

New River Valley Passenger Rail Study Outline

Task 1: Data Development

- Working Group
 - Identify working group participants and contact information
 - MPO Transportation Advisory Committee
 - Establish content sharing (webpage, drop box, etc)
- Research
 - Existing local, regional and statewide plans and implemented projects
 - Rail studies and implemented projects in other states (North Carolina and Pacific Northwest among others)
 - Operational Preferences (train scheduling)

2 Months

Task 2: Analysis

- Demonstrating Demand
 - Zip code analysis (VT/RU students)
 - VT/RU Faculty/Staff Survey
 - Regional survey of potential users (general population + employers)
 - In-person surveys at existing rail stations (Lynchburg/Charlottesville)
 - Megabus in-person surveys at park and ride lot
 - Air traffic data
 - Collect personalized stories during process
- Station Evaluation
 - Potential stops and train service areas (evaluate up to 3)
 - Existing transportation system near stations (parking/multi-modes)
 - Organizational Structure to Implement (authority/single owner/others)
 - Identify cost to construct a station
 - Develop implementation timeline
- Local Impacts
 - Brief history of passenger rail in the NRV
 - Economic impact (general based on case study research)
 - I-81 impact (decreasing vehicles)
 - Tourism opportunity

7-10 Months

Task 3: Draft Study

- Products
 - Online: draft documents in pdf and interactive map with ArcGIS online
 - Hard copy for each project stakeholder
- Public Input
 - 3 public meetings (1 in each potential station community)

1 Month

Task 4 Final Study

- Local Information Sharing
 - Present final study to local governments, stakeholder groups, etc.
- Products
 - Hard copy for each stakeholder
 - Online: final documents in pdf and interactive map.

2 Months

Total Project:
12-18 Months