

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

**RESOLUTION ON AN AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) THAT IS EXEMPT FROM THE AIR QUALITY
CONFORMITY REQUIREMENT TO INCLUDE FUNDING FOR THE
VRE TRACK LEASE IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM, AS REQUESTED BY
THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (VDOT)**

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), which is the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Washington Region, has the responsibility under the provisions of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act for developing and carrying out a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for the Metropolitan Area; and

WHEREAS, the TIP is required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as a basis and condition for all federal funding assistance to state, local and regional agencies for transportation improvements within the Washington planning area; and

WHEREAS, on MARCH 18, 2020 the TPB adopted the FY 2021-2024 TIP; and

WHEREAS, in the attached letter of June 23, 2020, VDOT has requested an amendment to the FY 2021-2024 TIP to include the **VRE Track Lease Improvements program, (TIP ID 5489)**, with \$19.1 million in FY 2020 and \$18.8 million in FY 2021 for construction using Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), state, and local match funding, as described in the attached materials:

WHEREAS, full funding for this program is included in the Visualize 2045 financial analysis; and

WHEREAS, this program is exempt from the air quality conformity requirement, as defined in Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Transportation Conformity Regulations as of April 2012

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Steering Committee of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board amends the FY 2021-2024 TIP to include the **VRE Track Lease Improvements program, (TIP ID 5489)**, with \$19.1 million in FY 2020 and \$18.8 million in FY 2021 for construction using STBG, state, and local match funding, as described in the attached materials.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Stephen C. Brich, P.E.
Commissioner

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Richmond, Virginia 23219

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June 23, 2020

The Honorable Kelly Russell, Chair
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002-4201

RE: FY 2019-2024 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment for TIP#5489, VRE0012, VRE
Track Lease Improvements, System-wide

Dear Ms. Russell:

VDOT, on behalf of the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) and Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transportation (VDRPT), requests an amendment to the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to update the funding for VRE’s Track Lease payments. These capitalized access fees allow VRE to operate on railroad track systems owned by Amtrak, CSX, and Norfolk Southern. As part of the lease arrangement, the railroads keep the tracks in good working order.

This amendment proposes to use approximately \$18.8 million in FLEX STP funds for FFY21, approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board as following:

Amtrak	\$6,879,000
NS	\$3,442,000
CSX	\$8,468,000
Total	\$18,789,000

This funding includes a 20% matching share paid by VRE with subsidies received from local governments. This project is exempt from Air Quality Conformity Analysis, and the funding was anticipated in the Visualize 2045 Financial Plan.

VDOT requests approval of this TIP Amendment by the Transportation Planning Board’s Steering Committee at its meeting on July 11. VDOT will have representatives attending the meeting to answer any questions about the amendments.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Helen Cuervo, P.E.
District Administrator, Northern Virginia District, VDOT

Cc: Ms. Betsy Massie, PRTC
Ms. Maria Sinner, P.E., VDOT-NoVA,
Mr. Norman Whitaker, AICP, VDOT-NoVA

FY 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Amendment Proposed for Review and Approval by the TPB Steering Committee on July 10, 2020.

All amounts shown in \$1,000s

Agency: Virginia Department of Transportation

Title: VRE Track Lease Improvements

TIP ID:	5489	Description:	Projected Completion:	2045
Agency ID:	VRE0012	Provides capitalized access fees in the form of long term and related capital improvements on the railroad systems that VRE operates on, railroad systems owned by Amtrak, CSX, and Norfolk Southern.		
Facility:	VRE Track			
From:	Systemwide			
To:				

Total Project Cost: \$685,430

SOURCE CODE	Federal/ State/ Local.	Total Funds Prior to FY 2020	Prev. Annual Element FY 2020	ANNUAL ELEMENT				TOTAL BY SOURCE FY 21-24	4-YEAR PROGRAM TOTAL
				FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024		
STBG	50/34/16	113,452 c	19,123 c						18,798
STBG...	80/0/20			18,798 c				18,798	

Amendment or Modification Description and Approval Date

Amendment: Adding FY20 and 21 STBG Funding	Requested on: 7/10/2020
Proposed TIP Amendment would add STBG funding in the construction phases of FY2020 and FY2021 in the amount of \$19,123K and \$18,798K, respectively.	

