



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGH-DEFINITION CAMERAS INSTALLED IN ROANOKE, OFFERING RAILFANS 24/7 LIVE STREAMING OF TRAINS

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ROANOKE, VIRGINIA (MAY 10, 2021) – Virtual Railfan, Inc., the leading provider of 24/7 live streams of popular railroad locations for train fans, is proud to announce the installation of two high-definition cameras at the Virginia Museum of Transportation, Inc. The cameras installed on the museum’s Robert B. Claytor and W. Graham Claytor, Jr. Pavilion as well as an adjacent wing of the museum’s main building, a former Norfolk and Western freight station, offer spectacular views of Amtrak’s daily *Northeast Regional Service* as well as the parade of Norfolk Southern (NS) freight trains that roll through Roanoke every day.

Christine Williams, Executive Director of the Virginia Museum of Transportation, approached Virtual Railfan earlier this year. Already a devoted viewer of the nearly 50 rail side locations that the company live streams every day, Williams recognized the value of broadcasting Roanoke to the 16 million monthly viewers of Virtual Railfan’s YouTube channel. “We can spread the word about the museum, the city, and everything we offer visitors with much greater reach than conventional advertising.”

Mike Cyr, the President and CEO of Virtual Railfan, couldn’t agree more. “Instead of chasing potential supporters and tourists, you have an audience of millions flocking to you and discovering why Roanoke is such a great place to visit.”

Although the viewers tune in to watch trains, he says, the live chat which accompanies each feed provides a unique opportunity for people to converse about the area and its history and events while they wait for the next train. The excellent view of approximately 50 pieces of rolling stock on display in the museum’s railyard is a draw for many virtual railfans.

The Roanoke live stream can be found on YouTube: <https://youtube.com/virtualrailfan>, on the Virtual Railfan website: <https://virtualrailfan.com>, and on the Virginia Museum of Transportation’s website: <http://www.vmt.org>.

About Virtual Railfan: The live streaming company launched its website in 2014 with 4 locations, and railfans quickly signed up for membership as the network continued to grow. When it became technically feasible to live stream directly to YouTube in 2017, the company added a handful of locations on the popular platform and viewership exploded. Virtual Railfan now has 281,000 YouTube subscribers from across the globe, who have watched 53 million hours (more than 6,000 years!). 30 new locations were added in the last two years, with dozens more in the pipeline.

About the Virginia Museum of Transportation: As the Official Transportation Museum of the Commonwealth of Virginia, The Virginia Museum of Transportation is devoted to engaging our visitors thru interactive experiences with all modes of transportation. Located in Downtown Roanoke, Virginia the museum includes an extensive collection of steam, diesel and electric locomotives, and other rolling stock. Visitor favorites include model trains, automotive and aviation exhibits, buggies, and a Jupiter-family rocket. The VMT Store is a great source for unique transportation related toys, books, DVDs, and gifts. For more information about the Virginia Museum of Transportation or to plan your next visit, visit www.vmt.org