



CAPITAL REGION RAIL VISION

STUDENT COMPETITION

BACKGROUND

In 2021, the Partnership released the [Capital Region Rail Vision](#). The Rail Vision lays out a 25-year roadmap for how the Capital Region can transform its current commuter rail systems into one truly regional rail network. The Vision includes infrastructure upgrades that will allow for greatly expanded rail service using the existing network of tracks and stations. The Rail Vision calls for seamless, integrated run-through rail service between MARC and VRE and greatly expanded service on the existing network, rather than a greatly expanded network (i.e., not planning for new corridors). This creates challenges to visually show the benefits in a clear and intuitive way. However, this region has some of the best talent in the world. This competition will engage the talent and creativity of CoLAB students to help visually share the benefits of the Capital Region Rail Vision with a wider audience.

PRIZES

First place: \$750

Second place: \$500

Third place: \$250

IMPORTANT DATES

06/03: [Q&A webinar](#)

06/30: Submission deadline[†]

07/01- Finalists announced and
07/13: shared on social media

07/14: Winners announced

[†] Submit projects via [online form](#)

STUDENT COMPETITION

The Greater Washington Partnership's Regional Mobility & Infrastructure team and the Capital CoLAB are hosting a competition for students to showcase their creativity, skills, and talent to help the Partnership visualize the benefits of the Capital Region Rail Vision for a wider audience. Submissions must visually answer:

***"Why should you care about the Capital Region Rail Vision?
What benefits will you see in 2045?"***

Students may use their creativity to answer these questions from their own perspective or for their community, another jurisdiction, or any stakeholder group whose perspective they wish to explore. Students at CoLAB partner universities may work as individuals or on teams to visualize the benefits of the Capital Region Rail Vision.

LEARN MORE AT: greaterwashingtonpartnership.com/capital-region-rail-vision-student-competition/

Q&A WEBINAR: JUNE 03, 2021 AT 1 PM (ET)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 30, 2021 BY 11:59 PM (ET)

COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY

Must be an enrolled student at a CoLAB partner university (see our FAQ page for the full list). Must be 18 years or older to participate. Students can participate either individually or on teams (no more than five students). Students must include contact of a faculty advisor who can confirm eligibility.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Visual product (images, charts, websites, videos, graphics, etc.) that answer the questions, ***"Why should [X] care about the Capital Region Rail Vision? What benefits will [X] see in 2045 from the Rail Vision?"*** [X] may represent themselves, their community, another jurisdiction, or any stakeholder group whose perspective they wish to explore. See our FAQ page for project ideas.

SCORING CRITERIA

Scoring criteria is based on four different factors that includes submitting a visually appealing product with clear and concise language. See our FAQ page for more details. The Partnership will select top finalists and the winners.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the selection criteria based on?

- Clear and compelling visual depiction of the benefits of the Capital Region Rail Vision
- Demonstrates comprehension and use of the Capital Region Rail Vision technical products to build their submission
- Is additive, rather than duplicative, to existing Capital Region Rail Vision Technical Products, either by creating new content or improving upon existing content
- Is clear in the intended audience and uses appropriate language, word-choice, and styling to explain the benefits of the Capital Region Rail Vision to said audience

What are some examples of what my project could look like?

We encourage students to think creatively about how to visualize the benefits of the Capital Region Rail Vision. Some cool transit-related visualizations for inspiration are:

- [Graphic Video showing WMATA Metrorail's Network Evolution](#)
- [Washington DC Metro Timeline](#)
- [Denver Metro Rail and Frequent Bus Service Map](#)

Where would my project potentially be showcased?

Read the competition terms & agreement document for complete details on what submissions may be used for. Examples of where student's submitted work may be used include: Partnership's social media channels, Partnership and CoLAB websites, and presentation materials.

How do I submit my final project?

Participants should submit their final project through [this online form](#). Submissions should be uploaded no later than Wednesday, June 30th at 11:59 PM (ET). Students must include the contact information of a faculty advisor to confirm eligibility. If working in a team, only one student needs to submit the project.

Where can I find out more information about the Capital Region Rail Vision?

Currently, the various technical products tease out the benefits and opportunities in various ways:

- The [Technical Report](#) includes the 2045 Rail Vision service schedule (Table 1, p.15)
- The [Rider and Station Experience](#) highlights time savings between station pairs (p. 7-9)
- The [Economic Impact Brief](#) outlines direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts
- The [Equity Analysis](#) highlights the diversity of who lives nearby existing stations

What is the Greater Washington Partnership?

The Greater Washington Partnership (the Partnership) is a civic alliance of the region's 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.

What is the Capital CoLAB?

Within the Partnership umbrella, the Capital CoLAB is an action-oriented partnership of employers and academic institutions that executes initiatives to equip emerging talent with the expertise to accelerate the Capital Region forward.

What is the Digital Tech Credential?

Together with the region's educators and employers, the Capital CoLAB designed the Digital Tech Credential to integrate digital tech skills into higher education curriculum with real-world application.

What opportunities do students receive by joining the Digital Tech Credential?

- Exclusive access to a student portal with internship and event opportunities
- Invitation to participate in annual internship fairs with CoLAB employers
- Professional development webinars and other ad-hoc opportunities
- Earn a digital badge upon completion of required courses

Who are the participating CoLAB universities?

American University	University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
Bowie State University	University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Frostburg State University	University of Maryland, College Park
George Mason University	University of Maryland Global Campus
George Washington University	University of Richmond
Georgetown University (SCS)	University of Virginia
Howard University	Virginia Commonwealth University
Johns Hopkins University	Virginia Tech
Marymount University	
Trinity Washington University	
Towson University	

Who do I contact for further questions?

Contact John Hillegass (Manager, Regional Mobility & Infrastructure) at:

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