

Recently Announced Federal Rail Grants for Virginia

2026 Federal-State Partnership Grants

Announced August 14, 2026

Curtis Street and West Street Crossing Improvements

Recipient and award amount: Chesterfield County, Virginia (Up to \$2.3M)

Project description and benefits: The grant supports the project development and support for a future grade separation at Curtis Street and permanent closure at West Street, two complicated at-grade crossings about 1/3 mile apart in a residential area of Chesterfield County. The section of railroad hosts the Amtrak Northeast Regional's services to Norfolk and the NCDOT-Supported Carolinian. Amtrak's long-distance Palmetto, Silver Meteor, Silver Star, Floridian, and Auto Train also stand to benefit.

Staunton Station State of Good Repair and ADA Improvements

Recipient and award amount: Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (Up to \$15.6M)

Project description and benefits: This grant supports the final design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction/ADA improvements at the Staunton Amtrak Station. The project will bring the station into a state of good repair and provide accessible transportation options for Staunton and the surrounding communities.

2026 BUILD Grants

Announced July 17, 2026

Richmond Layover Facility

Recipient and award amount: Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (\$25M)

Project description and benefits: The project will complete final design and construction of an overnight storage and servicing yard to support existing and future passenger rail service. The project includes design and construction of storage tracks, a maintenance platform, a service pit, track and signaling upgrades, and facilities for maintenance staff. The project will provide a layover and basic maintenance facility near Amtrak's Main Street Station, adding capacity and reducing congestion along a crowded section of track.

L'Enfant Station and Fourth Track Project

Recipient and award amount: Virginia Railway Express (via Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission) (\$25M)

Project description and benefits: The grant will help fund improvements at the station and construct a fourth main track in the corridor between the L'Enfant and Virginia interlockings, easing congestion at a point where track capacity constrains VRE and Amtrak operations. L'Enfant Station in Washington, D.C., is VRE's busiest stop, used by roughly 45% of all riders

Corridor Identification and Development Grants:

Announced December 8, 2023

Two Grants: Washington D.C. to Bristol Corridor & Commonwealth Corridor

Recipient and award amount: Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (initial award of \$500,000 each in 2023, over \$15M expected before 2029)

Project description and benefits: DRPT was awarded funding to evaluate two passenger rail corridors in Virginia: the east-west Commonwealth Corridor and the Washington D.C. to Bristol Corridor. Completion of the Corridor ID program advances these rail corridors from systems planning to project development and makes the corridors more competitive for Federal construction funding. Both corridors have completed Step 1 in July 2026, and are advancing into Step 2 of the program, obligating additional funding for corridor planning.

Cardinal Daily Service

Recipient and award amount: Amtrak (initial award of \$500,000)

Project description and benefits: Amtrak was awarded funding by the FRA to evaluate increasing service levels on the New York City to Chicago long-distance Cardinal train from three-times a week to daily service. The Cardinal operates only three days a week, but connects key destinations in Virginia, including stops at Culpeper, Charlottesville, Staunton, and Clifton Forge, before continuing through West Virginia on its way to Chicago.

Washington DC to Charlotte

Recipient and award amount: North Carolina Department of Transportation (initial award of \$500,000)

Project description and benefits: NCDOT was awarded funding by the FRA to evaluate the passenger rail corridor from Charlotte to Washington D.C. The corridor encompasses NCDOT's Piedmont Service, as well as many of the projects VPRA is undertaking as part of the Transforming Rail in Virginia initiative. The corridor includes the S-Line, a rail corridor that would more directly connect Raleigh to Richmond, reducing the time to travel from Charlotte to D.C. Presently, one train goes all the way from Charlotte to D.C, the Carolinian.