

# 2022 AIA Virginia Prize Competition

***...if I could think what I would do, other than architecture, it would be to write the new fairy tale, because from the fairy tale came the airplane, and the locomotive, and the wonderful instruments of our minds....***

***It all came from Wonder.***

**Louis Kahn**

It is in the spirit of Kahn's words that you are asked to craft an Architectural Proposition in the form of a passenger rail station to serve Virginia's New River Valley (NRV).

## **SITE**

The NRV Passenger Rail Station is to be situated in Christiansburg, Virginia and serve as a multi-modal transit hub for the NRV. It has direct vehicular access to Peppers Ferry Road, foot and bicycle traffic from the Huckleberry Trail, is adjacent to the New River Mall and other restaurant / retail shopping centers, and Christiansburg's signature park currently under construction. The site offers 1,200ft of track frontage, is 1,200ft x 120ft in dimension, and is centrally located to best serve the local population that comprises the NRV such as the City of Radford, Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, and Virginia Tech.

## **STATION BUILDING**

The station building is to be approximately 1,400sf of heated and cooled interior space that includes the following spaces:

- 100sf office for a ticket agent and service manager
- 2: Freestanding ticket kiosks
- Arrival / Departure signage
- 750sf of waiting area that seats a minimum of 50 people
- 400sf cafe w/ small prep kitchen with bar seating and service for beverages, food, newspapers, etc.
- 2: 50sf unisex ADA accessible restrooms
- 1: 30sf custodial and storage room
- Direct access to the train platform

## **PLATFORM**

The platform is to be 1,000ft in length, 12ft to 15ft in depth, and 4ft in height measured from the top of the rail to the top of the platform finish floor. It should have direct access to the station building and include benches for passenger waiting. A roof canopy is to be provided that covers part or all of the platform. The canopy must slope away from the track and cannot extend over the track.

Note: an ADA accessible path needs to be maintained from the parking lot and passenger drop off/pick up area through the station building/platform to the train. Stairs and ADA accessible ramp(s) will need to be incorporated into the station building/platform design.

## **PARKING**

Parking that accommodates between 50+ cars is to be provided along with a multi-modal transit loop that incorporates a passenger drop off/pick up area for cars, taxis, and a maximum of 4 buses. Bicycle racks are to be provided for commuter cyclists and bicycle rentals. Vehicular access to and from the site is from Pepper's Ferry Road. The existing tree canopy should be considered and maintained as much as possible in the overall develop and design of the site.



aerial view of site



view of site from Peppers Ferry Road

## SCHEDULE

-Friday, Jan 21	competition brief is released	5p
-Monday, Jan 24	competition entry submissions due	9a

This competition is an **individual effort**; no teams entries are allowed.

## PRESENTATION

- Drawing: 24 x 36 board (landscape or portrait orientation)
- Each school is asked to upload digital files of award recipients to AIAVA

The presentation board should demonstrate with clarity, at a range of scales and appropriate drawings types, the formal, constructive, performative, atmospheric, and spatial conditions present within the Architectural Proposition.

## RESOURCES

Railroad Station planning guidelines

<https://www.greatamericanstations.com/planning-development/station-planning-guidelines/>

Christiansburg Signature Park (adjacent to the site)

<https://www.christiansburg.org/signaturepark>

Passenger rail returning to the NRV

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/transportation/2021/05/05/virginia-rail-new-river-valley/>

Huckleberry Trail

<https://huckleberrytrail.org/>