

VRE OPERATIONS BOARD MEETING

March 19, 2021



*The meeting will begin
momentarily*

Meeting materials are available at
vre.org/about/board/board-agenda-minutes/2021/March



Roll Call



Walter Alcorn
Fairfax County



Andrea Bailey
Prince William County



Preston Banks
Manassas Park



Elizabeth Bennett-Parker
Alexandria



Meg Bohmke
Stafford County



Katie Cristol
Arlington County



Margaret Franklin
Prince William County



Matt Kelly
Fredericksburg



Jeanine Lawson
Prince William County



Mike McLaughlin
Virginia DRPT



Cindy Shelton
Stafford County



Gary Skinner
Spotsylvania County



Ralph Smith
Manassas



Dan Storck
Fairfax County



James Walkinshaw
Fairfax County



Resolution Finding the Need to Conduct the March 19, 2021 Operations Board Meeting Electronically

The declared emergency makes it both impracticable and unsafe for the VRE Operations Board to assemble in a single location on March 19, 2021, to discuss and transact the business of the VRE Operations Board.

Meeting by electronic means is authorized because the nature of the declared emergency makes it both impracticable and unsafe for the Operations Board to assemble in a single location on March 19, 2021, to discuss and transact the business of the Operations Board listed on the on March 19, 2021, Operations Board meeting agenda.

Meeting by electronic means is authorized because the items on the on March 19, 2021, Operations Board meeting agenda are statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the Operations Board and the discharge of the Operations Board's lawful purposes, duties and responsibilities.

Items on the on March 19, 2021, Operations Board meeting agenda are encompassed within the continuity of operations ordinances adopted by several member localities of the Virginia Railway Express Operations Board to assure the continued operation of the government during the disaster posed by the public health emergency resulting from COVID-19.



Elizabeth Bennett-Parker
Chair
City of Alexandria



Approval of Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Consent Agenda
 - A. Finding Need to Conduct the March 19, 2021 VRE Operations Board Meeting Electronically
 - B. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes from the February 19, 2021 VRE Operations Board Meeting
4. Chair's Comments
5. Chief Executive Officer's Report
6. VRE Riders' and Public Comment
7. Action Items
 - A. Acceptance of Title VI Service Standards and Policy Monitoring
7. Action Items (continued)
 - B. Authorization to Issue a GEC VIII Task Order for Construction Manager/ General Contractor Engineering Support for the Alexandria Station Improvements Project
 - C. Authorization to Issue a General Planning Consulting Services Task Order for an Alternatives Analysis for the L'Enfant Station and Fourth Track Project
8. Information Items
 - A. Spending Authority Report
9. Closed Session
10. Operations Board Members' Time



Approval of Minutes

February 19, 2021

WebEx Electronic Meeting with YouTube Live-Stream

Members Present

- Walter Alcorn (NVTC)
- Andrea Bailey (PRTC)
- Preston Banks (PRTC)
- Elizabeth Bennett-Parker (NVTC)
- Meg Bohmke (PRTC)
- Katie Cristol (NVTC)
- Margaret Franklin (PRTC)
- Matt Kelly (PRTC)
- Jeanine Lawson (PRTC)
- Jennifer Mitchell (DRPT)
- Cindy Shelton (PRTC)
- Dan Storck (NVTC)
- James Walkinshaw (NVTC)

Members Absent

- Jennifer Mitchell (DRPT)
- Gary Skinner (PRTC)
- Ralph Smith (PRTC)

Alternates Present

- Mike McLaughlin (DRPT)

Jurisdiction

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

- Commonwealth of Virginia
- Spotsylvania
- City of Manassas

- Commonwealth of Virginia



Elizabeth Bennett-Parker

VRE Operations Board Chair
City of Alexandria



Chair's Comments

COVID/Pandemic

It's been just over a year since we had to make significant changes to our lives due to the impact of COVID 19. At VRE we reduced service on March 17 last year. After cancelling our March and April Operations Board meetings, we began doing them virtually as we are today.

I'd like to thank the VRE staff, as well as those from Keolis and other contractors, who worked tirelessly to make sure we could continue to run service, and in a safe manner. The members of the Operations Board send our thanks to the frontline workers whose dedications and commitment was, and is, pivotal during these challenging times.

Discussion Items

We have several important discussions that Rich will tee up for us during his report, including budgeting of Federal funding from the relief bills and an update on Insurance.

Closed Session

Finally, as a reminder, we will be going into a closed session later in the meeting to discuss a personnel matter.



Elizabeth Bennett-Parker

VRE Operations Board Chair
City of Alexandria



CEO Report

- Safety/COVID-19 Update
- Ridership
- Performance
- Project Spotlight
- Liability Insurance
- Legislative Update
- COVID-Relief Funding (CRRSAA)

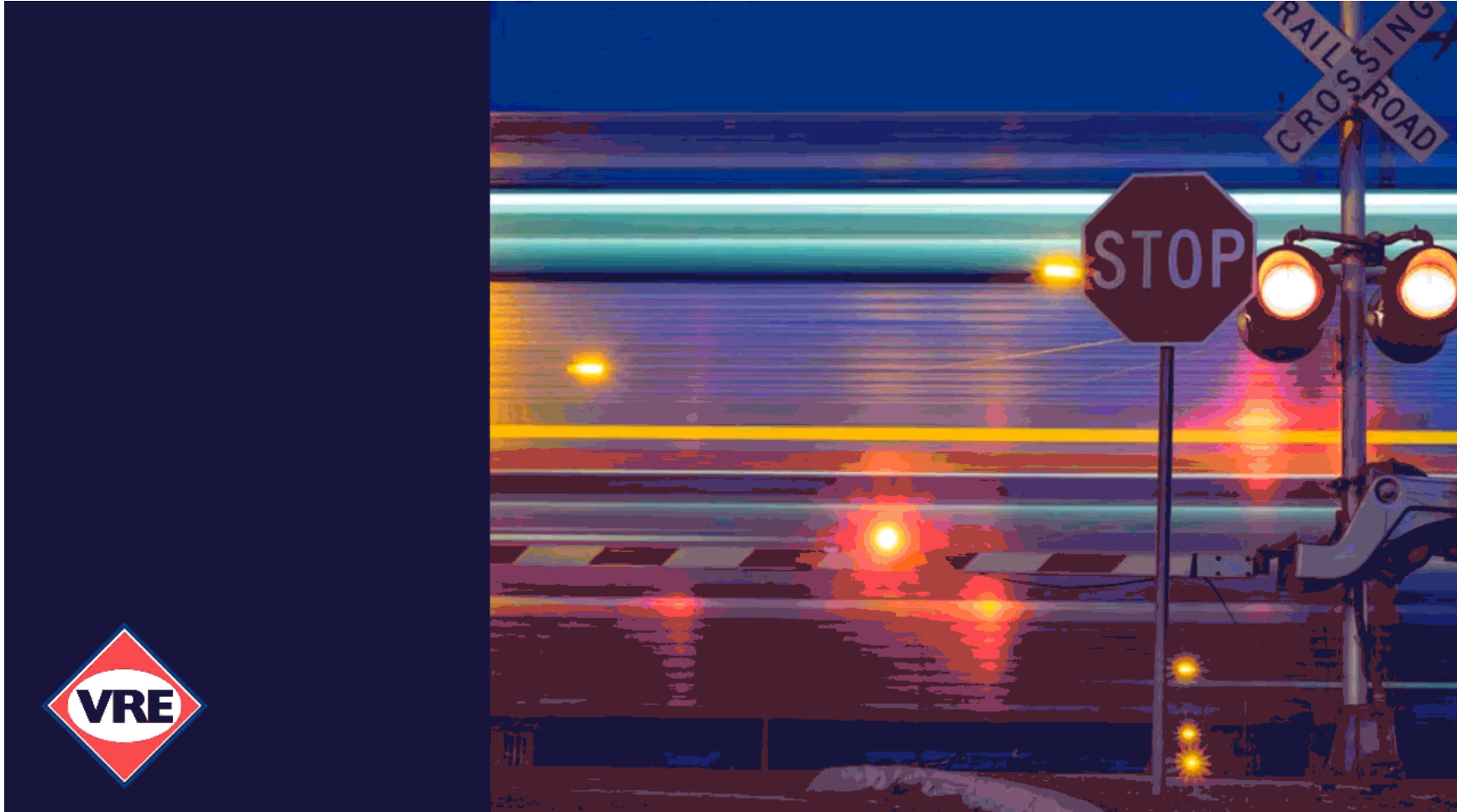


Rich Dalton

VRE CEO



CEO Report – Safety / COVID 19 Update



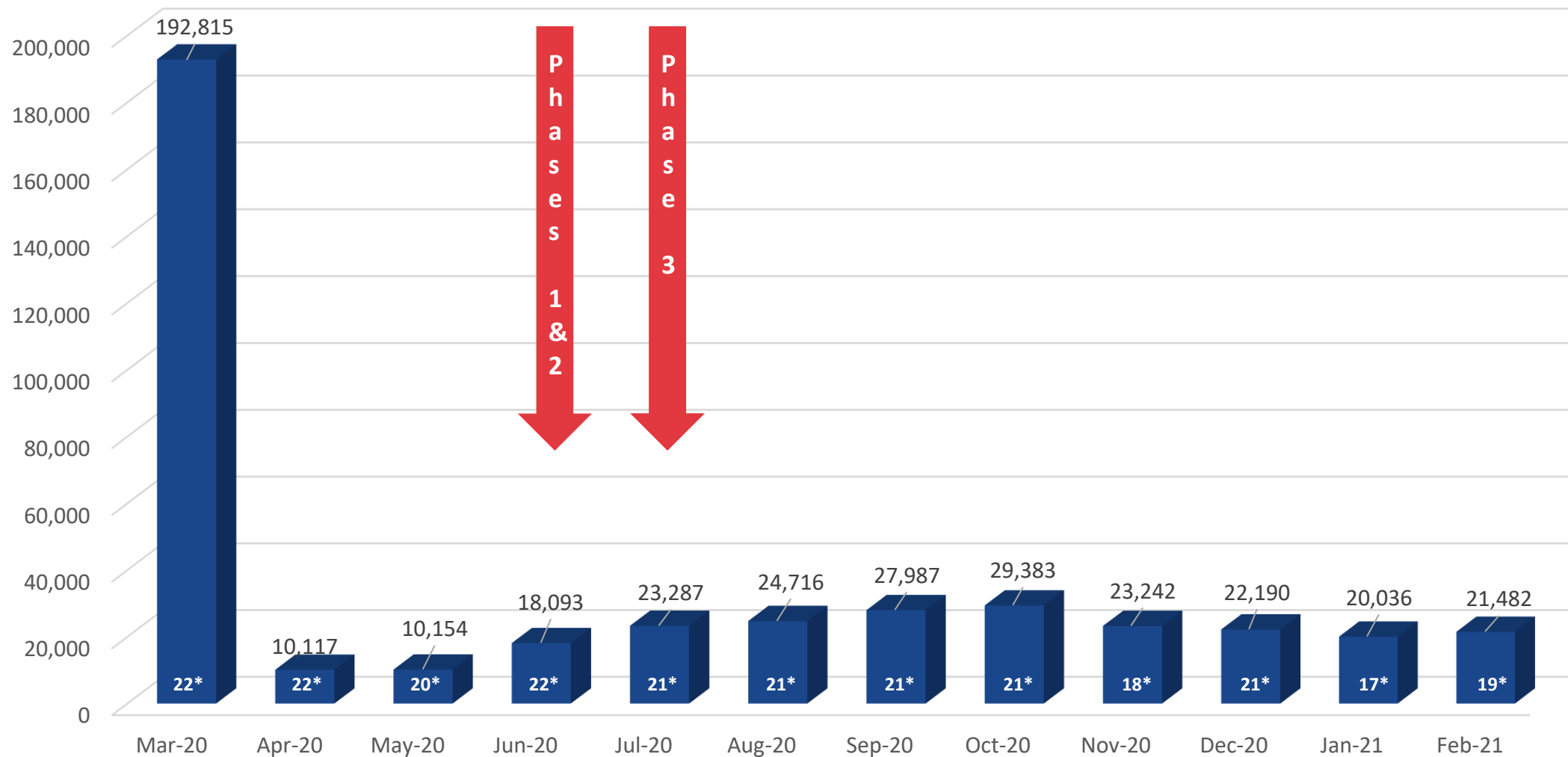


CEO Report – Safety / COVID 19 Update





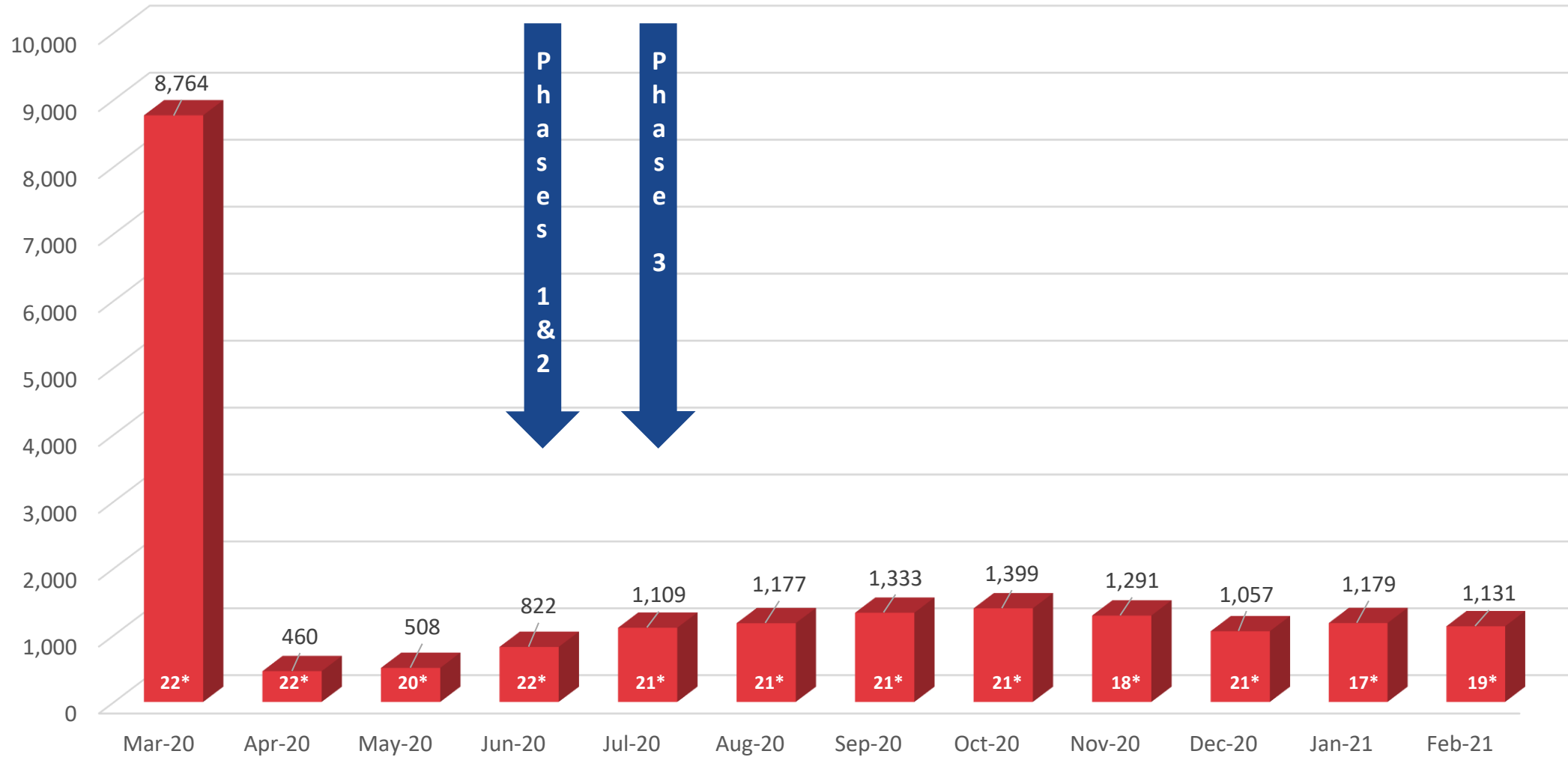
CEO Report – Monthly Ridership



*service days per month



CEO Report – Monthly Average Daily Ridership

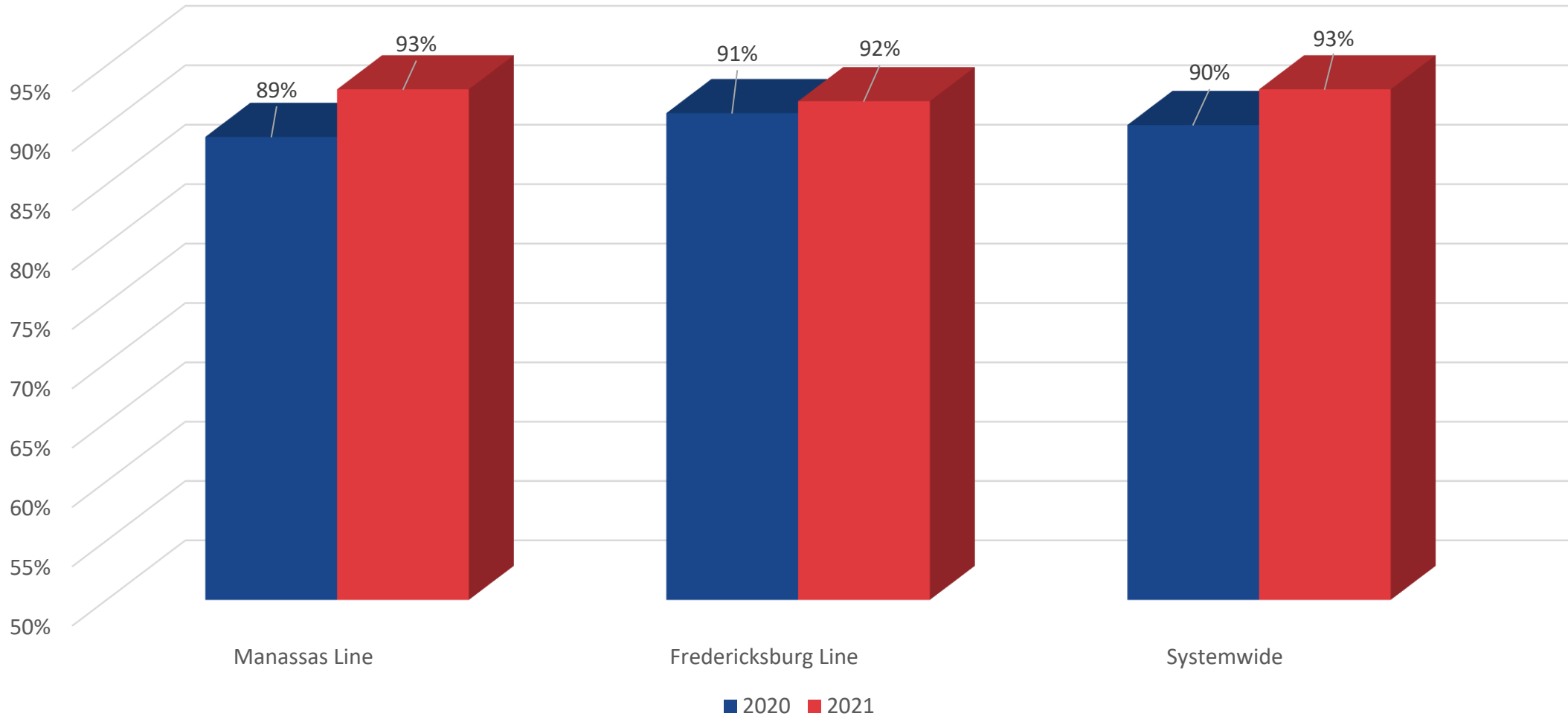


*service days per month



CEO Report – On-time Performance

February Comparisons





CEO Report – Project Spotlight – HQ Reception Area





CEO Report – Excess Liability Insurance



March 1, 2021

The Honorable Peter B. Buttigieg
Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Adjustment to Rail Passenger Transportation Liability Cap

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing on behalf of the Commuter Rail Coalition (CRC), an association of nearly two dozen commuter rail transportation agencies and private sector members formed in 2019 to advocate for federal legislation, policies and regulatory actions in support of the commuter rail industry. The CRC is the only association in the US solely focused on commuter railroads.

Federal statutory law established a cap on passenger rail liability (Pub. L. 114–94, div. A, title XI, § 11415(b), 129 Stat. 1689 (Dec. 4, 2015), codified at 49 U.S.C. § 28103). Further, the statute currently provides that the liability cap be adjusted every five years by the Department of Transportation to reflect changes to the Consumer Price Index (49 U.S.C. § 28103(a)(2)). This past Friday, February 26th, the US DOT published a notice in the Federal Register (86 Fed. Reg. 11,571 (February 25, 2021) adjusting the cap from \$294,278,983 to \$322,864,228.

We are writing to request a minimum 120-day delay in implementation of that increase, and to describe the market failure already jeopardizing agencies' access to required liability coverage.



CEO Report – Legislative Update



- The 2021 General Assembly adjourned on Monday, March 1
- It is scheduled to reconvene for a “veto session” on Wednesday, April 7



- American Rescue Plan Act
- Infrastructure Package



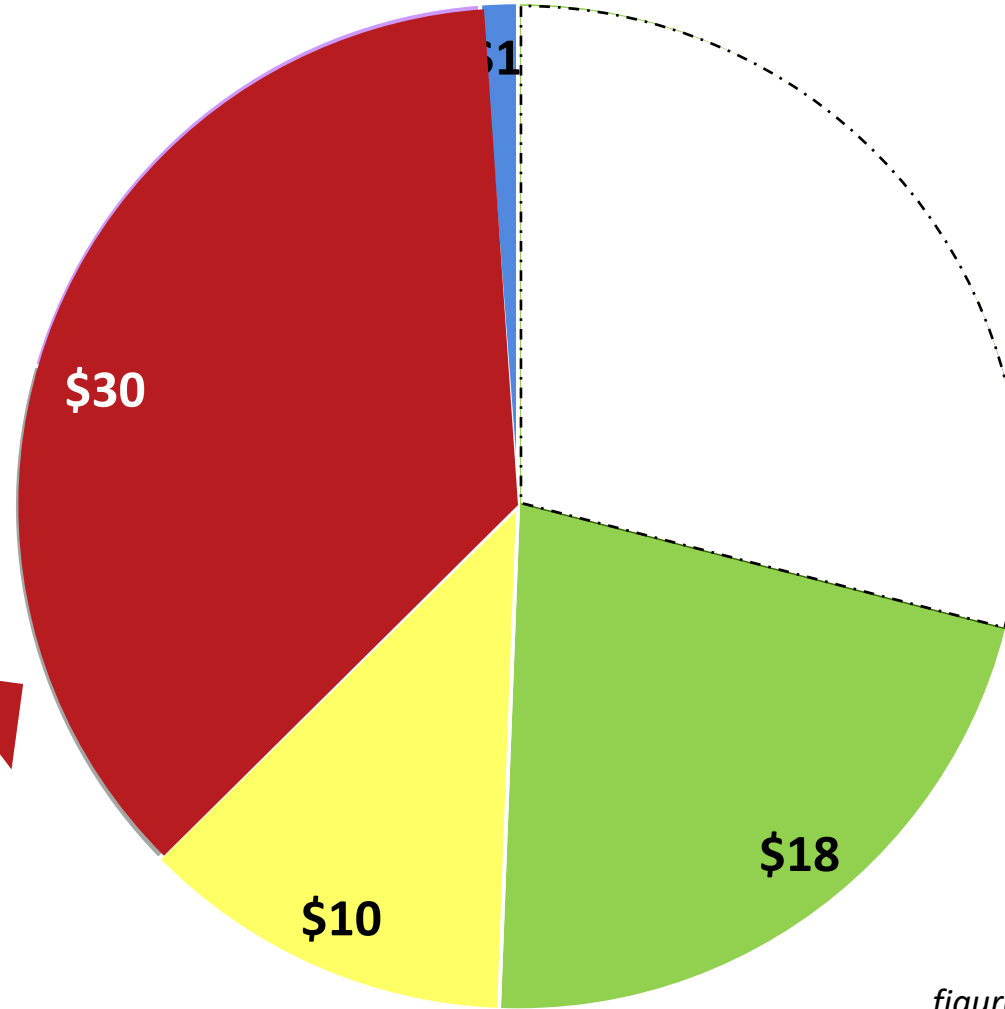
CEO Report – CARES and CRRSAA

- The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) was signed into law on December 27, 2020 .
- Nearly \$831 million was allocated to Section 5307 recipients in the Washington, D.C. region.
- VRE anticipates receiving \$65-\$69 million.
- The approved FY 2022 budget did not include relief funding from CRRSAA.
- CRRSAA can be used for eligible expenses, similar to the CARES Act.



CEO Report – CARES and CRRSAA

FY 2022 Operating Revenues: \$83 million total



CARES

CRRSAA

figures in millions, does not include debt service

- Fares
- State Assistance
- Local Subsidy
- Access Fee Reimb.
- Other



CEO Report – Questions?





Virginia Railway Express Riders' and Public Comment



Elizabeth Bennett-Parker

VRE Operations Board Chair
City of Alexandria



Acceptance of Title VI Service Standards and Policies Monitoring Results

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to accept the results of the Title VI Service Standards and Policies Monitoring and forward them to the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) for inclusion in PRTC's Title VI submittal.

Summary:

To safeguard against service design and operations that discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin, the Federal Transit Administration requires transit systems to monitor and analyze the performance of their systems every three years relative to their system-wide service standards. VRE service meets or exceeds its standards for vehicle load, vehicle headway, service availability, and distribution of transit amenities and vehicle assignments. VRE did not meet its on-time performance goal on either line for the period monitored (FY20), but because the standard was not met on both lines there was no disparate impact on any particular protected class.



Elizabeth Bennett-Parker
Chair
City of Alexandria



Rich Dalton
VRE CEO



Authorization to Issue a GEC VIII Task Order for Construction Manager/General Contractor Engineering Support for the Alexandria Station Improvements Project

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the CEO to issue a task order to HDR Engineering, Inc. for construction manager/general contractor (CM/GC) engineering support for the Alexandria Station Improvements Project under the general engineering consulting services (GEC VIII) contract in the amount of \$524,026, plus a 20 percent contingency of \$104,805, for a total not to exceed \$628,831.

Summary:

A CM/GC alternate delivery method will be utilized for the construction of the Alexandria Station Improvements, and this task order will provide engineering design and review support during the CM/GC process.



Elizabeth Bennett-Parker
Chair
City of Alexandria



Rich Dalton
VRE CEO



Authorization to Issue a General Planning Consulting Services Task Order for an Alternatives Analysis for the L'Enfant Station and Fourth Track Project

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the CEO to issue a General Planning Consulting (GPC) Services task order to Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) for an alternatives analysis for the L'Enfant Station and Fourth Track project in the amount of \$396,714, plus a 20 percent contingency of \$79,343, for a total not to exceed \$476,057.

Summary:

The purpose of the task order is to conduct an alternatives analysis for the project and develop a concept design for the preferred alternative to expand the L'Enfant station and construct a fourth mainline track adjacent to the station.



Elizabeth Bennett-Parker
Chair
City of Alexandria



Rich Dalton
VRE CEO



Spending Authority Report

On September 18, 2020, the VRE Operations Board approved an increase in the Chief Executive Officer's delegated spending authority from \$100,000 to \$200,000. It was resolved as part of that increased delegation that any purchase or contract award in the range of \$50,000 to \$200,000 would be communicated to the board as an information item.

- On February 8, 2021, VRE issued a blanket purchase order to Powersolv, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 to provide on-call support and development for VRE's project controls software, e-Builder.
- On February 15, 2021, VRE issued a task order to HDR Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$162,103 under the general engineering consulting services (GEC VIII) contract to provide procurement support for the construction manager/general contractor (CM/GC) delivery method to be employed for construction of the Alexandria Station Improvements project.

(continued)



Rich Dalton
VRE CEO



Spending Authority Report (continued)

- On February 18, 2021, VRE issued a blanket purchase order to YRC Freight in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 to provide freight shipping service on an as needed basis to transport VRE parts and equipment such as turbochargers, HVAC units, and air brake equipment to vendors to facilitate core exchanges and repair work.
- On February 18, 2021, VRE issued a task order to ADS System Safety Consulting, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$195,310 under the safety and security consulting services contract to provide on-call support on an as needed basis for a variety of assignments including assisting with incident and accident response and investigation activities, inspecting facilities for potential safety concerns, and providing internal and external training and safety campaign support.
- On February 27, 2021, VRE amended an existing task order with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. under the general planning consulting services (GPC) contract to provide Virginia pollutant discharge elimination system (VPDES) stormwater general permit compliance support for the Broad Run and Crossroads Maintenance and Storage Facilities. This amendment extended the term of the task order by one year and increased the commitment by \$46,046 to a total amount of \$99,377.



Rich Dalton
VRE CEO



Closed Session

Pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Section 2.2-3711.A(1) of the Code of Virginia), I move that the VRE Operations Board convene a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing one personnel matter involving an appointee of the Commissions.



Jeanine Lawson
Vice Chair
Prince William County

VRE OPERATIONS BOARD CLOSED SESSION

March 19, 2021



*The livestream will
recommence following
this portion of the meeting*



Closed Session

The VRE Operations Board certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge and with no individual member dissenting, at the just concluded closed session:

1. Only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Freedom of Information Act were discussed; and,
2. Only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened were heard, discussed or considered.



Jeanine Lawson
Vice Chair
Prince William County



Board Member Comment



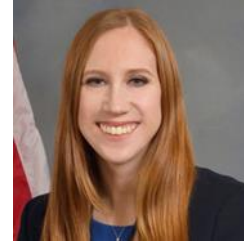
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VRE OPERATIONS BOARD MEETING

March 19, 2021



The meeting is adjourned

Meeting materials are available at
vre.org/about/board/board-agenda-minutes/2021/March