

Capital Region Rail Network

From Baltimore to Richmond, Creating a More Unified, Competitive, Modern Rail Network



Credit: Gensler

What is the Capital Region Rail Vision?

The Rail Vision charts the course for an enhanced, expanded, and integrated globally competitive Capital Region rail network that will unlock a more inclusive and equitable region where all can be proud to live, work, grow a family and build a business. Fortunately, this region starts with a vast regional rail network, and has the talent, commitment and capacity to overcome key barriers and deliver this Vision to realize the transformational benefits.

The Vision's focus is committed to three key goals for a more coordinated and integrated rail system:

- ▶ Enhance regional economic competitiveness and collaboration
- ▶ Ensure inclusive growth
- ▶ Expand access to moderate and affordable housing

This is an ambitious, long-term Vision for the Capital Region. The actions called for in the Rail Vision are organized according to four overlapping 10 year periods – **Launch, Expand, Realize and Transform** – with a full delivery of the plan within the next 25 years through incremental infrastructure and steady operational improvements.



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Relative to most other domestic regions, our regional rail network is superior with 335+ miles of regional rail tracks and, prior to the pandemic, 54,000+ daily riders across MARC and VRE. We also benefit tremendously from expansive and growing intercity passenger service from Amtrak. However, the regional railroads often operate, plan and invest independent of each other, limiting the rail network's collective service. The regional railroads have ambitious growth plans, but we have yet to establish a clear path to a unified, coordinated regional rail network - or even a shared vision of what a more coordinated and integrated network could look like.

Why We Need the Regional Rail Vision

The Capital Region's economic and global competitiveness hinges on the ability for residents of all incomes to have easy and reliable access to superb transit - a key factor in attracting and retaining talent pre- and post-pandemic, as well as where businesses decide to locate. While expansive, the regional rail network represents an untapped resource. Delivery of the Rail Vision will:

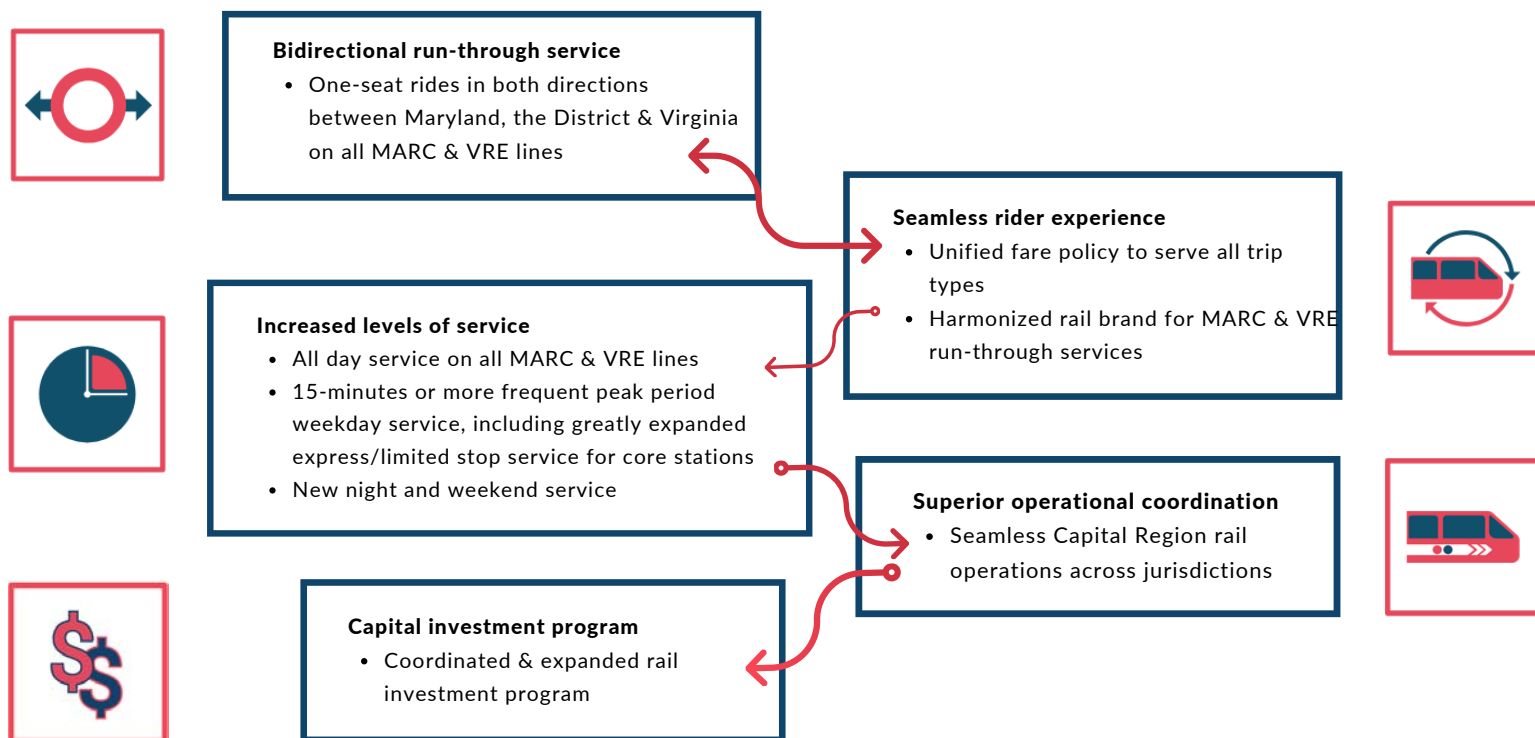
- Generate more than \$40 billion in gross economic output for the region, supporting upwards of 2000,000 jobs in worker-years over 25 years of capital investment
- Support more than 5,000 ongoing jobs and an increase of more than \$1.3 billion in annual gross economic output from providing better regional rail service
- Expand inclusive growth to preserve access to opportunities for the 700,000 black residents, 400,000 Hispanic residents, and 95,000 households below the poverty line that live within two miles of regional rail stations today
- Increase regional rail ridership by more than 125%



Today, a Maryland resident working in Northern Virginia may have to juggle two monthly passes, make a twice-daily dash across the crowded Union Station and hope that delays don't cause them to miss their connection between MARC and VRE.

The Vision's more coordinated and integrated network will increase ridership demand, improve economic interconnectivity, stimulate broader regional growth, and increase operators' resiliency to fluctuating demand patterns.

Key Elements of the Vision



What are the benefits and barriers of the Vision?

The Vision can only be actualized through a greatly enhanced and shared planning and investment program to remove both physical and operational barriers and deliver great benefit to the region. For example, farebox revenues generated from the Vision's regional rail network would increase by nearly \$185 million.

Key Benefits

- Emerging job centers throughout the region will have access to expanded housing options, all connected by single seat rail trips
- Seamless rail integration between Baltimore - Washington, D.C - Northern Virginia decreases travel time, which greatly enhances regionally coordinated growth & equitable access to opportunity for residents
- 25,000 new jobs in National Landing associated with Amazon HQ2 will be accessible to more potential employees throughout the region, & will help manage housing demand near HQ2
- New connections between major military installations
- Further operational, planning & financial benefits to MARC, VRE, Amtrak & other transit operators

Key Barriers

- Activate rail stations by promoting & encouraging transit-oriented development
- Coordinate procurement & operations to save costs & deliver seamless rider experience
- Delivering Vision critical infrastructure investments
- Integrate fare & ticketing operations & create a unified brand for the seamless rider experience
- Align financial management & planning landscape through enhanced regional coordination

This Capital Region Vision can only be achieved with a shared commitment from residents, employers, unions and their members, advocates, elected officials and transportation leaders spanning jurisdictional borders and political cycles. This Vision is intended to help crystallize the steps towards enabling expanded regional rail service to transform our economy, expand our housing market, and remove historical barriers to access and opportunity for communities of color and low-income areas in the Capital Region.

[Click here to learn more and access the Capital Region Rail Vision](#)



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The Greater Washington Partnership is a first-of-its-kind civic alliance of CEOs 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.

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