

# VRE'S 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY: OUR PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

Commuter Connections Subcommittee  
July 18, 2017



A BETTER WAY. A BETTER LIFE.

# TODAY'S DISCUSSION



- System Introduction
- *Our History*
  - Selection of Milestones
  - Recent Successes
- *VRE Today*
  - Our Role in Congestion Relief
  - Regional Collaboration
- *What's Next*
  - Near-Future Technology Utilization
  - System Plan 2040



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

# WHO WE ARE



Virginia Railway Express  
is a “joint project” of the Northern Virginia  
Transportation Commission (NVTC) & Potomac &  
Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)

Serves Washington, D.C. & Northern Virginia

Commuter rail system carrying long-distance  
commuters to DC, Arlington & Alexandria

Runs on existing railroad tracks

Two lines (Fredericksburg & Manassas), 96 miles

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

19,500 daily trips  
commuters that would  
otherwise drive alone in cars\*



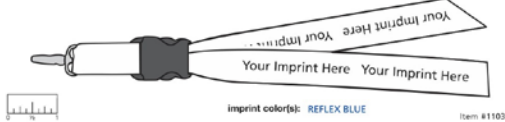
VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

# WHO WE ARE

## 25-YEARS OLD

### 25th Anniversary Activities:

- Commemorative Logo
- Speeches at Fredericksburg Station
- Themed Meet the Management Series



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

# — OUR HISTORY —

## SERVICE BEGAN 1992



- Service began in 1992:
  - Manassas Line – June 22
  - Fredericksburg Line – July 20
- Ridership in the first full month averaged about 3,000 per day.
- A September passenger survey that year revealed very high customer satisfaction, especially with the performance of crews. (See survey results on our site: <http://www.vre.org/about/passenger-survey/>)



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

## — OUR HISTORY —

# 1995



## FIRST STREET TUNNEL AND BI-LEVEL CARS

- When we began service, the height limits of the 1st Street Tunnel approaching Union Station only provided clearance for single-level train cars. As a result, our early fleet consisted of single-level passenger cars.
- In 1995, an agreement was signed with Amtrak to share in the cost of enlarging the First Street Tunnel under the US Capitol building to ultimately permit VRE to operate bi-level cars. The 1st Street Tunnel floors were lowered later in the decade, increasing clearance heights and allowing for higher capacity, bi-level cars.



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

## — OUR HISTORY —

# 2007

## QUANTICO BRIDGE



VRE completed its largest capacity improvement project to-date in 2007, the new Quantico Bridge, to provide a double mainline bridge over Quantico Creek and greatly improve operational efficiency.

This project exemplifies:

- Projects allow for future expansion
- Coordination with host railroads

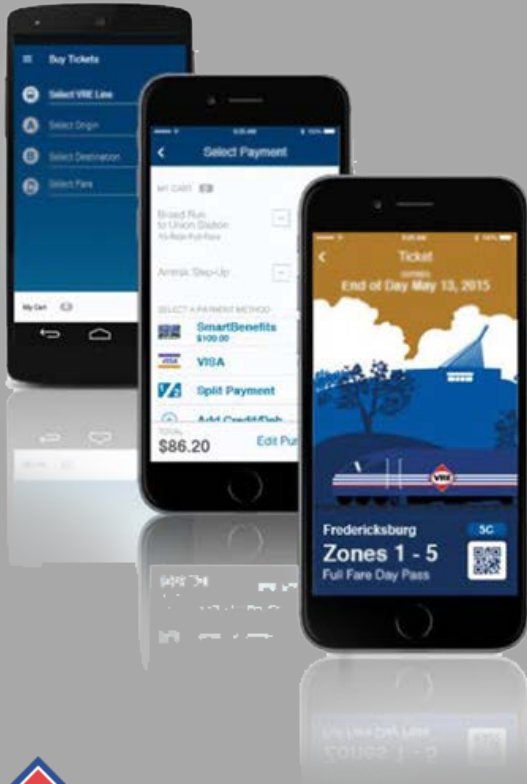


VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

## — OUR HISTORY —

# 2015

## MOBILE APP



VRE launched a mobile ticketing app, allowing riders to:

- Purchase, store, use, and validate Single Ride or multi-ride tickets
- Use multiple tickets for multiple riders from a single smartphone
- Split payment between two credit cards, or a credit card and SmartBenefitsSM account
- Use disability, senior and youth fares
- Purchase Amtrak Step-up



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS



## — OUR HISTORY —

# 2015

## SPOTSYLVANIA STATION

- The new Spotsylvania Station was the first extension of the VRE system
- 6-mile extension of Fredericksburg Line
- 700-ft platform serves 8-cars
- 1,500 parking spaces
- Spotsylvania County became a VRE member in 2010
- In 2009, 10% riders lived in Spotsylvania County
- New station will continue to boost ridership



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

# VRE TODAY

## OUR IMPACT

**40%**

of VRE riders drove alone before using VRE.

VRE's 2015 Customer Opinion Survey



**1.6 to 3.8 million**

personal hours saved annually by riders using VRE.

Texas A&M Transportation Institute

**100000000**

Riding VRE removes more than 100 million vehicle miles from our region's Interstates annually.

VRE FY2015 Ridership Data, National Transit Database and U.S. Census Bureau's 2013 American Community Survey

VRE transports the equivalent of one lane of traffic from both I-95 and I-66.

Texas A&M Transportation Institute

**87%**

of VRE riders receive a transit subsidy or pre-tax payment for public transit.

VRE's 2015 Customer Opinion Survey

Fredericksburg to DC, cost per mile annually



**49¢**  
Driver



**14¢**  
VRE rider

Small sedan driver commuting 28,000 miles per year, 2014 AAA Driving Costs Study

VRE's existence has saved \$1 billion in costs associated with highway widening

Fairfax County Highway Construction Estimates

- VRE equivalent to 150 more lane miles on I-95/I-395/I-66\*
- VRE reduces peak interstate delay up to 20% on I-95/I-395/I-66\*
- Doubling VRE ridership can reduce interstate delay another 14%\*



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

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

# VRE TODAY

## 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'S NEXT



The Plan: Double Ridership by 2040

How: Implementing the Board-Adopted System Plan 2040



# — WHAT'S NEXT

## SYSTEM PLAN 2040



### PHASE 1: *Run Longer Trains*

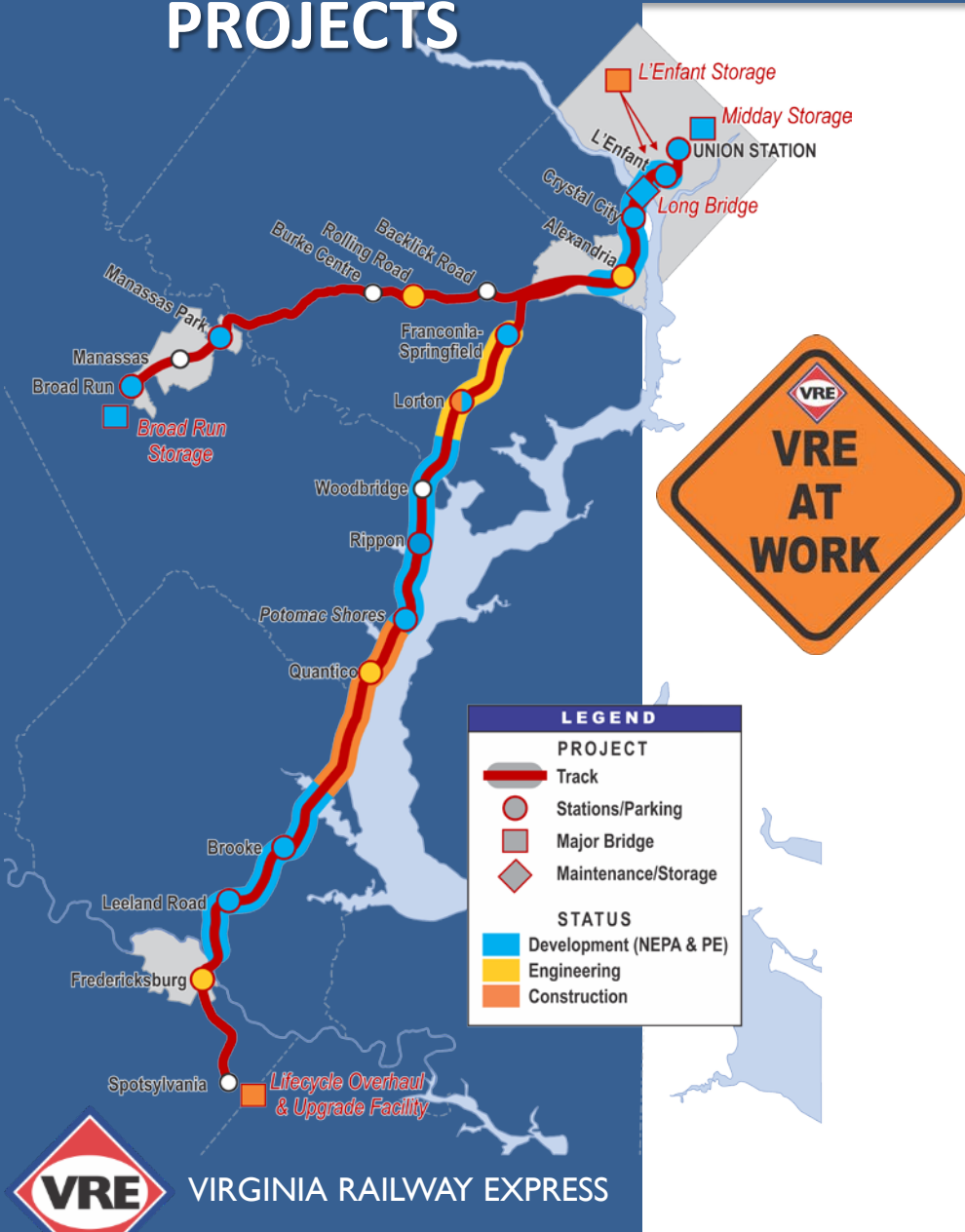
- More railcars
- More station parking
- More train storage tracks
- Second & longer platforms

### PHASE 2 & 3: *Run More Trains*

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



# WHAT'S NEXT PROJECTS



This map represents active corridor projects.

We also have a series of communication enhancements to complement the infrastructure improvements:

- Our app will interface with other technologies (automatic passenger counters, parking availability, etc.)
- Improved communication via station monitors

# QUESTIONS?

## Contacts:

Sonali Soneji, AICP  
Planning Program Administrator  
Email: [ssoneji@vre.org](mailto:ssoneji@vre.org)  
Office: 703-838-5432  
Cell: 571-238-9058

Cindy King  
Marketing Administrator  
Email: [cking@vre.org](mailto:cking@vre.org)  
Office: 703-838-5417  
Cell: 571-305-0362



A BETTER WAY. A BETTER LIFE.