



April 14, 2015

Mr. Jeremy Latimer, AICP  
Department of Rail and Public Transportation  
600 E. Main Street, Ste. 2102  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Mr. Latimer:

I am responding on behalf of the Board of Directors and Fellows of the Virginia Rail Policy Institute (VRPI) to your request for comments regarding DRPT's review of the Rail Enhancement Program. Our comments are attached on the following pages.

VRPI has closely followed the Rail Enhancement Program since its inception in 2005. Two of our members were appointees to Governor Warner's Commission on Rail Enhancement for the 21st Century, which is generally credited with creating the REF. Several of our members served on the Virginia Rail Advisory Board, a citizens' board established to oversee the implementation of the REF, until the board was eliminated by the McDonnell Administration. In addition, VRPI published a policy analysis regarding the investment of public funds in private rail infrastructure in 2006, and a report on the effectiveness of the Virginia Rail Advisory Board in 2010. Both reports can be found at [www. http://varpi.org/](http://varpi.org/).

VRPI appreciates this opportunity to contribute to DRPT's review of the history and effectiveness of Virginia's Rail Enhancement Program.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Meredith Richards". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dash above the letter 'i' in Richards.

Meredith Richards  
President  
[meredith@cvillerrail.org](mailto:meredith@cvillerrail.org)