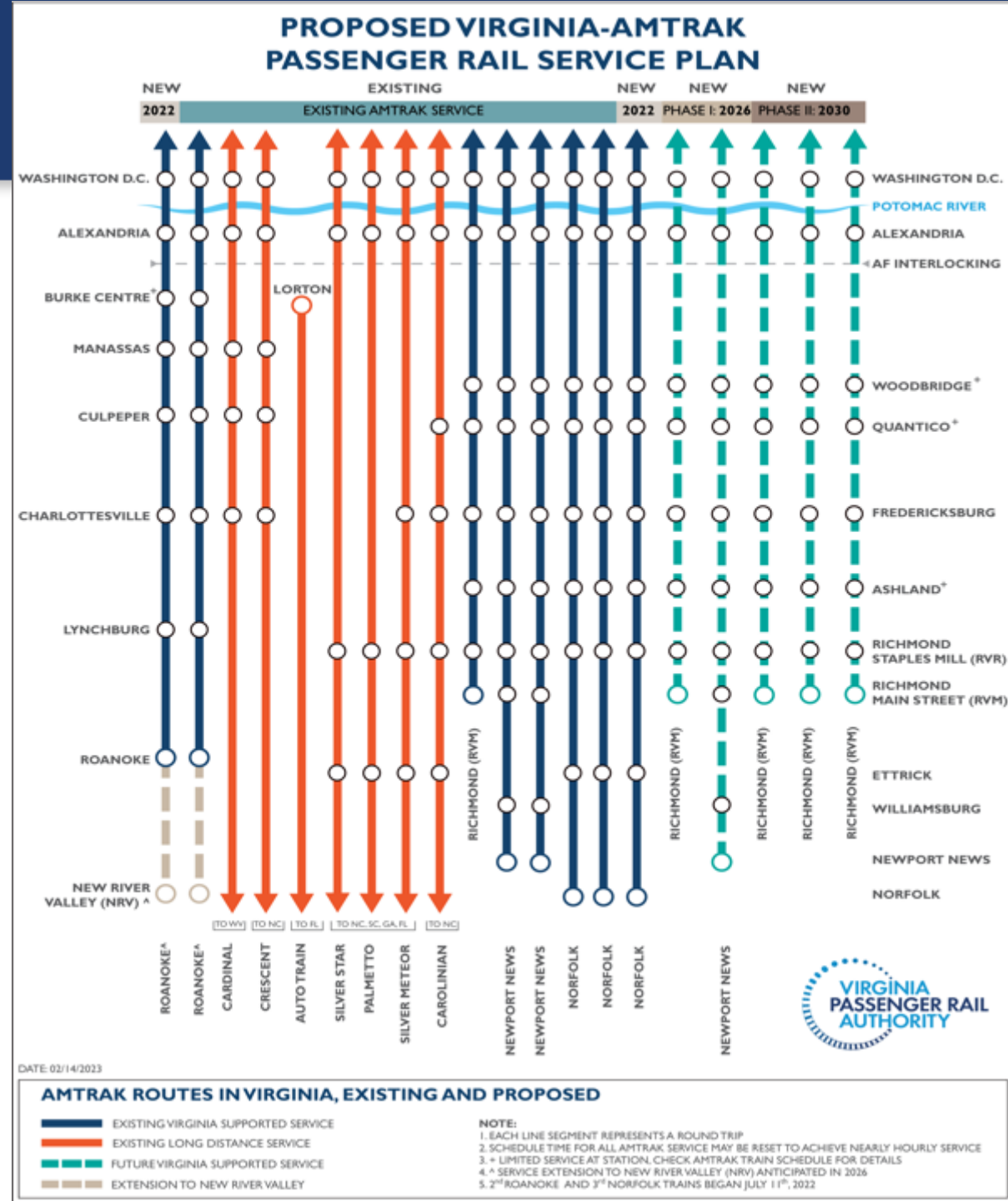
- In 2022, Virginia's state supported service set an all-time ridership record with 1,021,452 passengers, beating the previous high of 953,008 riders in 2019.
- 2023: 592,355 (January-June)  
848,841 (January-August)
- In August 2023, our state-supported ridership had its biggest month ever, with 130,998 riders.

State-Supported Ridership by Calendar Year



# Current and Future Service

- Daily roundtrips, 2023:
  - Newport News **2**
  - Norfolk **3**
- Third daily roundtrip to Newport News will begin upon completion of Phase 1 projects, expected 2026.

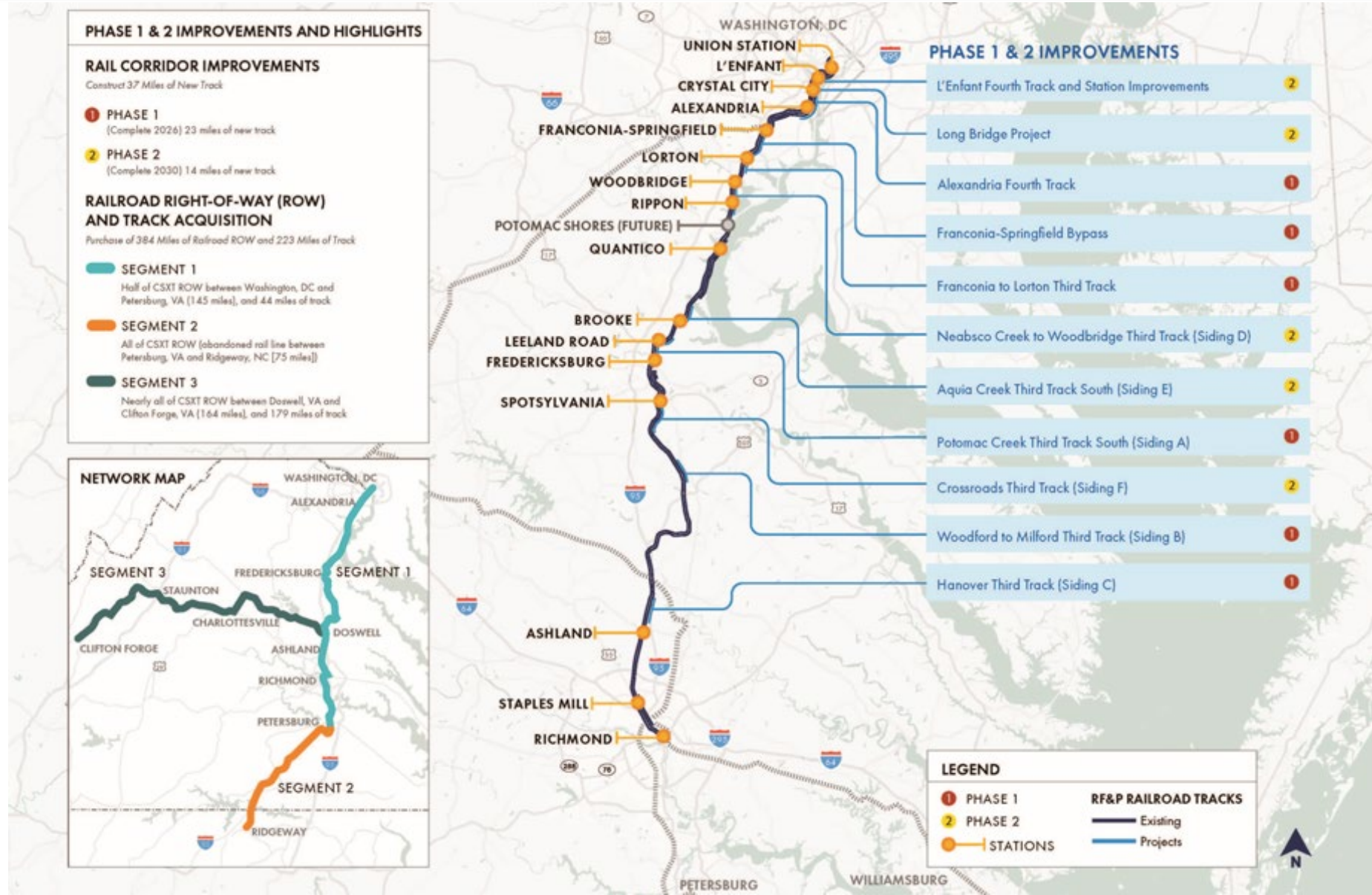


# Amtrak Airo Trains

- Coming to Virginia and the Northeast Corridor by 2030
- Dual-Power trainsets
  - Can use electric or diesel power
  - Reduce dwell times at Union Station
- Push-pull trainsets
- Improve passenger experience
- Improve accessibility
- Reduce emissions

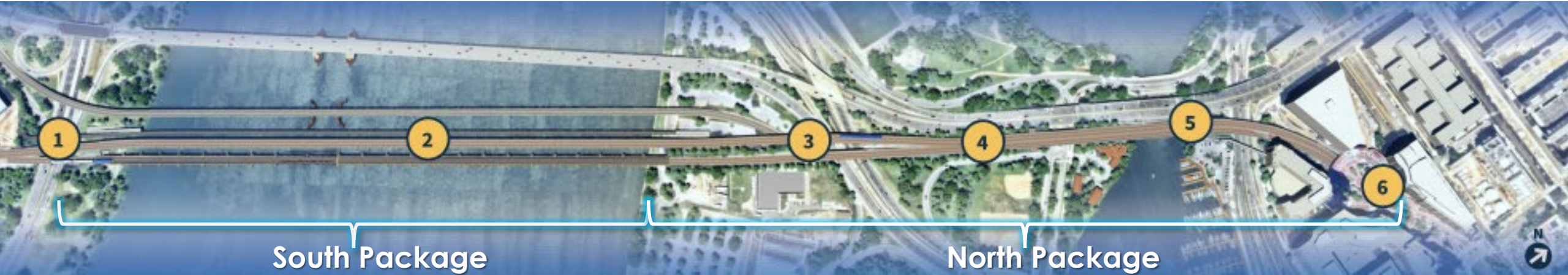


# Transforming Rail in Virginia - Phase 1 and 2 projects





# Long Bridge Project Overview



## **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 Project Work Progress

- Utility test pile work begins in October
- Plat development for property needs
- Stakeholder coordination
- Permitting outreach
- Construction contract procurement
  - North package construction begins Fall 2024
  - South package construction begins in 2025



# Alexandria Fourth Track

- Construct a new fourth track from Alexandria station to Rosslyn interlocking
- Final design expected by end of 2023
- Utility relocation & property acquisition



*Rail Bridges over Commonwealth Ave, facing North*

# CRISI Grant Award: Franconia-Springfield Bypass

- The Federal Railroad Administration awarded VPR a grant of \$100 M for the Franconia-Springfield Bypass. The funding was distributed from the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program.
- The 1.3 mile bypass structure will allow passenger trains to crossover to serve VRE stations on the west north of Franconia and on the east south of Franconia.
- Reduce conflicts between passenger and freight trains.
- Coordination with the third track project from Franconia to Lorton, including Newington Rail Bridge.



# Newport News Transportation Center

- New multi-modal transportation hub near Bland Blvd and Jefferson Ave
- Anticipated completion Spring 2024
  - Level-boarding platform makes boarding easy for people with wheelchairs, luggage, bikes
  - Longer platform can accommodate up to 8-car trains
  - Baggage Claim for luggage
  - Passenger waiting room indoors with comfortable seating, charge ports, natural lighting
  - Connections for HRT buses and Amtrak Thruway Bus to/from Norfolk Amtrak station
- A layover facility for train cleaning, inspection, and overnight storage is being constructed a mile to the south of the station.



Questions?

