

## **Timeline of Senator's Manchin's Work on Hyperloop**

**October 16, 2019:** Senator Manchin meets with the team from Virgin Hyperloop One, including co-founder and Chief Technology Officer Josh Giegel, encouraging them to consider West Virginia as a possible location for the Hyperloop Certification Center.

**November 4, 2019:** Virgin Hyperloop One releases a request for proposals to states, regional or local governments, and other organizations for the location of a certification and test center to establish “regulatory and safety standards, research frameworks, and testing infrastructure.”

**November 13, 2019:** Senator Manchin sends a letter to Sir Richard Branson, Chairman of the Virgin Group, the parent organization of Virgin Hyperloop One, advocating for Virgin Hyperloop One to build their proposed certification and test center in West Virginia. The letter says in part, “You have set forth an aggressive schedule for construction of the test site and certification, and I strongly believe that West Virginia can move Virgin Hyperloop One through complete testing to full operational capability more efficiently than anywhere else.”

**November 22, 2019:** Following Senator Manchin's meeting with VHO to advocate for the project, the company meets with officials at West Virginia University to discuss the prospect of building their proposed certification and test center in West Virginia.

**December 12, 2019:** Senator Manchin sends a letter to Jay Walder, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Virgin Hyperloop One, supporting the State of West Virginia's proposal for the location of VHO's Certification Center. The letter says in part, “I firmly believe that West Virginians will work harder than anyone else to ensure your technology for the future transportation system of America thrives. As the Senior Senator for West Virginia, I am committed to working with you to make that a reality.”

**December 20, 2019:** As a member of the Transportation, Housing & Urban Development Subcommittee on the Appropriations Committee, Senator Manchin secures \$2 million in funding within the FY 2020 budget for the Non-Traditional and Emerging Transportation Technology (NETT) Council, encouraging it to move quickly to implement new policies on promising technologies like hyperloop.

**January 14, 2020:** Senator Manchin leads a letter along with Senator Capito, both members of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, to Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Elaine Chao in support of the establishment of the Non-Traditional and Emerging Transportation Technology (NETT) Council, which is intended to support innovative transportation projects like Virgin Hyperloop. The letter says in part, “As representatives of the great state of West Virginia, we believe that our state can benefit from emerging technologies like hyperloop, and as legislators, we are committed to ensuring that the Department has the tools and funding it needs to encourage these new technologies and move quickly to implement new policies.”

**January 28, 2020:** Sir Richard Branson responds to Senator Manchin's letter, expressing gratitude for Senator Manchin's interest and excitement for the prospect of West Virginia as a

partner for VHO, saying, “I am thrilled that West Virginia has so much to offer and such a track record of successful relationships with other companies and technology innovations.”

**February 11, 2020:** Senator Manchin meets with senior members of the Virgin Hyperloop One team responsible for determining the site location of the certification center prior to their weeklong visit to the state.

**February 12-16, 2020:** Virgin Hyperloop One tours potential sites across the state of West Virginia along with members of Senator Manchin’s staff, the Governor’s office, and representatives from WVU.

**March 4, 2020:** During a Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing, Senator Manchin questions Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao on the progress of the NETT Council, underscoring the importance of its work on emerging technologies such as hyperloop.

**July 24, 2020:** The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Non-Traditional and Emerging Transportation Technology (NETT) Council releases its first policy document, “Pathways to the Future of Transportation.” This document officially designates hyperloop under the jurisdiction of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), laying out a pathway for hyperloop regulation and deployment and establishing eligibility for federal funds.