

Michael McLaughlin

Michael McLaughlin joined the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) as its Chief Operating Officer (COO) in April of 2021. At VPRA Michael oversees Planning, Programming, and Design & Construction of over \$4.5 billion in rail projects. These projects will implement the agreements with CSX, Amtrak, Norfolk Southern, and VRE that will lead to the doubling of State-Supported Amtrak service and increased VRE service, including new late night and weekend service. Virginia is also acquiring over 400 miles of right of way and over 250 miles of track and is constructing over 37 miles of track and bridges in the next decade, including the \$2.7 billion Long Bridge project over the Potomac River.

Previously Michael was the Chief of Rail at DRPT where he oversaw statewide rail planning and passenger and freight programs and played a lead role in the CSX and Norfolk Southern negotiations before moving over to VPRA to continue his work.

Prior to joining DRPT, Michael was the Deputy Chief of Staff at the Chicago Transit Authority, overseeing Planning, Infrastructure, Finance, and Government Relations for the nation's second largest transit agency. Michael also worked on Capitol Hill for over 12 years as a senior transportation aide to Authorizing and Appropriations Committee Members in both the House and Senate.

Currently, Michael resides in Fredericksburg, Virginia with his wife Sarah and their six children. He holds his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa and his master's degree in public policy from Indiana University.

