



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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President Obama Invests \$620 Million in Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor

Richmond, Virginia: The Southeast High Speed Rail Association is tremendously appreciative of the investment President Obama and his administration is making toward the advancement of high-speed and intercity passenger rail in the Southeast, and across America.

President Obama and his administration will begin investing \$620 million from the \$8 billion allocated for high-speed rail in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor (Washington-Richmond-Hampton Roads-Raleigh-Charlotte-Atlanta). This \$8 billion represents the largest federal investment in rail since President Lincoln built the Transcontinental Railroad, and the \$620 million will begin upgrading the Washington-Richmond-Raleigh-Charlotte portion of the Southeast Corridor to high-speed rail. Of the \$620 million, \$75 million will be used to begin adding additional track capacity between Washington and Richmond, \$25 million will be used for congestion mitigation between Richmond and Raleigh, and \$520 million will be used to add additional track capacity and service between Raleigh and Charlotte.

“The President’s investment is both significant, and the first step toward linking the entire Southeast with fast, frequent, and reliable passenger rail service,” stated **Daniel L. Plaughter**, Executive Director of Virginians for High Speed Rail and the Southeast High Speed Rail Association. *“The investments in North Carolina will improve the reliability of Amtrak’s long distance services, as well as improve the speed, reliability, and frequency of North Carolina’s regional services. The improvements in Virginia will improve on-time performance, and reduce trip time of all Amtrak and Virginia Railway Express commuter service between Washington and Richmond.”*

“This investment in high speed rail in the Southeast is an enormous step forward. It will provide better transportation choices and better connect communities in our fast-growing region while generating jobs, cutting air pollution, and saving energy. More will be needed, but this helps set us on a course for cleaner and more efficient transportation that will improve our quality of life,” said **Trip Pollard**, Director of the Southern Environmental Law Center’s Land and Community Program.

“We are excited about the federal investment in the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor, and eager to see the improvements in connectivity that it will bring to our region,” stated **Chuck Meadows**, Executive Director of the Southeastern Economic Alliance and Vice President of Transportation Policy for the Metro Atlanta Chamber. *“The economic benefits will begin with the people put to work on the project itself, but they will continue for years to come as we take advantage of fast, reliable connections between cities across the southeast region. The Southeastern Economic Alliance will continue to work with our states and partner organizations to connect the entire region with high-speed rail.”*

The Southeast High Speed Rail Association commends Virginia and North Carolina’s Congressional Delegation for their support of high-speed rail. We also congratulate the North Carolina Department of Transportation’s Rail Division, and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation for their hard work and leadership in submitting the Southeast’s high-speed rail applications.

The Southeast High Speed Rail Association (SEHSRA) is a 501 (C)(3) non-profit coalition of citizens, businesses, governmental and community organizations that join together to educate and advocate for the expansion of fast, frequent, and reliable rail service linking the Southeast. For more information visit www.SoutheastHSR.org.