

---

# Silence is Consent

---

Families Under The Rail is a 501c(3) founded by citizens and families of western Hanover County, Virginia, engaged and aggressively committed in opposition of new railroads through our bucolic community.

FUTR includes citizens, private property owners, business owners and elected officials who share our core belief of combating eminent domain for private use, and our opposition to any tax-subsidized railway. We are families being thrown under the rail.

---

April 2016

---

Dear Neighbor,

Recently some of our fellow neighbors have been made aware of a proposed Western Bypass for High Speed Rail (HSR) that would loop around the center of Ashland, and the train station. This bypass is represented in the enclosed maps with a red line. While the prospect of HSR has been talked about since 1993, the bypass around Ashland was recently proposed in December 2015. With the disruption to downtown Ashland of a possible third track, a Western Bypass was proposed by the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT). According to the Richmond Times Dispatch on February 7, 2016, the bypass was endorsed by Hanover County, the Town of Ashland, and the Main Street Association. However, residents in the proposed corridor were not contacted to represent ourselves at any public meeting.

In fact, very few have received any notices at this point, yet surveyors have started their work and will be completed this fall. Some of you may have noticed the surveyor stakes and a white "X" on your property. They are markers for aerial surveys that are being conducted now. The DRPT is near completion of the DC to RVA (TIER II) study. Once completed, the report will either support the Western Bypass or reject it and the decision will be final. We have a very small window of time to voice our opposition to this rail. The impending possibility of HSR near our homes has already affected the value and use of our property, our culture will surely follow if approved.

Please read the following materials and visit the website [www.familiesundertherail.org](http://www.familiesundertherail.org) and/or the Facebook page **Families Under the Rail**. You will find information on what you can do to voice your opinion and how to make a contribution to fight HSR in Western Hanover County and Ashland. There is also an online petition to sign at [www.petitions.moveon.org](http://www.petitions.moveon.org) under **No Ashland Western Bypass**. We will post scheduled meetings and reports of meetings attended. Know that a representative from this group will be present at any public meeting that discusses HSR in this area. We sincerely hope you'll join us at the Hanover County Public Meeting at Patrick Henry High School April 4 (details in this packet and online.)

Thank you,

Mike Valentine  
Michelle Tobin  
Carey Carlise  
Bob Carlise  
Cindy Wilton  
Hank Wilton  
Sheila Tompkins

# Websites For More Information

**[www.familiesundertherail.org](http://www.familiesundertherail.org)** – your community opposing HSR

**[www.dc2rvarail.com](http://www.dc2rvarail.com)** – DRPT site to find enclosed maps and project information

**[www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room](http://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room)**

**[www.richmonddiscoveries.com](http://www.richmonddiscoveries.com)** – go to “About RD”, then select “Stuart’s Ride”. This is a new historical tour following the route of JEB around the forces of McClellan. You’ll see much of the original route is affected in this bypass.

**[www.ashlandrail.wordpress.com](http://www.ashlandrail.wordpress.com)** – Ian Sutton has written insightful articles about HSR

**[www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0729](http://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0729)** – Federal Railroad Administration’s history of TIER I and TIER II studies in this area, and across the country.

# People To Contact

## **Emily Stock**

Manager of Rail Planning  
DRPT  
DC2RVA Project Office  
801 East Main Street, Suite 1000  
Richmond, VA 23219  
emily.stock@drpt.virginia.com

## **Randy Selleck**

AICP Rail Planning Project Manager  
Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation  
600 E. Main Street, Suite 2102  
Richmond, VA 23219  
804-591-4442  
randy.selleck@drpt.virginia.gov

## **Aubrey Stanley**

Hanover Board of Supervisors, Beaverdam District, Chairman  
18055 Beaver Dam Road  
Beaverdam, VA 23015  
amstanley@hanovercounty.gov

## **Wayne Hazzard**

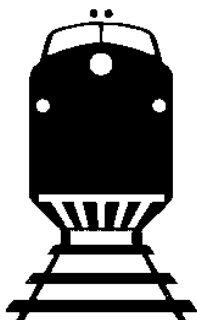
Hanover Board of Supervisors, South Ann District  
11237 Two Pond Lane  
Glen Allen, VA 23059  
sthazzard@hanovercounty.gov

## **Cecil Rhu Harris**

Hanover County Administrator  
County Administrator's Office  
804-365-6005  
ctyadm@hanovercounty.gov

# Please Put Your Comments on Record

Make your comments and opinions official. According to officials at the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, they will be considered as part of the Tier II study going on now.



<http://www.dc2rvarail.com/contact-us/>

## Following DRPT Maps

1. DRPT map showing the bypass options – the western route and the eastern route. The eastern route was quietly and quickly eliminated before western Hanover citizens were notified of the project. According to DRPT officials in a meeting with us March 30, 2016 the option was eliminated because the tracks needed to be straightened in some places
2. DRPT maps that shows the aerial photography target locations in relation to property lines and the proposed western bypass alternative. Each of the locations is marked on the maps with a yellow “X” mark. The green "X" marks are locations of aerial markers that were placed on roadway right of way. We were told the DC2RVA team sent a property owner letter for each aerial photography target that was placed on private property.
3. DRPT maps that show the western bypass in relation to property lines.