



Valley Railroad Company supports transferring rail-with-trail funding to VPRA, reaffirms support for rail service in Shenandoah County.

For Immediate Release

Woodstock, Virginia - December 13th, 2025

In response to the December 9th Commonwealth Transportation Board workshop, Valley Railroad Company, LLC unequivocally supports the proposal to transfer the money for the Norfolk Southern B-Line extension from VDOT to the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA). We believe that VPRA is better equipped to handle rail-centric projects and negotiations such as this. We have applied our combined 80 years of railroad track construction experience to reviewing Phase 3 of VDOT's Shenandoah Valley Rail-With-Trail assessment. **In no scenario would it cost \$305 million to fix 49 miles of track in its present condition.** Rather, our company stands by the findings in our coalition's track report from Stone Consulting that the track, which was last used in 2020, can be fixed for approximately \$18 million or less over the five-year period. In our professional opinion, this gross inflation of costs appears to be an attempt by a special interest group of trail supporters to delay or even sand bag this critical infrastructure project and waste even more taxpayer money. We underscore Transportation Secretary Miller's comments regarding VDOT not building this project; *"We're not going to build a trail, VDOT's not going to do that."* **We support the Commonwealth's shift towards a public-private partnership with our brother organization, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation.**

Our team attended the rail-with-trail community input meeting following Phase 1 in our hometown of Woodstock, Virginia on April 15th and we were excited by the outpouring of support for the return of rail service. Our headquarters is just outside of town and our local small family-owned business is uniquely positioned in the center of the 49 miles to cover the track needs of the Shenandoah Rail Corridor and future and existing customers alike. **A project of this magnitude would grow our company by adding 30 local, good paying jobs to the 11 we've already created in our 15-year history in Woodstock.**

We also reaffirm our support of the original rail-with-trail proposal and it's cost estimates put forth by our Shenandoah Rail Corridor coalition and stand ready to assist the selected operator and future customers with our track services. **Virginia has spent enough time studying this project and its Transportation Board must act swiftly towards a purchase for a Shenandoah Valley Rail-With-Trail.**

Media Contact

Derek Burgess
540-335-1043
dburgessvrc@gmail.com