

ITEM 9–Information

July 19, 2017

Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Regional Rail Service

Staff

Recommendation: Briefing on the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Regional Rail Service.

Issues: None

Background: The commuter railroad's role in the region will be highlighted, including its plans for future growth and expansion, and as a regional partner in the metropolitan transportation planning process. VRE began service 25 years ago, in June 1992, and has become an integral part of the regional transportation system.

VRE AT 25

A QUARTER CENTURY OF SERVICE

National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board
July 19, 2017



A BETTER WAY. A BETTER LIFE.



WHAT WE ARE

- Virginia Railway Express is a “joint project” of the:
 - Northern Virginia Transportation Commission



- Potomac & Rappahannock Transportation Commission



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS



WHO WE ARE

A commuter rail system

Running on existing railroad tracks

Serving Washington DC and Northern Virginia

Carrying long-distance commuters to DC, Arlington & Alexandria

Two lines, 96 miles

*Adding peak capacity to I-95, I-395 & I-66 corridors**

19,500 daily trips

*Commuters that would otherwise drive alone in cars**



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

* Source: Texas Transportation Institute, Virginia Railway Express Congestion Relief Contribution, 2014

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

WMATA Metrorail

*Expands the reach of VRE rail
Used by 17% of VRE riders*

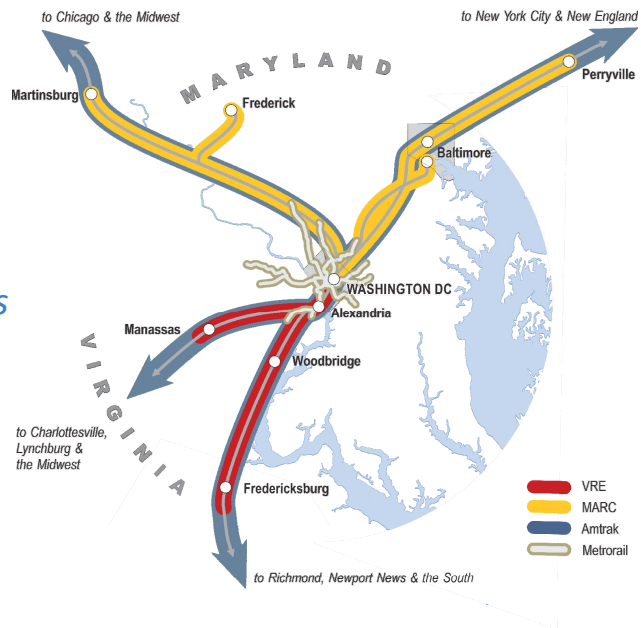
Amtrak Virginia Trains

*Step-Up fares available
Faster ride option for longer trips*

MTA/MARC Train Service

*Fare Integration
Exploring Opportunities for
Through Running*

***Infrastructure improvements
needed for further growth***



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

WHAT WE ARE KNOWN FOR

Safe Operations

Quality Service

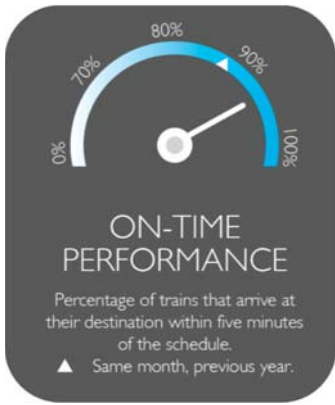
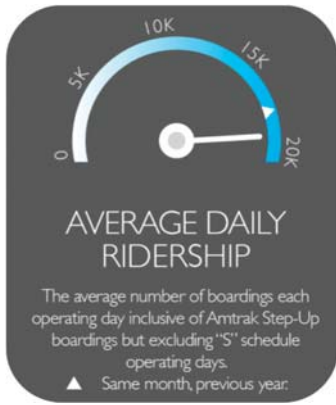
Reliable Service

High Customer Satisfaction

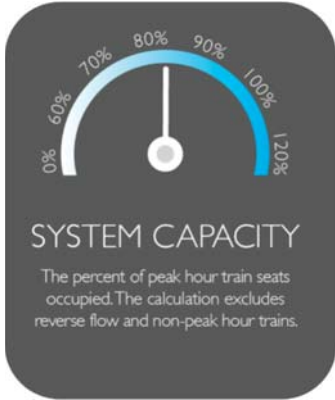
Strong Partnerships with Host Railroads



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS



VRE MEASURES OF SUCCESS

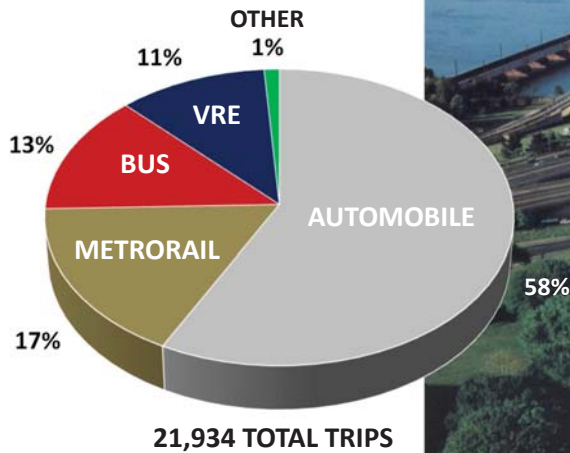


OUR IMPORTANCE TO THE CAPITAL REGION

- Part of a balanced system
- Reduces peak congestion
- Cost-effective means of adding peak capacity
- Maximize economic competitiveness of the National Capital region



Peak Hour Trips from Virginia to DC across the 14th Street Bridges (6:30 to 7:30 AM)



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

Source: MWCOG Transportation Planning Board 2013 Central Employment Core Cordon Count

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WHERE OUR RIDERS GO

- L'Enfant busiest station
 - Primary destination
 - Nearby offices
 - Metro connections
- Crystal City, Union Station & Alexandria
 - Next three busiest destinations
- Busiest origin stations are at the end of lines
 - Big park-ride lots
 - Most VRE passengers have a car available*

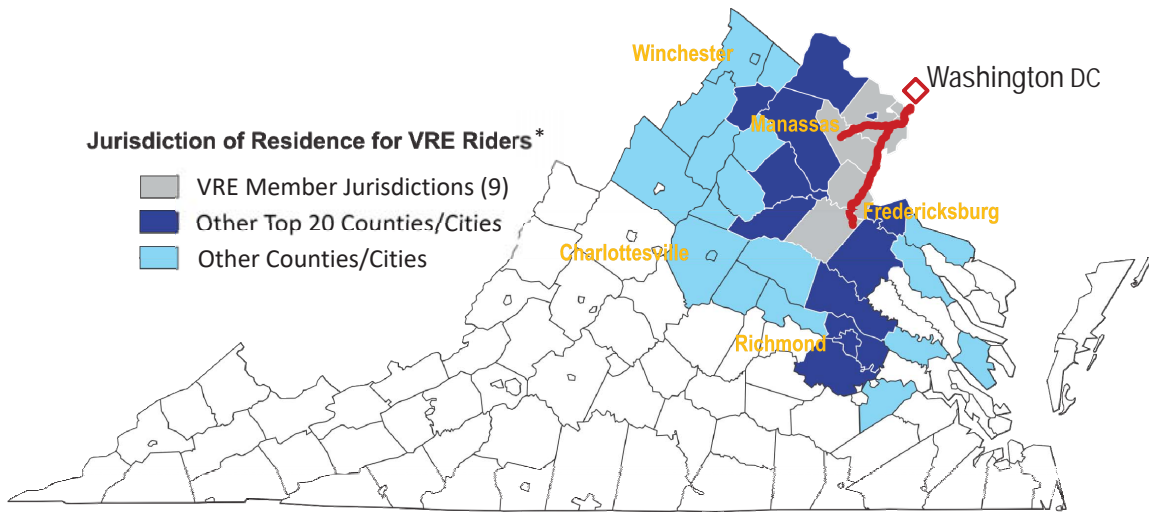


VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

* Source: Texas Transportation Institute, Virginia Railway Express Congestion Relief Contribution, 2014

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On a typical weekday VRE draws ridership from 39 Virginia Jurisdictions



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

* Source: 2015 Master Agreement Survey



VRE SYSTEM PLAN 2040

Provide capacity improvements for ridership growth

PHASE 1: *Run Longer Trains*

- More railcars
- More station parking
- More train storage tracks
- Second & longer platforms

PHASE 2 & 3: *Run More Trains*

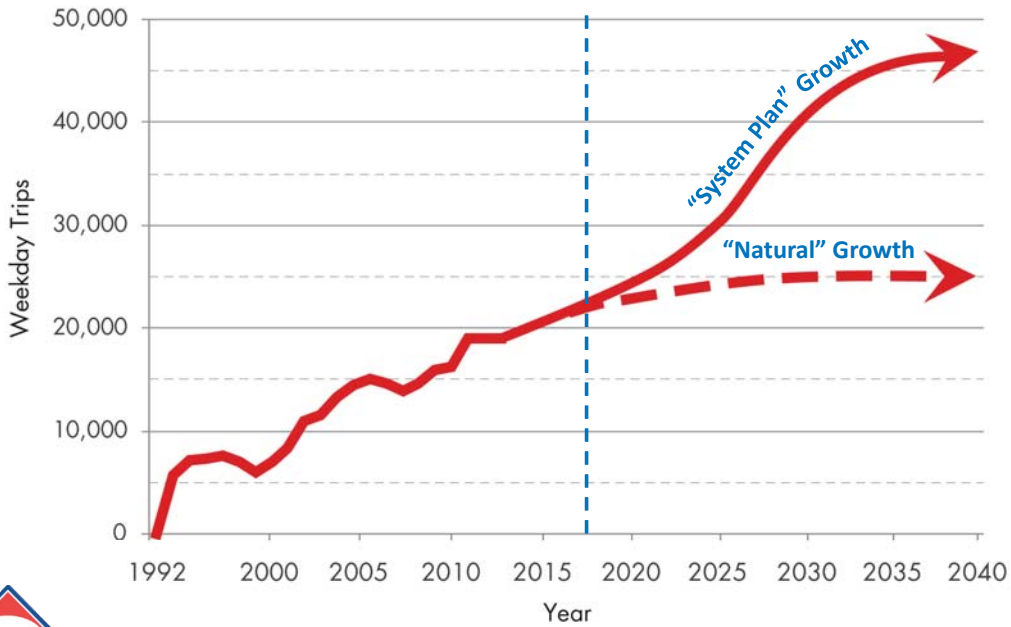
- Earn additional slots through capacity improvements
 - Additional CSXT tracks
 - Long Bridge (core) Expansion
 - More parking, railcars, yards



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH

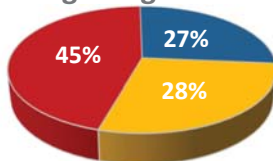
System Plan 2040 Goal: more than double VRE ridership



LONG BRIDGE EXPANSION PROJECT



Long Bridge Traffic

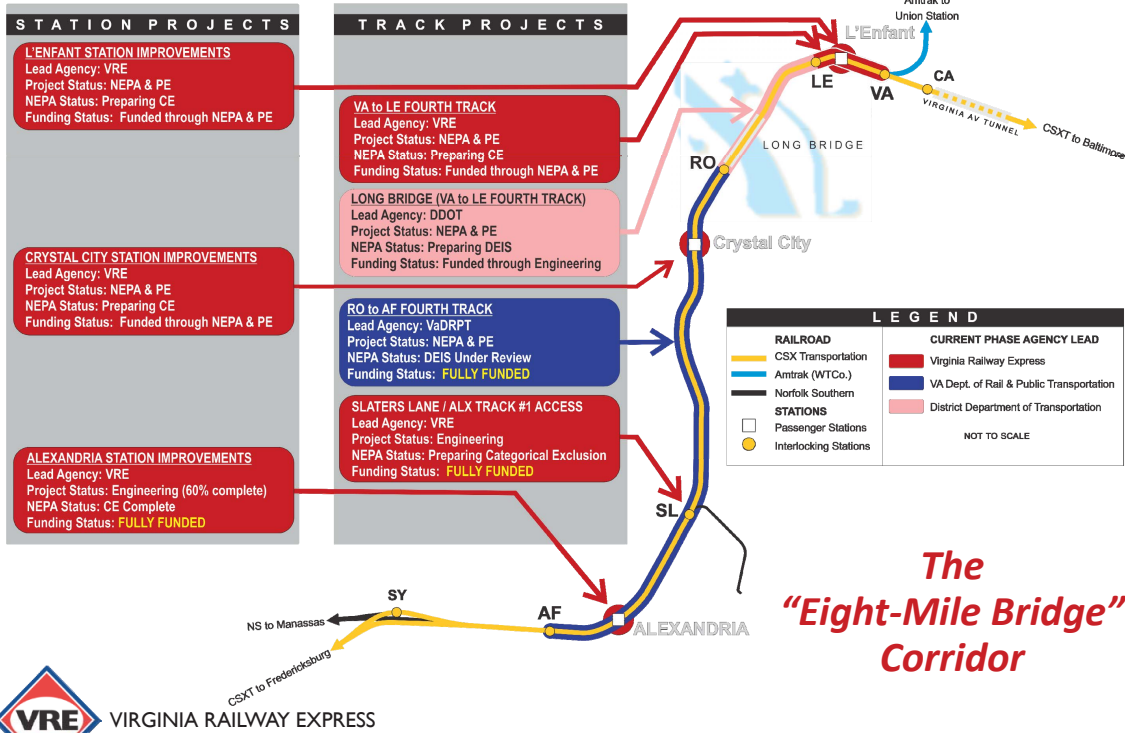


■ CSXT ■ VRE ■ Amtrak

- Expand capacity from two to four tracks
 - Between LE (L’Enfant) to RO (Rosslyn) Interlockings
 - Six separate bridges spread over 1.4 miles
 - Benefits passenger and freight rail
 - Necessary for more commuter train service (VRE & MARC)
- PE & NEPA funded through USDOT TIGER grant
- Engineering funded through *Atlantic Gateway*



LONG BRIDGE CORRIDOR PROGRAM

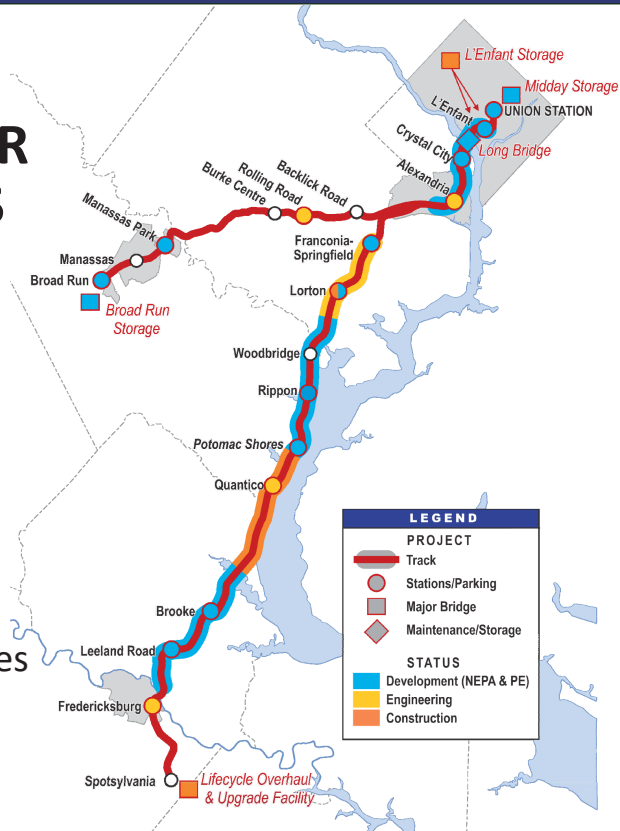


VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS



ACTIVE CORRIDOR PROJECTS

- Stations & Parking
11 projects in NEPA/PE
4 projects in Engineering
1 project in Construction
- Additional (3rd/4th) Tracks*
26 miles in NEPA/PE
9 miles in Engineering
9 miles in Construction
- Maintenance/Storage Facilities
2 projects in NEPA/PE
3 projects in Construction



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

* Includes track projects led wholly or in part by the Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transportation

VRE & TPB

- TPB advocacy and support for VRE projects is vital
- Priority to VRE projects of regional significance
 - Long Bridge Corridor
The “Eight-Mile Bridge”
 - Regional rail service
Off-peak/reverse-peak
 - Dedicated funding for capital & operating costs

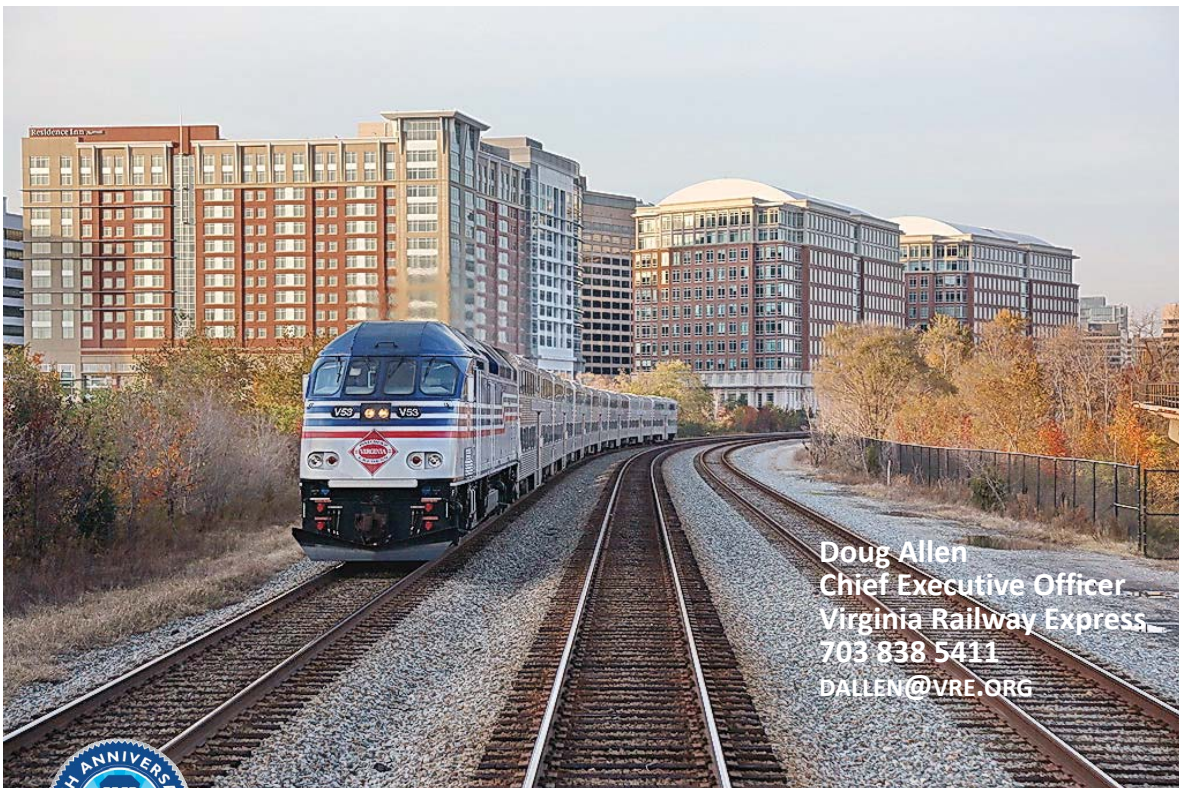
We look forward to 25 years of continued collaboration



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS



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