

## **ITEM 9 - Information**

May 20, 2015

Briefing on the DC2RVA High-Speed Rail Project Under Development by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

### **Staff**

**Recommendation:** Receive briefing.

**Issues:** None

**Background:** The Board will be briefed on the Tier II Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process currently underway for the Washington, D.C. to Centralia, Virginia corridor (the DC2RVA high-speed rail project). The Tier II EIS, initiated in the fall of 2014, follows a Tier I EIS completed in 2002 for the larger Washington, D.C. to Charlotte, NC corridor. VDRPT will be holding three public meetings in early June in Richmond, Fredericksburg and Alexandria to solicit public comment on the process that will be used to evaluate potential alternatives for improvements in the project corridor. Completion of the Tier II EIS is currently scheduled for late 2017.



# DC2RVA Project Update

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Project Manager

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
Transportation Planning Board  
May 20, 2015

# Agenda

- Project Overview
- Schedule
- Current Activities
- Next Steps



**SEHSR Corridor**

**Richmond to Raleigh**  
Tier II EIS

**Richmond to Hampton Roads**  
Tier I EIS

**Washington, D.C. to Richmond**  
Tier II EIS

**Charlotte to Atlanta**  
Tier I EIS

**SEHSR Extended**  
Feasibility Studies Complete

**Washington D.C.**

**Richmond**

**Raleigh**

**Charlotte**

**Atlanta**

**Columbia**

**Jacksonville**

# Southeast High Speed Rail (SEHSR)

# Project Snapshot



- 123-Mile Corridor
- Northernmost Segment of the SEHSR Corridor
- Connects to the Northeast Corridor
- Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Review
- Ridership and Revenue Review
- Station Area Improvements
- Service Frequency



*Project Sponsor:*



Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

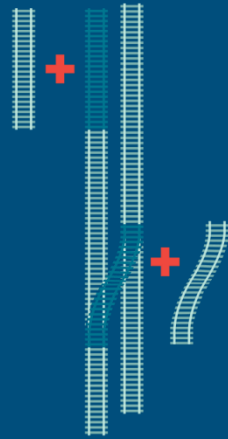
*Lead Federal Agency:*



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Railroad Administration**

# Improvement Concepts

Construction of additional main line tracks and crossovers.



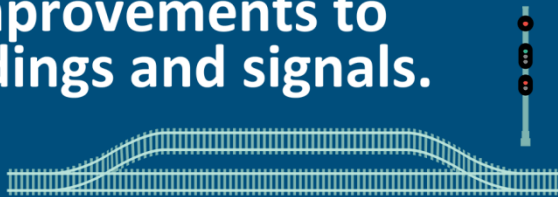
Straightening of curves.



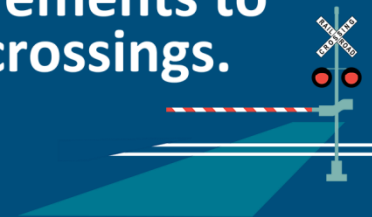
Station area improvements.



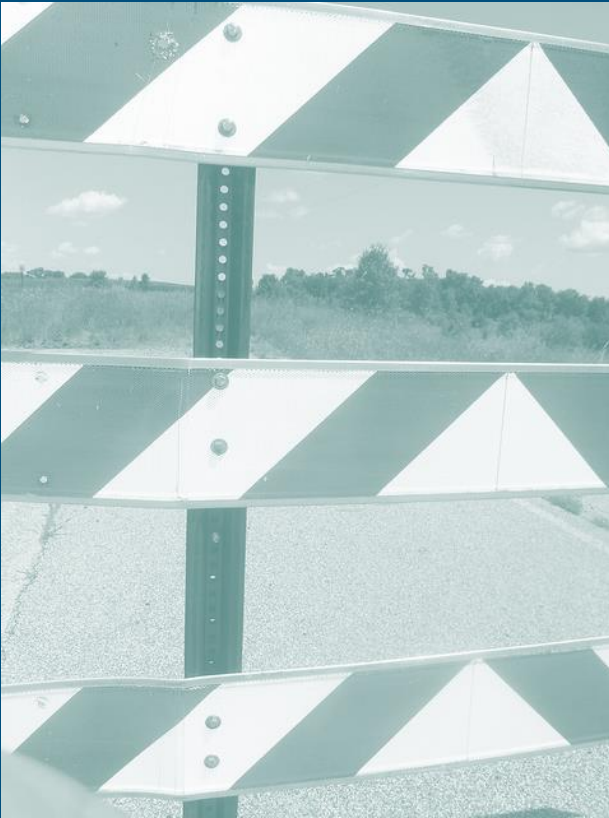
Improvements to sidings and signals.



Improvements to grade crossings.



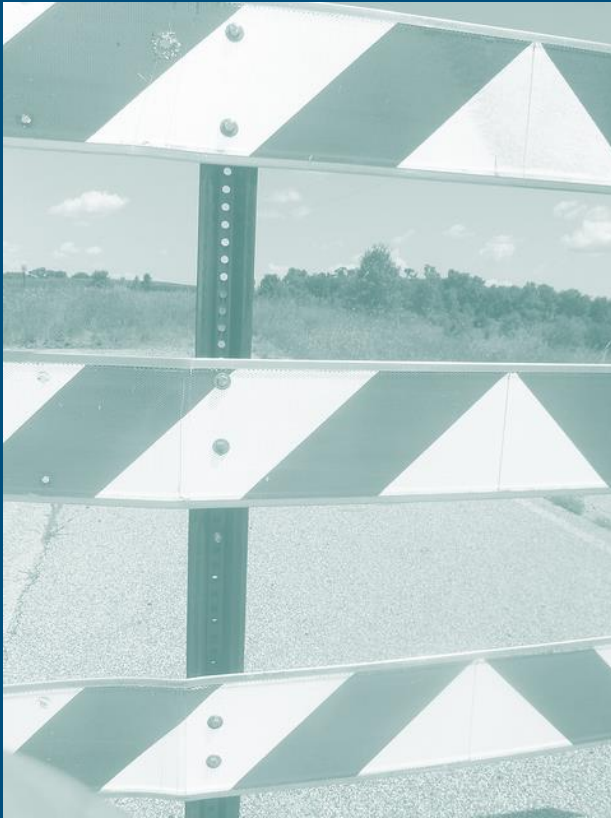
# Challenges



- Updating key elements of the 2002 SEHSR Tier I EIS
- Effectively applying past studies
- Addressing unresolved corridor issues
- Considering future VRE, Amtrak, and CSX plans



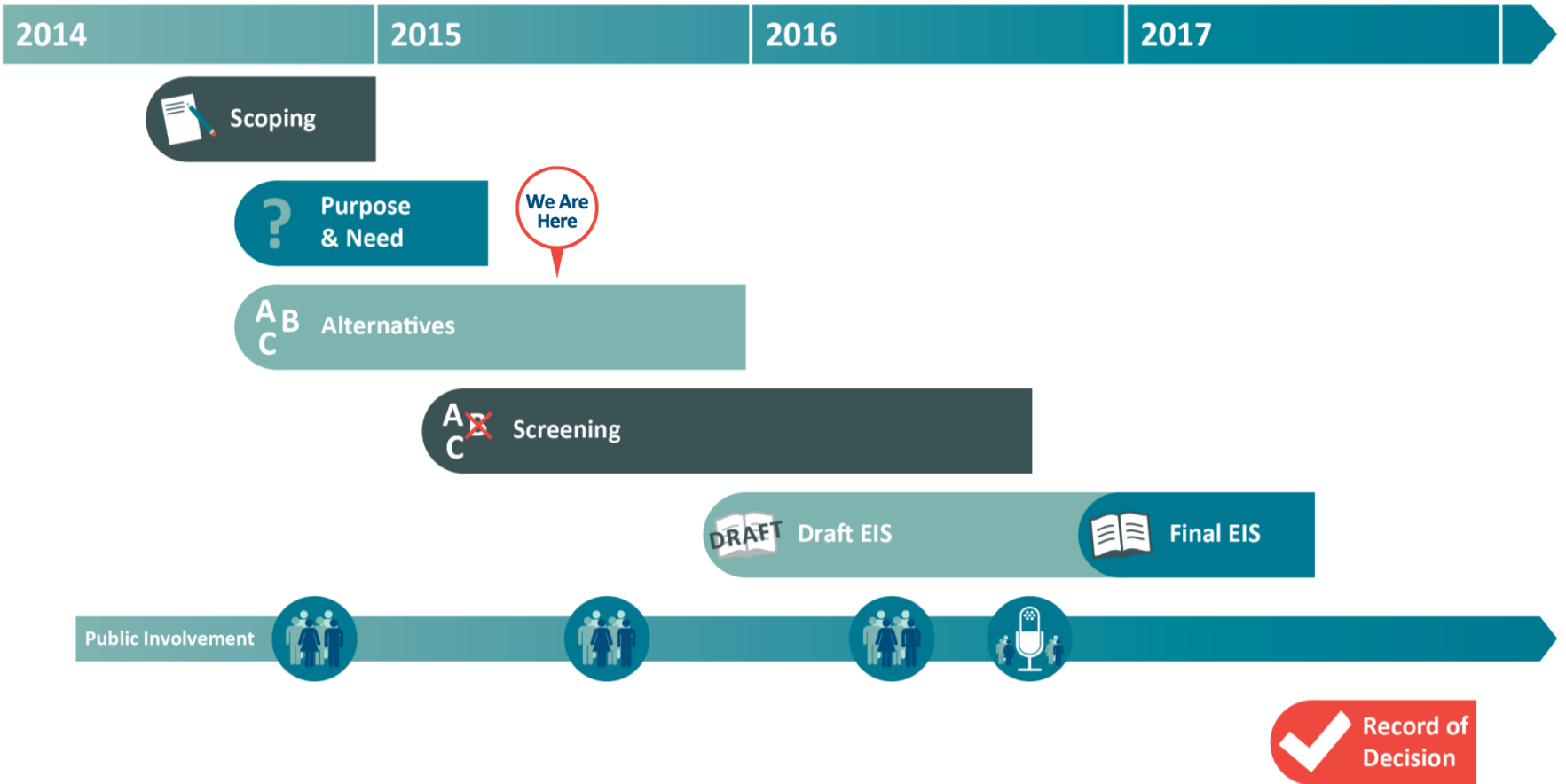
# Coordination – Northern region



- VRE System Plan
- DDOT Long Bridge Project
- CSX Virginia Avenue Tunnel
- Arkendale to Powells Creek + other projects underway



# Project Update | Where Are We Now?



# Service Goals

## Service Goals



Reliability



Travel Time

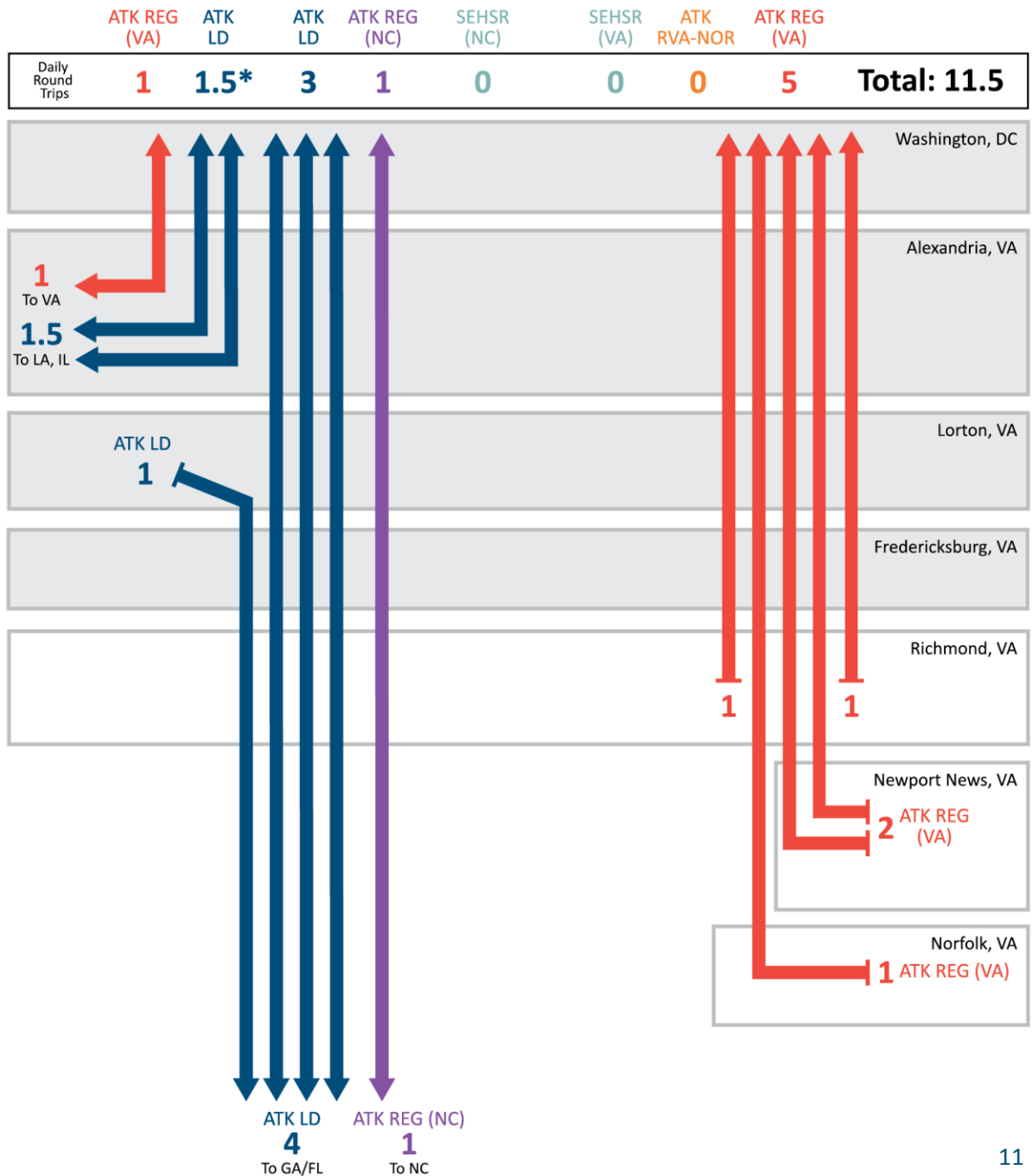


Frequency



# Intercity Passenger Train Frequencies 2015

- Amtrak Long-Distance (ATK LD)
- State-supported Amtrak Regional Service, Virginia (ATK REG VA)
- State-supported Amtrak Regional Service, North Carolina (ATK REG NC)
- Richmond-Norfolk Shuttle (ATK RVA-NOR)
- Southeast High Speed Rail (SEHSR)
- Existing train extended to Norfolk
- City also served by VRE commuter trains
- \* Operates 3x/week

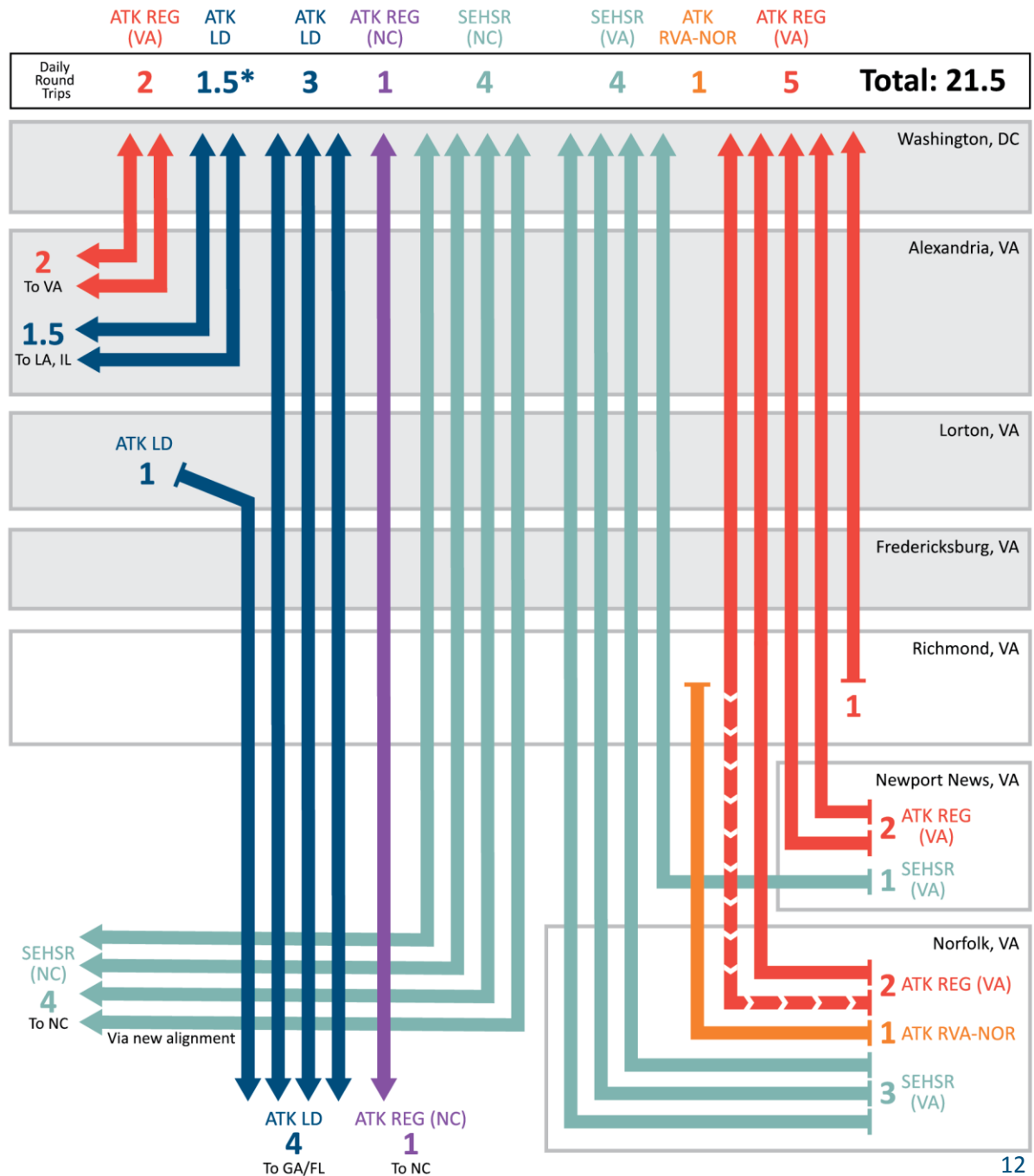


# Intercity Passenger Train Frequencies Future

- █ Amtrak Long-Distance (ATK LD)
- █ State-supported Amtrak Regional Service, Virginia (ATK REG VA)
- █ State-supported Amtrak Regional Service, North Carolina (ATK REG NC)
- █ Richmond-Norfolk Shuttle (ATK RVA-NOR)
- █ Southeast High Speed Rail (SEHSR)
- ▬▬▬ Existing train extended to Norfolk
- City also served by VRE commuter trains
- \* Operates 3x/week

## Changes from 2015

- 8 new SEHSR round trips
  - 4 to NC
  - 3 to Norfolk
  - 1 to Newport News
- 1 new Regional round trip to Lynchburg via Norfolk Southern
- One new Richmond-Norfolk Shuttle



# Define Alternatives

## Design Options

- Rail Alignment
- Stations
- Road/Rail Crossings

## Service Options

- Frequency of Service
- Schedule
- Station Stops

# Rail Alignment Screening Process

A  
B  
C

Develop Preliminary  
Track Alignment Options

A  
~~B~~  
C

Stage I Screening - Fatal Flaw

A  
B  
~~C~~

Stage II Screening -  
Order of Magnitude Impacts

A  
~~B~~  
C

Stage III Screening -  
Infrastructure Constraints

~~A~~  
B  
C

Stage IV Screening -  
Area Options



# Next Steps | Screening Continues

## Rail Alignment Screening Process

~~A~~  
~~B~~  
C Develop Preliminary Track Alignment Options

~~A~~  
~~C~~ Stage I Screening - Fatal Flaw

~~A~~  
~~B~~  
~~C~~ Stage II Screening - Order of Magnitude Impacts

~~A~~  
~~C~~ Stage III Screening - Infrastructure Constraints

~~A~~  
~~B~~  
C Stage IV Screening - Area Options

- Continue screening alternatives to identify narrowed range of reasonable alternatives
- These reasonable alternatives will be presented for comment at a third set of public meetings

# Next Steps | June Public Meetings

## Alexandria – Monday, June 1, 2015

Hilton Alexandria Old Town  
1767 King Street

## Fredericksburg – Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Dorothy Hart Community Center  
408 Canal Street

## Richmond – Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Department of Motor Vehicles  
2300 W. Broad Street

*\*Open House format from 5:00 to 7:30 pm each evening.*



**Thank you!**

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**[www.dc2rvarail.com](http://www.dc2rvarail.com)**