



**MINUTES**  
**VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS**  
**OPERATIONS BOARD MEETING**  
**October 21, 2022**  
**14700 Potomac Mills Road, Woodbridge, VA 22192**

**Members Present**

\*Walter Alcorn (NVTC)  
\*Sarah Bagley (NVTC)  
\*Andrea Bailey (PRTC) ‡  
\*Meg Bohmke (PRTC)  
\*Margaret Franklin (PRTC)  
\*Libby Garvey (NVTC)  
\*Lori Hayes (PRTC)  
\*Matt Kelly (PRTC)  
\*Jeanine Lawson (PRTC) ‡  
\*Michael McLaughlin (VPRA)  
\*Alanna Mensing (PRTC)  
\*Daniel G. Storck (NVTC)  
\*James Walkinshaw (NVTC)

**Members Absent**

Monica Gary (PRTC)  
Ralph Smith (PRTC)

**Alternates Present**

**Alternates Absent**

Canek Aguirre (NVTC)  
Victor Angry (PRTC)  
Pete Candland (PRTC)  
Katie Cristol (NVTC)  
Deborah Frazier (PRTC)  
Jason Graham (PRTC)  
Jeffrey C. McKay (NVTC)  
Darryl Moore (PRTC)  
Pam Sebesky (PRTC)  
Emily Stock (DRPT)  
Ann Wheeler (PRTC)  
Pamela Yeung (PRTC)

**Jurisdiction**

Fairfax County  
City of Alexandria  
Prince William County  
Stafford County  
Prince William County  
Arlington County  
Spotsylvania County  
City of Fredericksburg  
Prince William County  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
City of Manassas Park  
Fairfax County  
Fairfax County

Stafford County  
City of Manassas

City of Alexandria  
Prince William County  
Prince William County  
Arlington County  
Spotsylvania County  
City of Fredericksburg  
Fairfax County  
City of Manassas Park  
City of Manassas  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
Prince William County  
Stafford County

\*Voting Member

‡ Denotes remote participants

\*\*Delineates arrival/departure following the commencement of the Operations Board Meeting. Notation of exact arrival/departure time is included in the body of the minutes.

### **Staff and General Public**

Lana Clemente – VRE

Rich Dalton – VRE

John Duque - VRE

Chris Henry – VRE

Christine Hoeffner - VRE

Lezlie Lamb – VRE

Steve MacIsaac – VRE Chief Counsel

Scott Kalkwarf – NVTC

Kristin Nutter – VRE

Dallas Richards – VRE

Nick Ruiz - VRE

Mark Schofield – VRE

Aimee Perron-Seibert – Commonwealth  
Strategy Group, LLC.

Joe Stainsby – PRTC

Joe Swartz – VRE

Chair Franklin called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The roll call and Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Chair Franklin informed the Members present that Supervisor Lawson had requested, due to personal reasons, to participate remotely. Ms. Bailey requested, due to illness, to participate remotely. Mr. Kelly moved, with a second by Ms. Bohmke to approve remote participation for Members Bailey and Lawson. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bagley, Bohmke, Franklin, Garvey, Hayes, Kelly, McLaughlin, Mensing, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

### **Safety Briefing – 3**

Rich Dalton briefed attendees on safety procedures and assigned specific tasks to qualified staff members in the event of an emergency.

### **Approval of the Agenda - 4**

Mr. Kelly moved, with a second by Ms. Bailey, to approve the agenda as presented. There was no discussion on the motion. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bagley, Bailey, Bohmke, Franklin, Garvey, Hayes, Kelly, Lawson, McLaughlin, Mensing, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

### **Approval of the Minutes of the September 16, 2022 VRE Operations Board Meeting – 5**

Mr. Alcorn moved, with a second by Mr. Kelly, to approve the Minutes from the September 16, 2022, Board meeting. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bagley, Bailey, Franklin, Hayes, Kelly, McLaughlin, Mensing, Storck, and Walkinshaw. Members Bohmke, Lawson and Garvey abstained.

### **Chair's Comments – 6**

Chair Franklin announced she would be appointing a Nominating Committee to create a slate of nominees for 2023 Officers and asked Members interested in serving on the committee to speak with her. She also reminded Board Members that at the November meeting, they will be asked to vote on a Charge to the Nominating Committee Regarding Subordinate Officers, and to sit for a group photo.

Chair Franklin expressed her gratitude to Members who participated in the ribbon cutting at the Rolling Road Station Platform Extension last month.

### **Chief Executive Officer's Report – 7**

Mr. Dalton briefed the Operations Board on the following items of interest:

- Safety

- Performance
- Ridership
- Tour de VRE
- New Staff Member Introduction

### **Public Comment Time – 8**

The Chair opened the floor for public comment time. There were no speakers. Written comments submitted were read to the Board and are attached.

### **Approval of the Consent Agenda – 9**

Mr. Kelly moved, with a second by Ms. Hayes, to approve the Consent Agenda. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bagley, Bailey, Bohmke, Franklin, Garvey, Hayes, Kelly, Lawson, McLaughlin, Mensing, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposals for Maintenance/Custodial and Seasonal Services for VRE Facilities – 9A

Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposals for Engineering and Environmental Services for VRE L'Enfant Track and Station Improvements – 9B

### **Action Items - 10**

Recommend Authorization to Amend a Site Lease Agreement for Real Property in Fredericksburg – 10A

Mr. Kelly moved, with a second by Mr. Walkinshaw, to recommend the Commissions authorize the Chief Executive Officer to amend a site lease agreement with Qwest Corporation of Delaware for property owned by the Commissions adjacent to the railroad right-of-way and the VRE Fredericksburg office, extending the term of the Lease by ten years. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bagley, Bailey, Bohmke, Franklin, Garvey, Hayes, Kelly, Lawson, McLaughlin, Mensing, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Authorization to Extend Fare Free Travel and Offer Reduced Fares between Zones 1, 2 and 3 – 10B

Mr. Storck moved, with a second by Ms. Garvey, to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to continue to offer fare free travel between zones 1, 2 and 3 until Metrorail service south of Reagan National Airport reopens in November 2022 and to offer promotional fares for zones 1, 2 and 3 throughout the duration of the Yellow Line bridge shutdown. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bagley, Bailey, Bohmke, Franklin, Garvey, Hayes, Kelly, Lawson, McLaughlin, Mensing, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Approval of the Preferred Alternative for L'Enfant Track and Station Improvements – 10C

Mr. Kelly moved, with a second by Mr. Alcorn, to approve the Alternative 2a as the preferred track and station location on which to proceed with more detailed design and evaluation including preliminary engineering and NEPA review for the L'Enfant Track and Station Improvements. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bagley, Bailey, Bohmke, Franklin, Garvey, Hayes, Kelly, Lawson, McLaughlin, Mensing, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Authorization to Issue a GEC VIII Task Order for Engineering Support for the Crossroads MSF Employee Parking Project – 10D

Mr. Walkinshaw moved, with a second by Mr. Kelly, to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue a task order to HDR Engineering, Inc, under the General Engineering Consulting Services Contract (GEC VIII), for engineering support for employee parking facilities at the Crossroads Maintenance and Storage facility. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bagley, Bailey, Bohmke, Franklin, Garvey, Hayes, Kelly, Lawson, McLaughlin, Mensing, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

Authorization to Provide a Letter of Support for the City of Manassas Park's Virginia HSIP Grant Application for the Manassas Drive Corridor – 10E

Ms. Mensing moved, with a second by Ms. Bohmke, to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to provide a letter of support for the City of Manassas Park's application to the Virginia Department of Transportation Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant program for the Manassas Drive corridor. The vote in favor was cast by Members Alcorn, Bagley, Bailey, Bohmke, Franklin, Garvey, Hayes, Kelly, Lawson, McLaughlin, Mensing, Storck, and Walkinshaw.

**Information Items – 11**

FY 2024 Budget Update -11A

VRE Chief Financial Officer, Mark Schofield, briefed the Members on the ongoing effort to develop a balanced FY 2024 Budget. He encouraged Members to attend the Finance Committee meeting following November's Operations Board meeting.

Fare Free September Ridership and Survey Results – 11B

VRE saw a 21% increase in monthly ridership exclusive of boardings at Alexandria and Crystal City. A survey of passengers was taken throughout Fare Free September in which seventy percent identified themselves as returning riders and thirty percent identified themselves as new riders. Approximately 80% of survey respondents stated they planned to continue to ride VRE after the fare free period ends.

Draft 2023 Legislative Agenda – 11C

VRE staff reviewed recommendations to formulate priorities to communicate and advocate for/with the Governor's administration and the General Assembly. Additionally, the Legislative Agenda will include federal legislative and regulatory issues that are relevant to transit and commuter rail in the U.S., and to VRE specifically.

[Ms. Hayes left the meeting at 10:34 a.m.]

[Ms. Lawson left the WebEx remote access at 10:54 a.m.]

System Plan 2050 Update: Vision and Goals – 11D

Staff presented an outline to update the System Plan.

[Ms. Garvey left the meeting at 11:02 a.m.]

[Mr. Walkinshaw left the meeting at 11:05 a.m.]

Spending Authority Report – 11E

Mr. Dalton directed Members attention to the report outlining purchases made under his delegation of authority in the month of September.

Closed Session – 12

There was no closed session.

Members Time - 13

Chair Franklin opened the floor to Members who had other business or announcements to share (there were none).

Mr. Alcorn moved, with a second by Mr. Kelly, to adjourn the meeting. Chair Franklin adjourned the meeting without objection.

Approved this 18<sup>th</sup> day of November 2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Margaret Franklin  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Bagley  
Secretary

**CERTIFICATION**

This certification hereby acknowledges the minutes for the October 21, 2022 Virginia Railway Express Operations Board Meeting have been recorded to the best of my ability.



Leslie M. Lamb

## **A response was submitted for the form "Public Comments"**

(REQUIRED) First and Last Name: Michael Riccard

City or County of residence: Franconia, VA (Fairfax County)

Comments: Dear Members of the Board, I am writing to express my support for the board voting in favor of proposal 10B to extend the free fare period for the VRE within Zones 1, 2, and 3 and to thereafter utilize discounted fares during the Yellow Line shutdown. Speaking to the latter part of the proposal, a fare reduction would bring the VRE pricing more in line with Metrorail and increase VRE's appeal. It can be hard to justify paying a minimum \$7.80 to ride within these zones despite the more direct and faster routing as compared to Metrorail because of the current high cost of VRE. However, at the proposed lower price point, the VRE uniquely allows a one-seat ride as compared to a multi-transfer ride between VA and popular destinations such as Union Station at nearly the same cost. My hope is that, if the new fare is sufficiently advertised, ridership within the 3 zones will increase enough to make the proposal revenue neutral over time. Thank you for your consideration. Best, Michael Riccard Fairfax County, VA

Acknowledgement Yes

## **A response was submitted for the form "Public Comments"**

(REQUIRED) First and Last Name: Ivey Glendon

City or County of residence: Alexandria

Comments: I am a new VRE rider and am writing to support the proposal to extend promotional fares during Metro's Blue and Yellow line shutdowns in 2022 and 2023 (described here: <https://www.vre.org/about/board/board-agenda-minutes/2022/October/10b-extend-fare-free-travel-and-offer-reduced-fares-zones-1-2-3-pdf/>). VRE

services has become an essential part of my workweek during the Metro shutdown and I am excited to see this proposal. Thanks for considering it.

Acknowledgement Yes

**From:** Mark Scheufler <[scheufler@gmail.com](mailto:scheufler@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 19, 2022 7:43 PM

**To:** Gotrains <[Gotrains@vre.org](mailto:Gotrains@vre.org)>

**Cc:** Franklin, Margaret <[mfranklin@pwcgov.org](mailto:mfranklin@pwcgov.org)>; [braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov); [sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov](mailto:sarah.bagley@alexandriava.gov); [huntermill@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:huntermill@fairfaxcounty.gov); [abailey@pwcgov.org](mailto:abailey@pwcgov.org); [mbohmk@staffordcountyva.gov](mailto:mbohmk@staffordcountyva.gov); [mgary@staffordcountyva.gov](mailto:mgary@staffordcountyva.gov); [mjkelly@fredericksburgva.gov](mailto:mjkelly@fredericksburgva.gov); Lawson, Jeanine M. <[jlawson@pwcgov.org](mailto:jlawson@pwcgov.org)>; [rsmith@manassasva.gov](mailto:rsmith@manassasva.gov); [mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov); Boddye, Kenny <[kboddye@pwcgov.org](mailto:kboddye@pwcgov.org)>; Monica Backmon <[monica.backmon@thenovaauthority.org](mailto:monica.backmon@thenovaauthority.org)>; [contactus@vpra.virginia.gov](mailto:contactus@vpra.virginia.gov); [Pathwayto2040@pwcgov.org](mailto:Pathwayto2040@pwcgov.org); [comalley@arlingtonva.us](mailto:comalley@arlingtonva.us); [kcristol@arlingtonva.us](mailto:kcristol@arlingtonva.us); [psebesky@manassasva.gov](mailto:psebesky@manassasva.gov); Alanna Mensing <[a.mensing@manassasparkva.gov](mailto:a.mensing@manassasparkva.gov)>; [chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov); Wheeler, Ann <[awheeler@pwcgov.org](mailto:awheeler@pwcgov.org)>; [lhayes@spotsylvania.va.us](mailto:lhayes@spotsylvania.va.us)

**Subject:** VRE Operations Board | Public Comment | I-395/I-95 Commuter Choice | Additional Housing/2050 Plan

VRE Operations Board,

Please consider the following public comment:

I recommend the VRE request funding from the I-395/95 Commuter Choice FY 2024-2025 Program for **two years of operational costs** associated with Acquisition Phase train slots on the both lines as detailed in the Transforming Rail in Virginia Service Plan. The new service start date should be coordinated with a major VRE project milestone such as the opening of Potomac Shores Station or Manassas Park VRE parking garage.

In addition, I continue to be concerned about the long term viability of the VRE service based on the teleworking post pandemic paradigm and competition from the future I-66 and I-95 express lane corridors.

Also, the region is experiencing a significant housing shortage.

To mitigate both of these issues I strongly recommend that the best solution to expanding ridership is to develop an **additional 10,000 mixed-income dwelling units within 1/8 mile of the VRE platform** across the stations south of Alexandria. This requires a collaboration between the PRTC/VRE and the jurisdictions representing VRE. **A blueprint should be developed ASAP and be a major element of the 2050 VRE plan.**



Thanks,  
Mark Scheufler  
PWC Resident/VRE Rider  
[Active Prince William](#)

## **A response was submitted for the form "Public Comments"**

(REQUIRED) First and Last Name:	Laura Wagner
City or County of residence:	Arlington
Comments:	Please keep the VRE free or at a low fare while the yellow line is closed to customers traveling from areas affected by the yellow line closure (Crystal City, Alexandria). It has been a great option to take to commute in the mornings and evenings, but the full price is very costly, especially for young professionals in their first jobs. Thank you for providing this service for free over the past 2 months.
Acknowledgement	Yes