

## **ITEM 10- Information**

May 21, 2014

### Briefing on the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Systems Plan

#### **Staff**

**Recommendation:** Receive briefing on the VRE System Plan which provides a framework for capital investments and actions VRE should pursue through 2040 to continue to grow the service to best meet regional travel needs.

**Issues:** None

**Background:** The VRE Operations Board adopted the plan in January 2014.

# VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS SYSTEM PLAN 2040

Transportation Planning Board  
May 21, 2014

Doug Allen  
Chief Executive Officer



A BETTER WAY. A BETTER LIFE.



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# PARTNERSHIPS

- VRE is a partnership of NVTC, PRTC, nine jurisdictions
- CSX, NS and AMTRAK
- The Commonwealth of Virginia is a vital partner in our success
  - Funding for track access allows VRE to operate on host railroads
  - Capital for equipment and infrastructure have led to 95% OTP

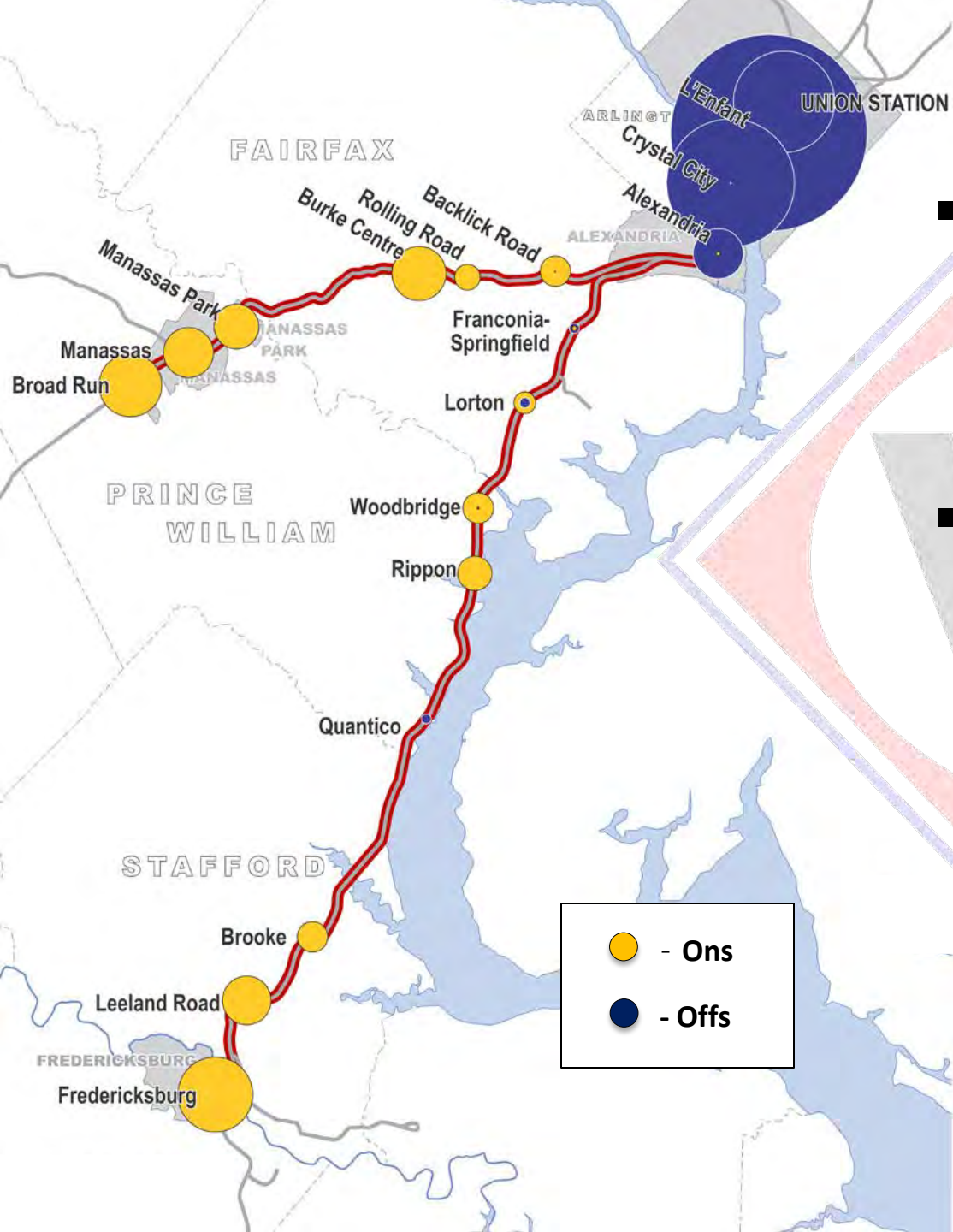


## Manassas Line

- In the I-66 corridor
- 35 miles from DC
- 45 minutes to Union Station
- 16 daily trains

## Fredericksburg Line

- In the I-95 corridor
- 54 miles from DC
- 84 minutes to Union Station
- 14 daily trains



- Origin Stations
  - Near population
  - Parking
  
- Destination Stations
  - Near offices
  - Metro connections
  - L'Enfant is busiest
  - Crystal City
    - Pentagon, Rosslyn via Metro
  - Union Station
  - Alexandria

# VRE CUSTOMER PROFILE



- Over 4.5M customers last year
- Highly satisfied with service (88%)
- Income over \$100,000 (73%)
- Own two or more cars (83%)
- Work for the Federal Government, Military or Military contractor (70%)

# CONGESTION IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA



- Washington metro region has worst delays in U.S. \*
  - 67 hours/year/commuter
  - 180M total hours/year
  - \$3.7B annually
- I-66, I-95 and I-395 some of the most congested corridors in the Commonwealth

\* Texas Transportation Institute



## GROWTH BY 2040

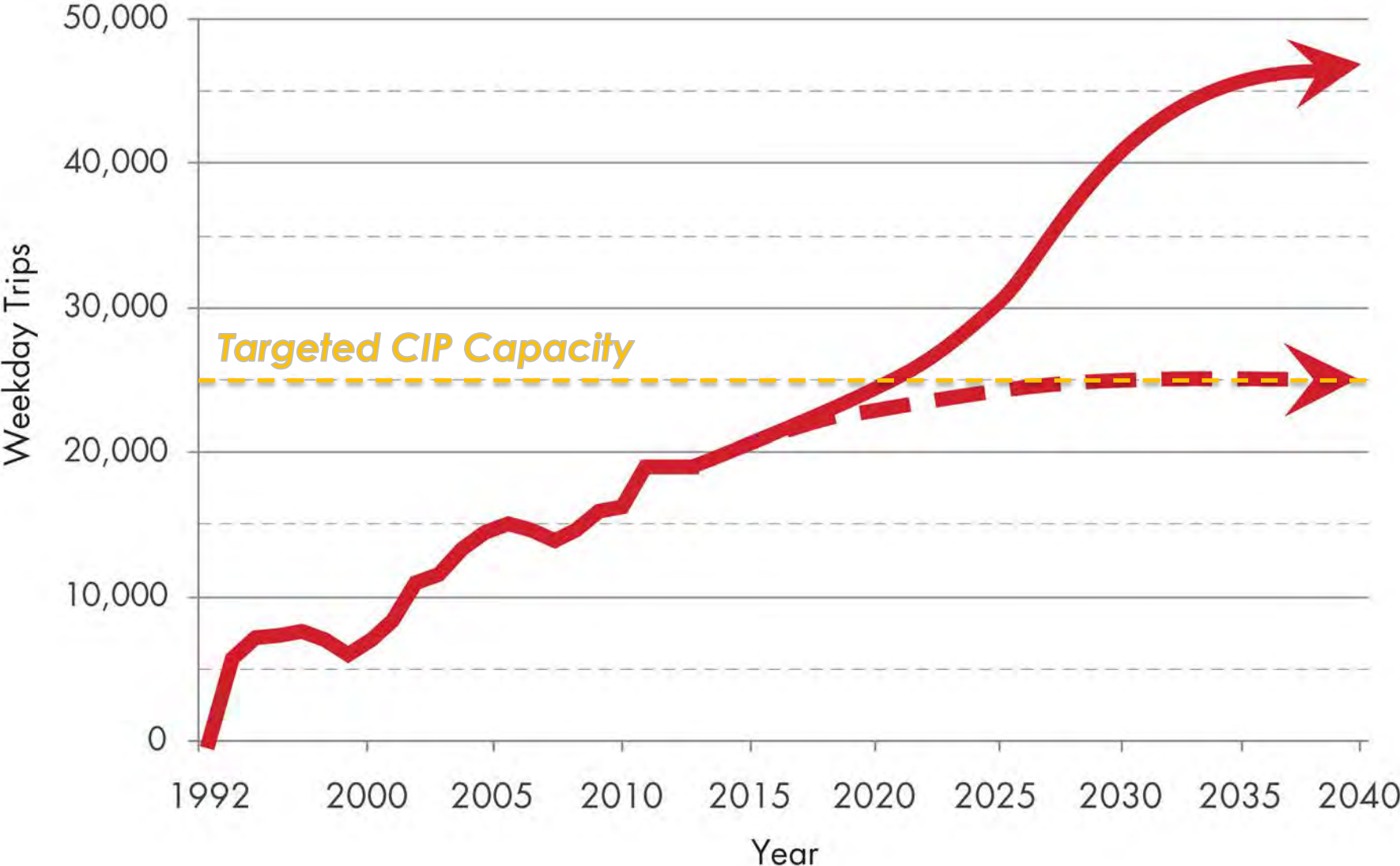
- Population of region expected to grow 30%
  - 5.2M to 6.8M
- Population in VRE corridors expected to grow 40-90%
- Jobs served by VRE expected to increase
  - 127,000 Arlington and Alexandria (40% increase)
  - 173,000 in DC (22% increase)

# RESEARCH ON VRE'S CONTRIBUTION TO CONGESTION RELIEF\*

- Regional growth and congestion are inevitable
- Contribution of VRE to congestion relief is significant and could be greater if service expanded
- Existing VRE ridership contributes to freeway travel delay reduction of between 8-20% in both corridors
  - Between 1.8 - 4.1 million hours per year
- Doubling VRE ridership would reduce delays in the I-66 and I-95 corridors by up to 14%.
  - Between 0.8 – 3.0 million hours per year

\* Source: Texas Transportation Institute, March 2014

# POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH





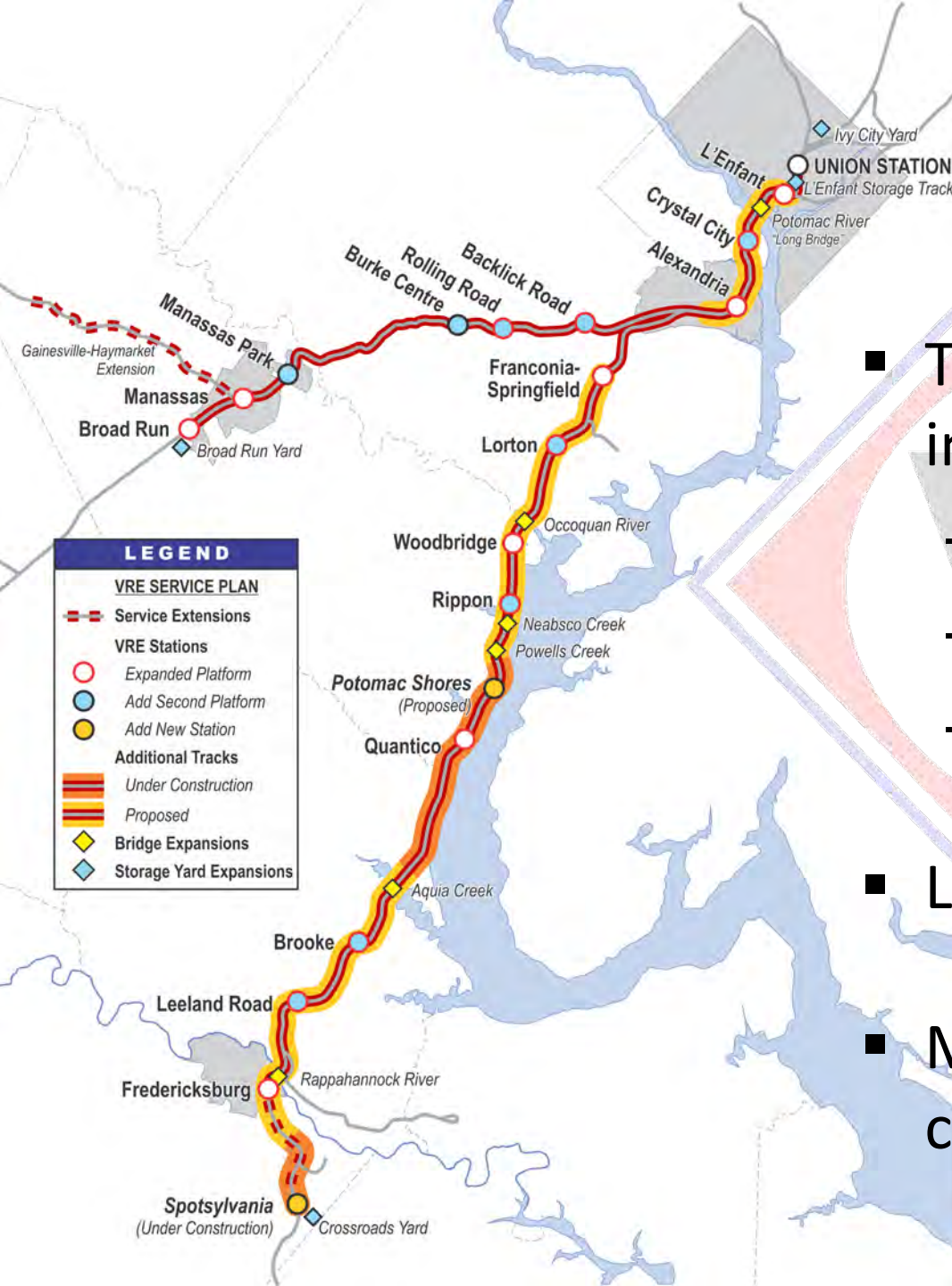
**VRE System Plan  
Summary**

January 2014

# VRE SYSTEM PLAN 2040

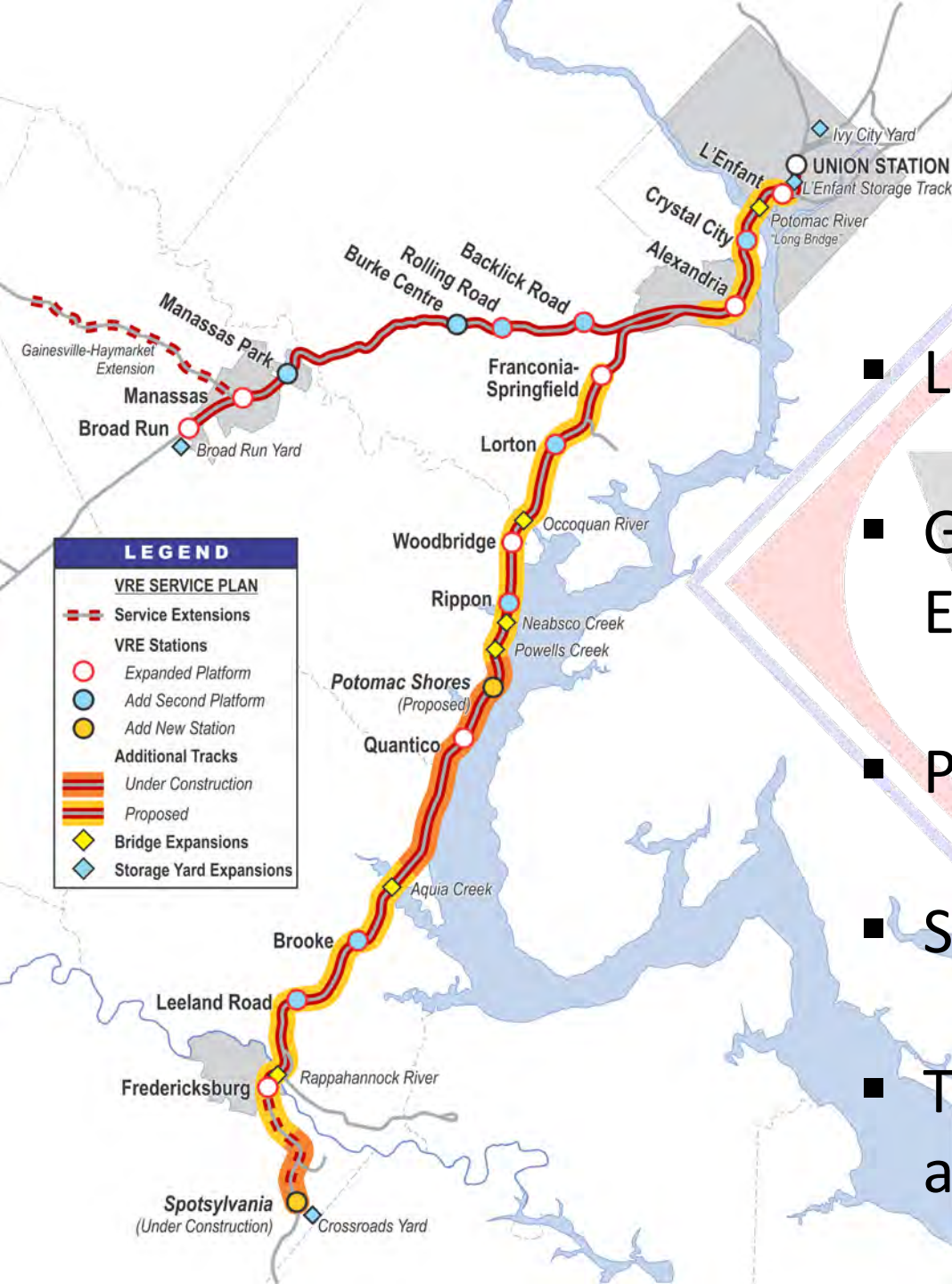
- Preparing for future
- Phased expansion to meet new and growing markets
- Adding RR capacity is key
- Expand VRE role beyond traditional commuter rail towards regional rail

# SYSTEM PLAN 2040 ELEMENTS



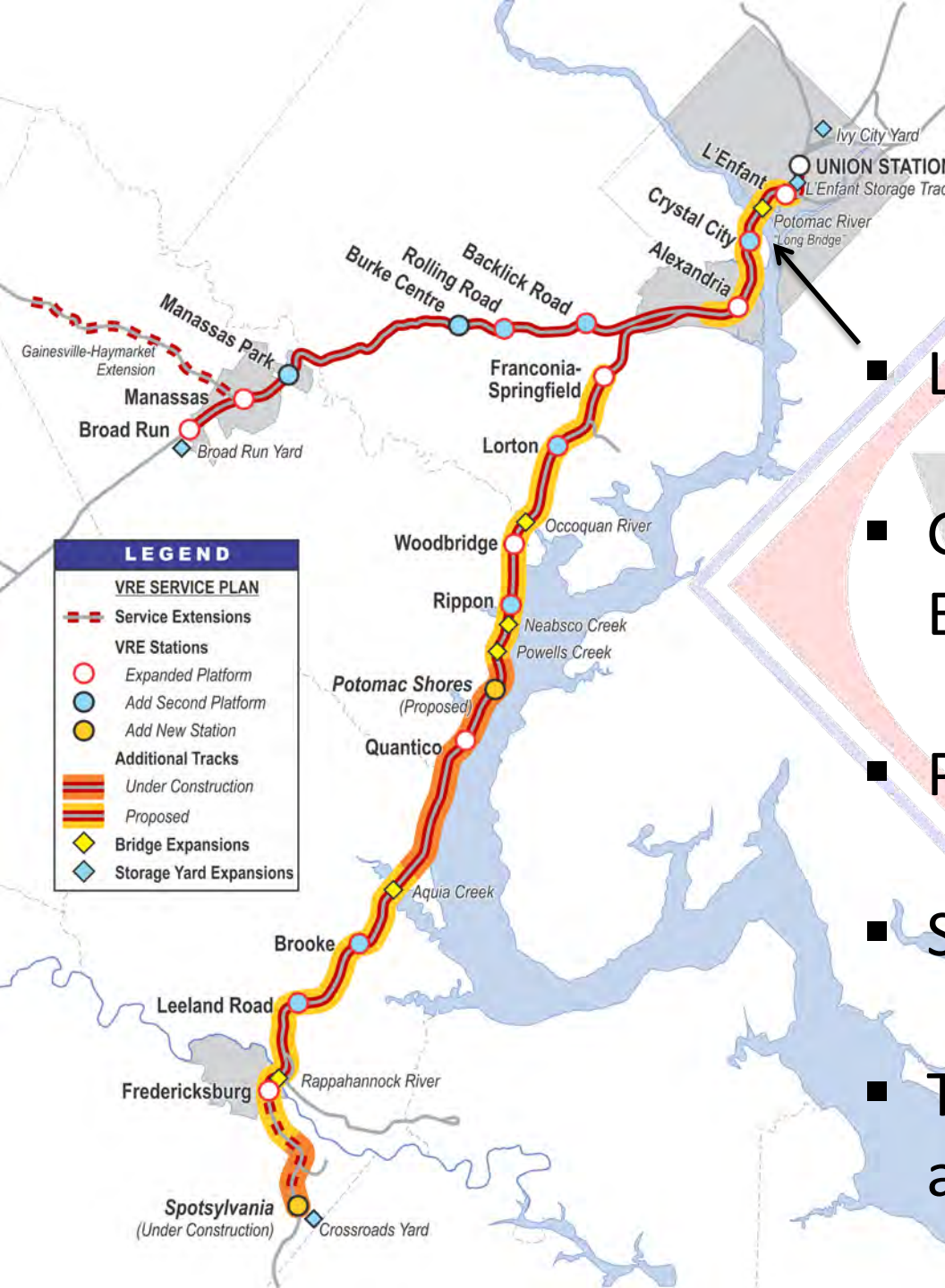
- Track and signal improvements
  - Add third/fourth track
  - Crossovers
  - Bridge expansions
- Longer trains and platforms
- More trains, storage customer parking

# SYSTEM PLAN 2040 KEY PROJECTS



- Long Bridge
- Gainesville-Haymarket Extension
- Potomac Shores Station
- Spotsylvania Station
- Total System Plan estimated at \$2.7B (\$2013)

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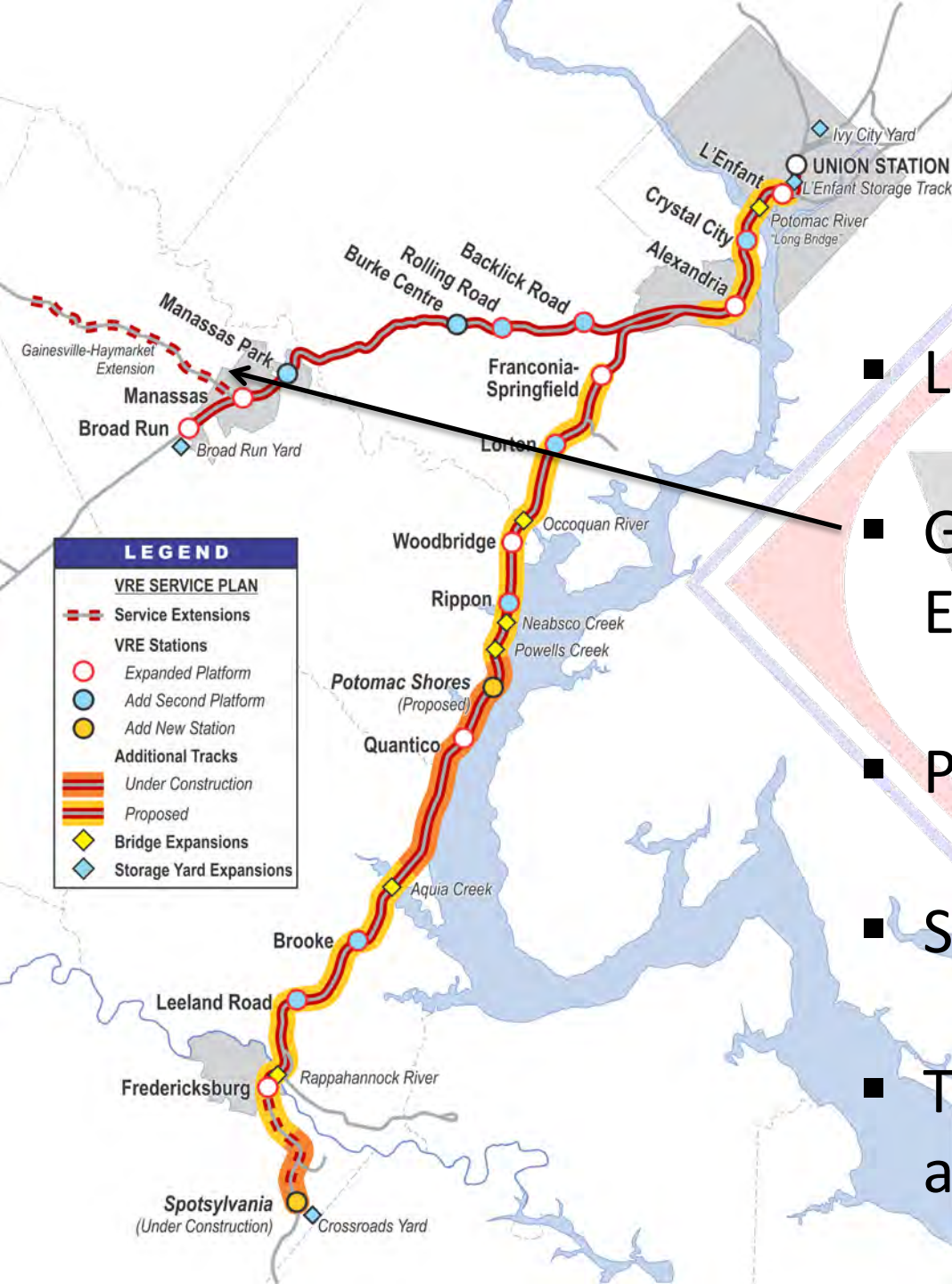


Photo Credit: Mike Schaller - Virginia Railway Express



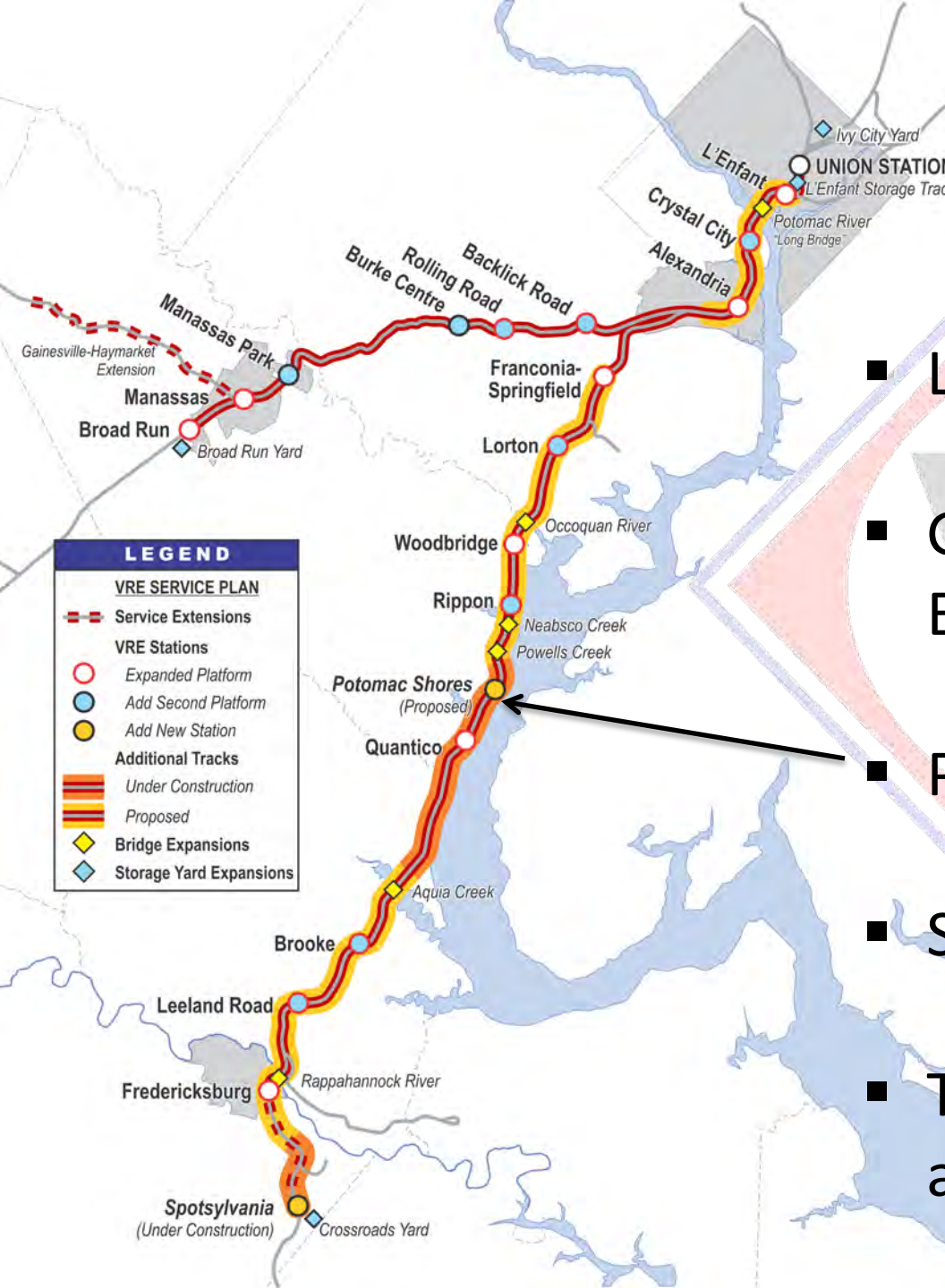


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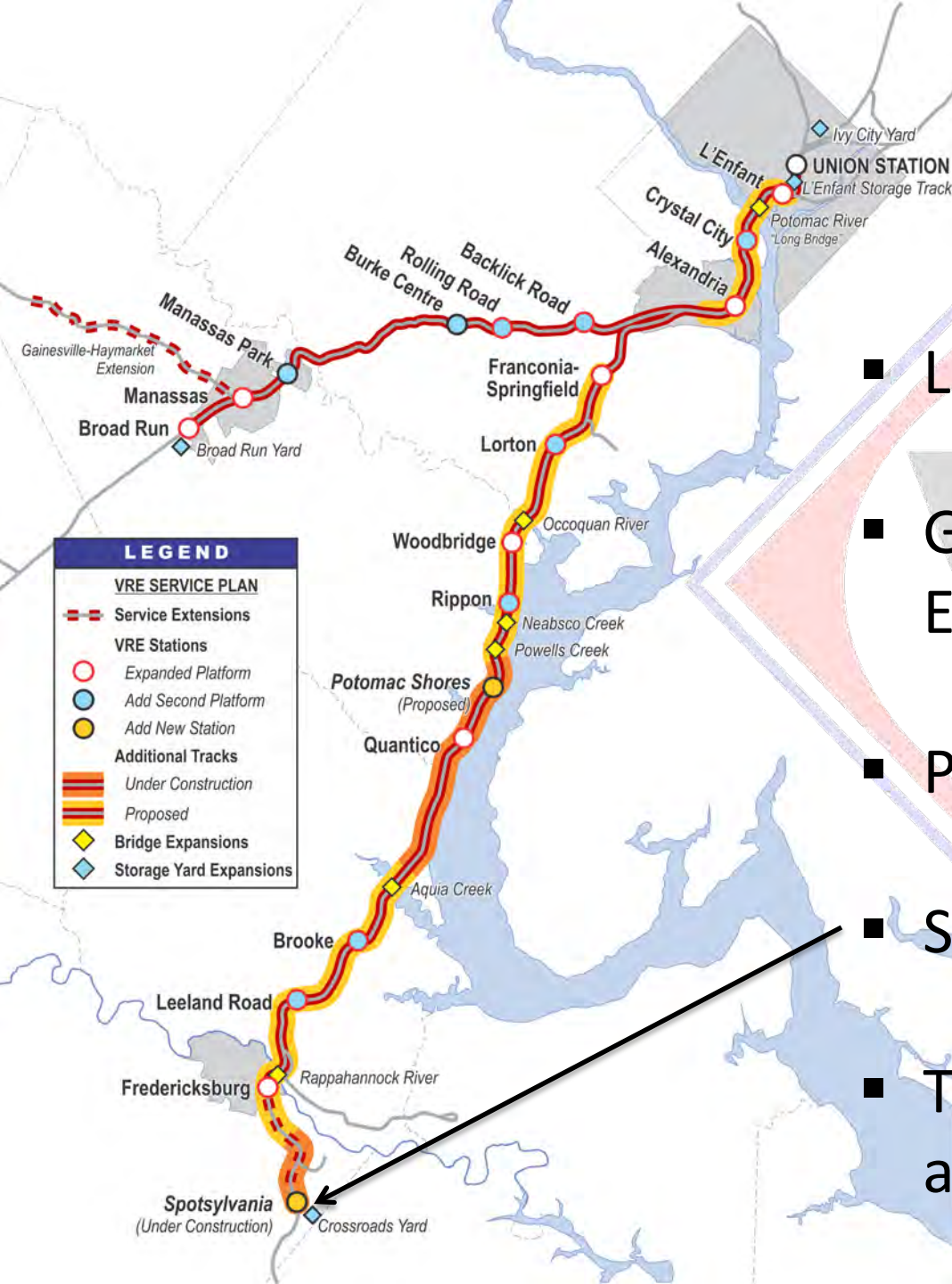
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# ADVANTAGES OF VRE EXPANSION

- Investment in VRE is cost effective
- No additional ROW requirements
- Fewer environmental challenges, less time
- Relatively modest costs
- Compliments other investment

# SUMMARY

- VRE is important to Virginia and the region
- Actionable long-range plans
- Cost-effective investment
- VRE reduces congestion
- Capacity equivalent of 150 lane miles in I-66, I- 95, I-395
- VRE is ready to expand the system, with host railroads, the CTB, VDRPT and TPB
- Investments in VRE will provide long term dividends for generations

# CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information, please contact:

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The logo for VRE (Virginia Retirement Employees) is a large diamond shape with a light blue border. Inside the diamond is a white oval containing the letters "VRE" in a bold, grey, sans-serif font. The background of the diamond is a light red color.

VRE



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