

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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For Immediate Release January 2, 2026

VMT SUPPORTS “RAILS-WITH-TRAILS” PROJECT

January 2, 2026 -- The Virginia Museum of Transportation, Inc. is announcing its full support for the Shenandoah Rail Corridor’s “Rails-WITH-Trails” project, which would preserve rail usage along the route known as the Norfolk Southern “B-line” running from Front Royal to Broadway, Virginia.

“Rails-With-Trails” has gained significant attention with the Virginia Department of Transportation. It aims to determine the best use for this nearly 50-mile long unused rail corridor in the Shenandoah Valley, spanning three counties and nine towns.

This particular railroad is too historically significant as a transportation asset to allow the trail project to move forward without preserving the rail infrastructure as well.

The uncertainty of this line has gone on too long. Every passing year sees economic loss and more rail deterioration. Rails WITH trails have been a significant success across the country. The Western Maryland Scenic Railroad is one such example. Rail bikes are overwhelmingly popular in every area they are utilized in. West Virginia’s rail bikes are fast becoming one of the state’s biggest tourist attractions. Trails can co-exist with rails successfully and are an economic driver of positive consequence.

Virginia needs to catch up with other states with successful historic rail excursions. They not only create jobs and drive millions of dollars in tourism revenue but also create a positive image for states and communities. Recent historic steam excursions pulled by our #611 steam locomotive in Rockbridge and Augusta counties have brought millions of dollars to the state through the 20,000 plus visitors who came to ride over only five weekends. Virginia the beautiful never looks better than from excursions, rail bikes, and trails.

As Virginia’s Official Transportation Museum and as curators of Virginia’s Official Steam Locomotive J-Class #611, the Virginia Museum of Transportation and its Board of Directors stand behind and support

the common sense efforts of the Shenandoah Corridor group as well as the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation as the lead managing partner of this important resource. We ask the State Secretary of Transportation Shep Miller, III and the Commonwealth Transportation Board to support this initiative when they vote on January 6.

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