



# NEWSRELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 28, 2024

## Virginia and North Carolina are Home to the Busiest Amtrak Stations in the Southeast

*Record ridership driving growth*

WASHINGTON — More people are traveling by train with a record number stopping in Virginia and North Carolina. The top five stations in the Southeast in 2023 were the Staples Mill Road Station in Richmond, Va., Alexandria, Va., Charlotte, N.C., Norfolk, Va., and Raleigh, N.C.

“The tremendous growth in ridership is a result of the substantial investments North Carolina and Virginia are making to expand and improve passenger rail,” Amtrak Vice President Ray Lang said. “Customers are taking advantage of a sustainable way to travel to the many destinations our network offers.”

[Amtrak Virginia](#), the Virginia state-supported passenger rail service, offers 12 daily trains to the Richmond station for service to Washington, D.C., Baltimore, New York, and Boston. Customers can also access additional Amtrak service for travel to Raleigh, Charlotte, Savannah, Ga., and other cities as far south as Miami.

“Richmond is not just the capital of Virginia, it’s the epicenter of the East, connecting the Southeast and the Northeast by rail,” said DJ Stadtler, Executive Director of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) which oversees the Commonwealth’s Amtrak Virginia service. “All three of these stations – Richmond-Staples Mill, Alexandria, and Norfolk – offer Virginians access to rail service connecting the Commonwealth with the rest of the East Coast.”

In [North Carolina](#), the *Piedmont* and *Carolinian* services offer daily roundtrips for travel between Raleigh, Charlotte, and points in between. The *Piedmont* and *Carolinian*, which travels daily from New York to Charlotte, and stops at the Staples Mill Road Station in Richmond, Va., and Alexandria, Va., are sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and operated by Amtrak.

“The growth we’ve seen in ridership in 2022 and 2023 is unprecedented,” said Jason Orthner, NCDOT’s Rail Division Director. “Continuing to work in partnership with Amtrak and the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority to increase connections and decrease travel time between destinations in the South and the Northeast is a priority to increase and enhance NC By Train service in North Carolina and beyond.”

[More>>>](#)



Virginia and North Carolina received federal grants to help continue pursuing their vision to expand service in the region.

In addition to Richmond, Alexandria, and Norfolk, Amtrak Virginia also serves Newport News, Roanoke, and 12 other Virginia communities. In 2023, the service set a ridership record of more than 1.3 million passengers, making the Commonwealth one of the most popular travel destinations on the Amtrak national network.

Plans are underway to expand Amtrak Virginia service through VPRA’s [Transforming Rail in Virginia](#) initiative, resulting in two additional roundtrips in 2026 and three in 2030.

[Amtrak](#) is capitalizing on ridership growth by advancing historic infrastructure investments that will launch new and expanded services, advance safety and reliability, improve accessibility, drive economic development and enhance the customer experience.

Station	2023 Ridership	Routes
Richmond – Staples Mill Road	424,617	Amtrak Virginia Service to Washington, DC, New York, and Boston  Additional service to Washington, DC, New York, Charleston, Savannah, and Miami
Alexandria, Va.	327,285	Amtrak Virginia Service to Washington, DC, New York, and Boston  Additional service to Washington, DC, New York, Indianapolis, Chicago, New Orleans, Charleston, Savannah, and Miami
Charlotte, N.C.	281,220	Service to Raleigh, Washington, DC, New York, and New Orleans



Norfolk, Va.	232,530	Amtrak Virginia Service to Richmond, Washington, DC, New York, and Boston
Raleigh, N.C.	231,229	Service to Charlotte, Washington, DC, and New York

**About Amtrak®**

For more than 50 years, Amtrak has connected America and modernized train travel. Offering a safe, environmentally efficient way to reach more than 500 destinations across 46 states and parts of Canada, Amtrak provides travelers with an experience that sets a new standard. Book travel, check train status, access your eTicket and more through the [Amtrak app](#). Learn more at [Amtrak.com](#) and connect with us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

**About Virginia Passenger Rail Authority**

The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority was established in 2020 to promote, sustain, and expand the availability of passenger and commuter rail service in the Commonwealth. VPRRA is committed to delivering the state’s Amtrak Virginia passenger rail service as an integrated, affordable, and convenient travel option and plays a critical role in mitigating current and future traffic congestion on Virginia’s highways, promoting economic development, and connecting communities by increasing passenger rail capacity, services, and ridership. For more information, please visit [vapassengerrailauthority.org](#).

###

**CONTACTS:**

Amtrak Media Relations  
Kimberly Woods  
202 906.3860  
[MediaRelations@Amtrak.com](mailto:MediaRelations@Amtrak.com)

Virginia Passenger Rail Authority  
Karina Romero  
804 401.7912  
[Karina.Romero@VRPA.Virginia.gov](mailto:Karina.Romero@VRPA.Virginia.gov)

North Carolina Department of Transportation  
Liz Macam  
336.341.0931  
[epmacam@ncdot.gov](mailto:epmacam@ncdot.gov)