



# GREATER WASHINGTON PARTNERSHIP

FROM BALTIMORE TO RICHMOND.  
FOSTERING UNITY. ADVANCING GROWTH.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Regional Rail Vision Unlocks Rail Network Potential to Drive Sustainable Growth, Build the Nation’s Most Inclusive Economy, and Increase Access to Affordable Housing**

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**Washington, DC**—Today, the Greater Washington Partnership, with support from EY, Gensler, VHB, WSP and key regional stakeholders released the *Capital Region Rail Vision*. The Vision presents a 25-year strategy to remove key physical and operating barriers to provide residents a more coordinated, integrated, and competitive rail service. In achieving the Vision, the region’s rail operators, elected officials, unions, employers, and riders will realize increased access to jobs, education, and our rich natural and cultural assets.

While the Capital Region’s rail network is superior to many domestic peer regions, the ability to realize its full potential is out of reach because many of our rail assets are far beyond their useful life, and the operations are not organized to meet the travel needs of the region’s families and employers. This leaves too many areas of the region underserved and without access to rail service outside of peak weekday commuting periods.

“The public transportation system in the Capital Region is already a tremendous asset and the Rail Vision provides a clear path to maximize its potential by building on the Northam Administration’s historic commitment to passenger rail,” said **Matt Kelly, CEO of JBG SMITH and Greater Washington Partnership board member**. “With seamless, all-day connection across the Potomac, employers will have access to a more diverse recruitment pool, jobseekers will have new opportunities, and employees will have more housing options within commuting distance.”

“The level of coordination and commitment from the region’s stakeholders and rail leaders is unmatched,” said **JB Holston, CEO of the Greater Washington Partnership**. “This unity has strengthened the Rail Vision and puts the Capital Region as a ready partner for the Biden-Harris Administration and positions us for a far stronger and more inclusive recovery.”



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The Vision's key goals and outcomes include:

## Goals

- Enhance Regional Economic Competitiveness and Collaboration
- Ensure Inclusive Growth
- Expand Access to Moderate and Affordable Housing

## Outcomes

- Bi-directional run-through service on all MARC & VRE lines
- Expand service to provide all-day service on all MARC & VRE lines; 15-minutes or more frequent peak period weekday service at core stations; 1-hour or less midday and weekend service
- Seamless ridership experience through a unified fare policy and brand
- Superior operational coordination across rail providers

“Our communities are strongest when we, at the regional scale, can collaborate to deliver results,” said **Sharon Bulova, Vice-Chair of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority and former Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors**. “We will need that shared level of commitment spanning jurisdictional borders and political cycles to deliver the Rail Vision in the coming years. I’m confident we have the leadership needed to deliver this **transformational** opportunity.”

“The frontline railroad workforce are skilled professionals with extensive knowledge and history of providing safe commuter and passenger rail services. We are proud to contribute with the regional leaders and stakeholders on the development of this ambitious and timely Rail Vision,” said **Herbert Harris, Jr., State Chairman - District of Columbia / Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen**. “Our regional rail network is an underutilized asset that could create hundreds of thousands of good paying jobs and remove long-standing transportation barriers for many residents and disinvested communities. The implementation of the Rail Vision will improve future access to the full-range of economic, educational, and job opportunities in our region.”

The Vision has been developed with the input of key regional stakeholders including: Alexandria Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker; former Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman and current Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Vice Chair Sharon Bulova; Maryland Delegate Jared Solomon; Prince George’s County Councilmember Dannielle Glaros; Amazon; Amtrak; Baltimore





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Metropolitan Council (BMC); Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET); BWI Business Partnership, Coalition for Smarter Growth; District Department of Transportation; Federal City Council; Greater Baltimore Committee; Greater Washington Board of Trade; JBG SMITH; Johns Hopkins University; Maryland Transit Administration (MTA); Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC); Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce; Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC); Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVT); Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC); Union Station Redevelopment Corporation; Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transportation (DRPT); Virginians for High Speed Rail; Virginia Railway Express (VRE); and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

Alongside these key stakeholders, the Greater Washington Partnership and the project team, comprising experts from EY, Gensler, VHB, and WSP, are developing a Technical Report to be delivered in early 2021 that will detail a consensus path forward to implement the Rail Vision.

Furthermore, to receive updates on the Vision's progress and invitations to unique events, we invite you to sign-up for our mailing list.

[Read the Report and access the Fact Sheet.](#)

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## About the Greater Washington Partnership

The Greater Washington Partnership is a first-of-its-kind civic alliance of leading employers and entrepreneurs in the region, drawing from the leading employers and entrepreneurs committed to making the Capital Region—from Baltimore to Richmond—one of the world's best places to live, work and build a business. Working in collaboration with leaders across our communities, the Partnership connects and leverages the region's extraordinary assets to advance inclusive, actionable solutions that strengthen the Capital Region as a leading global region and center for commerce and innovation.



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