
Richmond Association For Business Economics

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Richard Beadles

Retired President & CEO

Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad (RF&P)

RABE Speaker on Friday, June 16, 2023



Richard L. Beadles was formerly President and CEO of CSX predecessor Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad. Now 86, He has served as director, board member and fellow at the Virginia Rail Policy Institute.

Beadles considers himself to be an independent rail and transportation analyst, and an advocate of rail and transit development. He believes that a major shift in national transportation infrastructure funding and development policies and priorities will be necessary in order to effectively address current and future energy, environmental, quality of life, and global economic competitiveness challenges.

Originally a hands-on railroader, up from the ranks, Beadles had a wide variety of operating, marketing and executive experience from the 1950s until retirement. As a former President and CEO of the RF&P and later of CSX Realty, the former real estate and development unit of CSX Corp., he went on to lead Richmond-based real estate advisory firm MGT Realty Advisors, until a second retirement several years ago. Immersed in land use and transportation issues of Northern Virginia between 1965 and 1995, Beadles came to appreciate the linkage between urban development and transportation challenges, and to see the opportunities for better utilization of rail corridors. He was directly involved in the development of Crystal City as RF&P's principal officer in charge of the railroad's land redevelopment effort at the former Potomac Yard in Arlington and Alexandria, Va. Later, with CSX, he was similarly engaged in urban real estate and transportation in various cities in the eastern half of the U.S., including Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Atlanta, Chicago, and elsewhere, including James Center in

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downtown Richmond. As a member of Virginia Governor Mark Warner's 2004 Rail Study Commission, Beadles played a supporting role in the creation of the Virginia Rail Enhancement Fund and its companion facility, the State Rail Advisory Board. Subsequently, Governor Warner appointed Beadles to the Rail Advisory Board.

An alumnus of the Business School at Virginia Commonwealth University, Beadles has served on the VCU Board of Visitors, and was a charter member of the VCU Real Estate Foundation. At one time he chaired the VCU real estate program's external support group. More also served as chairman of the Port of Richmond Commission. He delights in opportunities to combine involvement in urban planning and transportation, but his current passion is preservation of the best of rural America and the protection of Virginia's environment.

Read Mr. Beadles' February 2023 perspective on the East Palestine, Ohio accident and the rail industry's future: <https://www.railwayage.com/freight/a-veteran-railroaders-perspective-on-east-palestine-and-the-rail-industrys-future/?RAchannel=freight>

