



# I-81 Multimodal Improvements Funding Recommendations

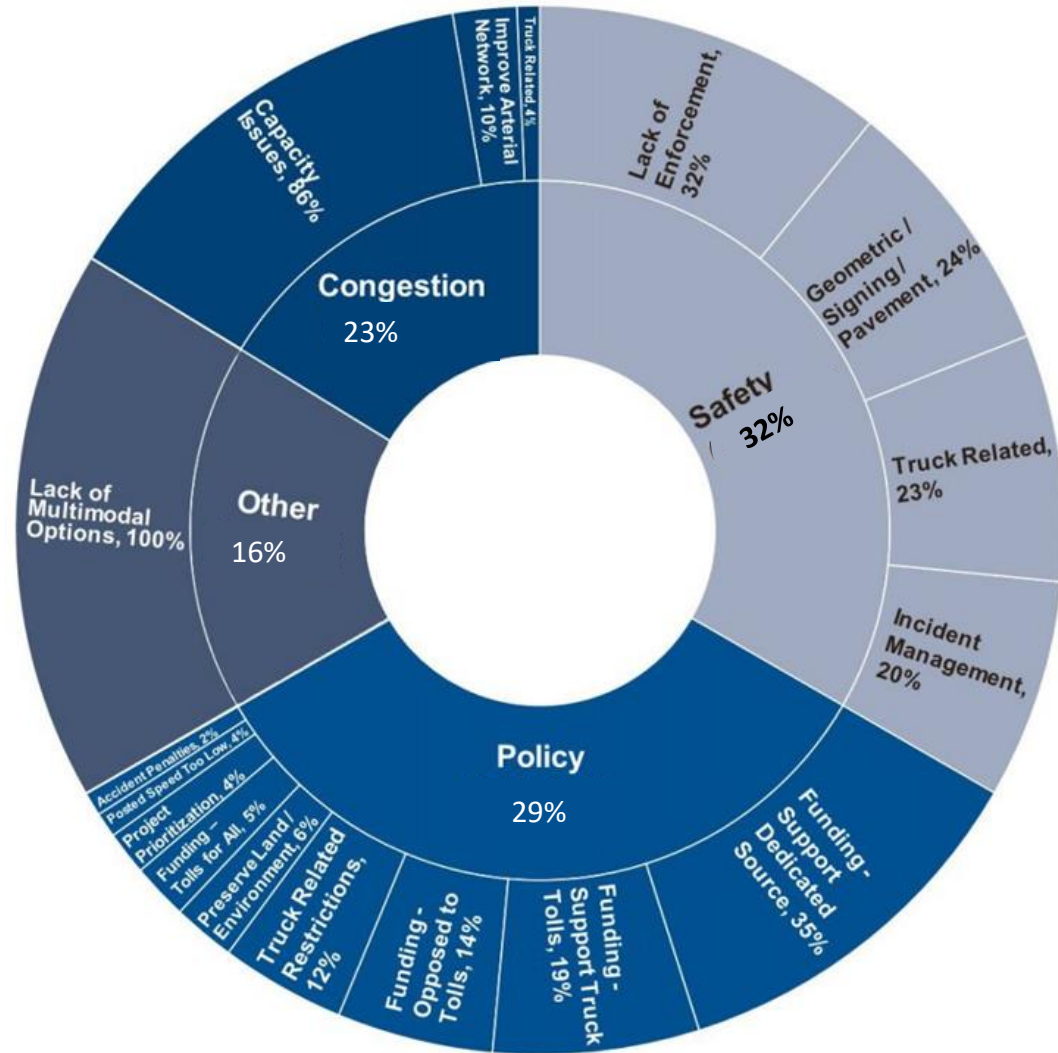
April 28, 2021

I-81 CORRIDOR  
IMPROVEMENT PLAN



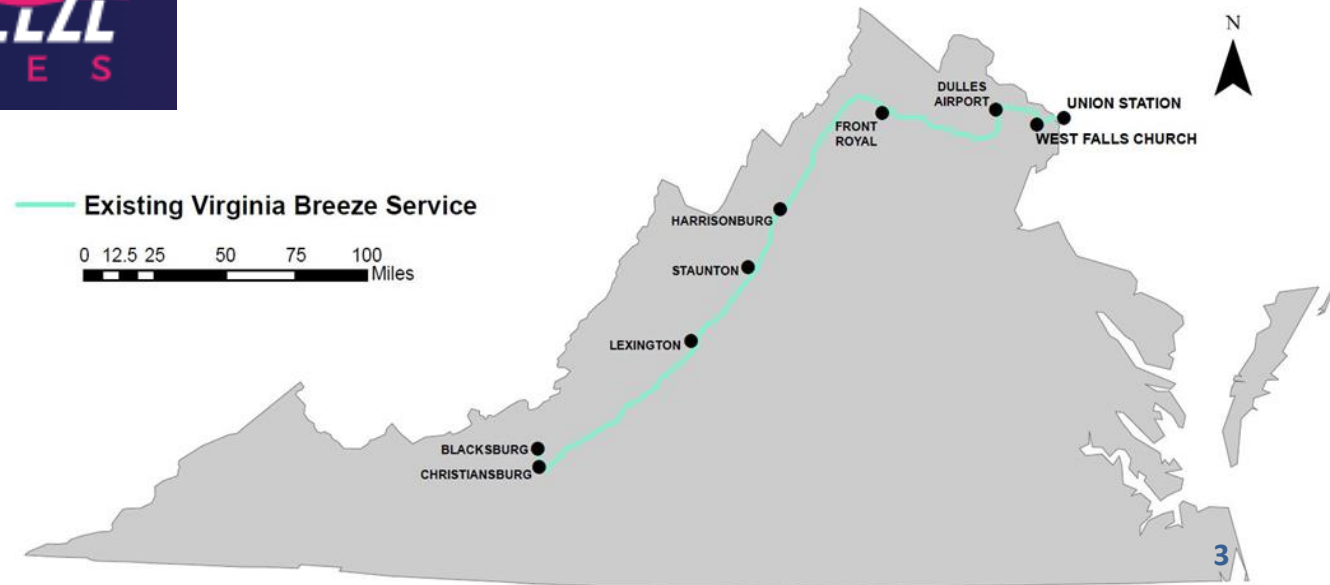
# Background

- Over 300 comments from I-81 Corridor Improvement public meetings referenced lack of multimodal options
- DRPT has identified potential transit and rail improvements, taking into account existing gaps in service
- DRPT briefed the I-81 Advisory Committee on technical study in October 2020



# Virginia Breeze Expansion

- *Virginia Breeze* Bus Lines operates the Valley Flyer daily roundtrip service between Blacksburg and Washington D.C. with stops in the Shenandoah Valley, Front Royal, Dulles Airport, and Arlington
- DRPT studied an expansion of *Virginia Breeze* intercity bus service to Bristol, along with new bus stops and critical improvements to existing intercity bus stops along the corridor



# Virginia Breeze Expansion

- Provide new daily roundtrip service from Bristol to Washington DC
- Anticipated annual ridership of 25,000 on new service, nearly doubling intercity bus ridership in the corridor
- Net annual O&M cost estimated at \$243,000\*
- Corridor bus stop improvements estimated at \$100,000\*
  - Improvements to existing Front Royal and Lexington stops
  - New bus stops at Bristol, Wytheville, and Salem
- Service to be initiated in Fall 2021

\*All costs shown are 2022 YOE

25,000 New Riders  
Estimated to be added  
to a Route that had  
27,000 riders in 2019.



# Western Rail Initiative

- 2<sup>nd</sup> State-Supported Round Trip would connect the Northeast Corridor and Alexandria, Burke, Manassas, Culpeper, Charlottesville, Lynchburg and Roanoke
- Extension of Service to New River Valley
- Discussions with NS ongoing



80,000 New Riders Estimated to be added to a Route that had 220,000 riders in 2019.

# Western Rail Initiative Funding

- Budget Bill Passed General Assembly in March (\$83.5M)
- I-81 Multimodal Funding (\$100M)
- SMART SCALE (application submitted by CTB for \$50M)
- SYIP and Commonwealth Rail Fund Allocations



# Next Steps

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- CTB Approval of SYIP – June
- Western Rail Initiative:
  - Continue Engineering Due Diligence
  - Continue Negotiations with Norfolk Southern
- Virginia Breeze:
  - Negotiate contract for additional I-81 service
  - Corridor branding/marketing
  - Initiate service – Fall 2021





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