



VRE OPERATIONS BOARD MEETING

December 15, 2023

*The meeting will
begin at 9 a.m.*

Meeting materials are available at
vre.org/about/board/board-agenda-minutes/2023/December

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE



ROLL CALL



Sarah Bagley
Alexandria



Andrea Bailey
Prince William County



Meg Bohmke
Stafford County



Margaret Franklin
Prince William County



Monica Gary
Stafford County



Lori Hayes
Spotsylvania County



Takis Karantonis
Arlington County



Matt Kelly
Fredericksburg



Jeanine Lawson
Prince William County



Mike McLaughlin
Commonwealth of Virginia



Alanna Mensing
Manassas Park



Ralph Smith
Manassas



Dan Storck
Fairfax County



James Walkinshaw
Fairfax County



SAFETY MOMENT



APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Safety Moment
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2023 VRE Operations Board Meeting
6. Chair's Comments
7. Chief Executive Officer's Report
8. VRE Riders' and Public Comment
9. Action Items
 - A. Referral of the Amended FY 2024 and Recommended FY 2025 VRE Operating and Capital Budgets to the Commissions and Jurisdictions
 - B. Approval of the 2024 VRE Operations Board Officers
 - C. Authorization to Issue an MEC VII Task Order for Engineering Oversight for New VRE Passenger Railcars Phase III
 - D. Authorization to Execute a Contract for Layover Battery Charging Systems for VRE Locomotives
 - E. Authorization to Extend a License Agreement for the Lease of Tower Space for the VHF Radio Communications System
10. Information Items
 - A. Spending Authority Report
 - B. Crystal City Project Update
11. Operations Board Members' Time



APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 20, 2023

Meeting with YouTube Livestream

Members Present

- Sarah Bagley (NVTC)
- Andrea Bailey (PRTC)
- Meg Bohmke (PRTC)
- Margaret Franklin (PRTC)
- Monica Gary (PRTC)
- Lori Hayes (PRTC)
- Takis Karantonis (NVTC)
- Matt Kelly (PRTC)
- Michael McLaughlin (VPRA)
- Alanna Mensing (PRTC) *
- Ralph Smith (PRTC)
- Dan Storck (NVTC)
- James Walkinshaw (NVTC)

Members Absent

- Jeanine Lawson (PRTC)

**Participated virtually*

Jurisdiction

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

Jurisdiction

- Prince William County



James Walkinshaw
VRE Operations Board Chair
& Fairfax County Supervisor



CHAIR'S COMMENTS

- Welcome to the VRE Operations Board December meeting.
- Registration is now open for the Virginia Transit Association's annual "Transit + Rail Advocacy Day," which is followed by a reception at Richmond's historic Main Street Station. You can register for the January 22nd event at VAtransit.com
- I would like to take a moment to commend two retiring – and currently our longest tenured – Operations Board members for their years of service to VRE.
- Matt Kelly has represented the City of Fredericksburg as either an alternate or member since 2007, with a three-year break from 2011 to 2013.
- Jeanine Lawson has represented Prince William County as either an alternate or member since 2015, serving as treasurer (2019), secretary (2020) and vice chair (2021).



James Walkinshaw
VRE Operations Board Chair
& Fairfax County Supervisor



CEO REPORT

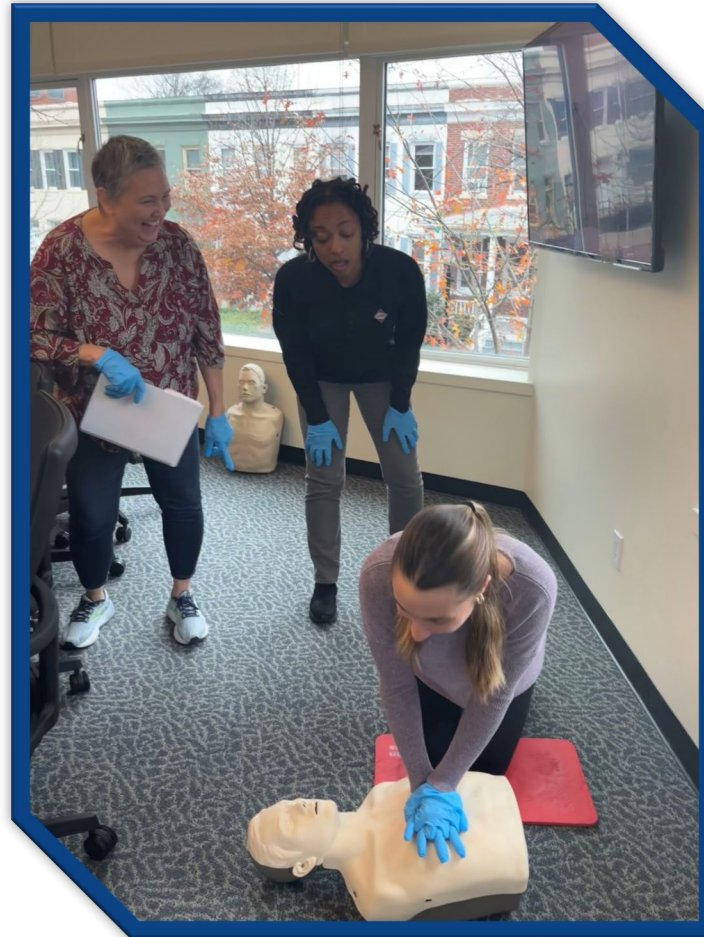
- **Safety**
- **Performance**
- **Ridership**
- **Events**



Rich Dalton
VRE CEO

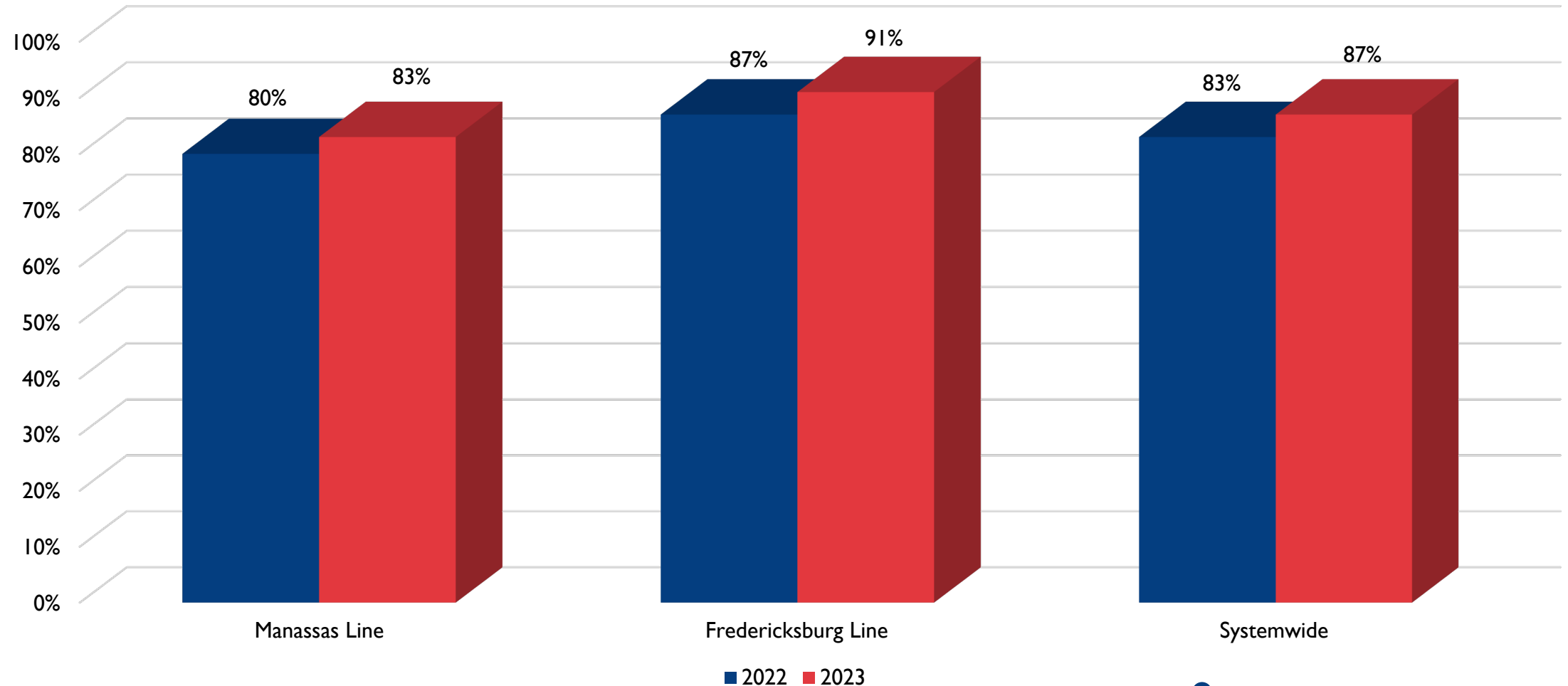


CEO REPORT – SAFETY

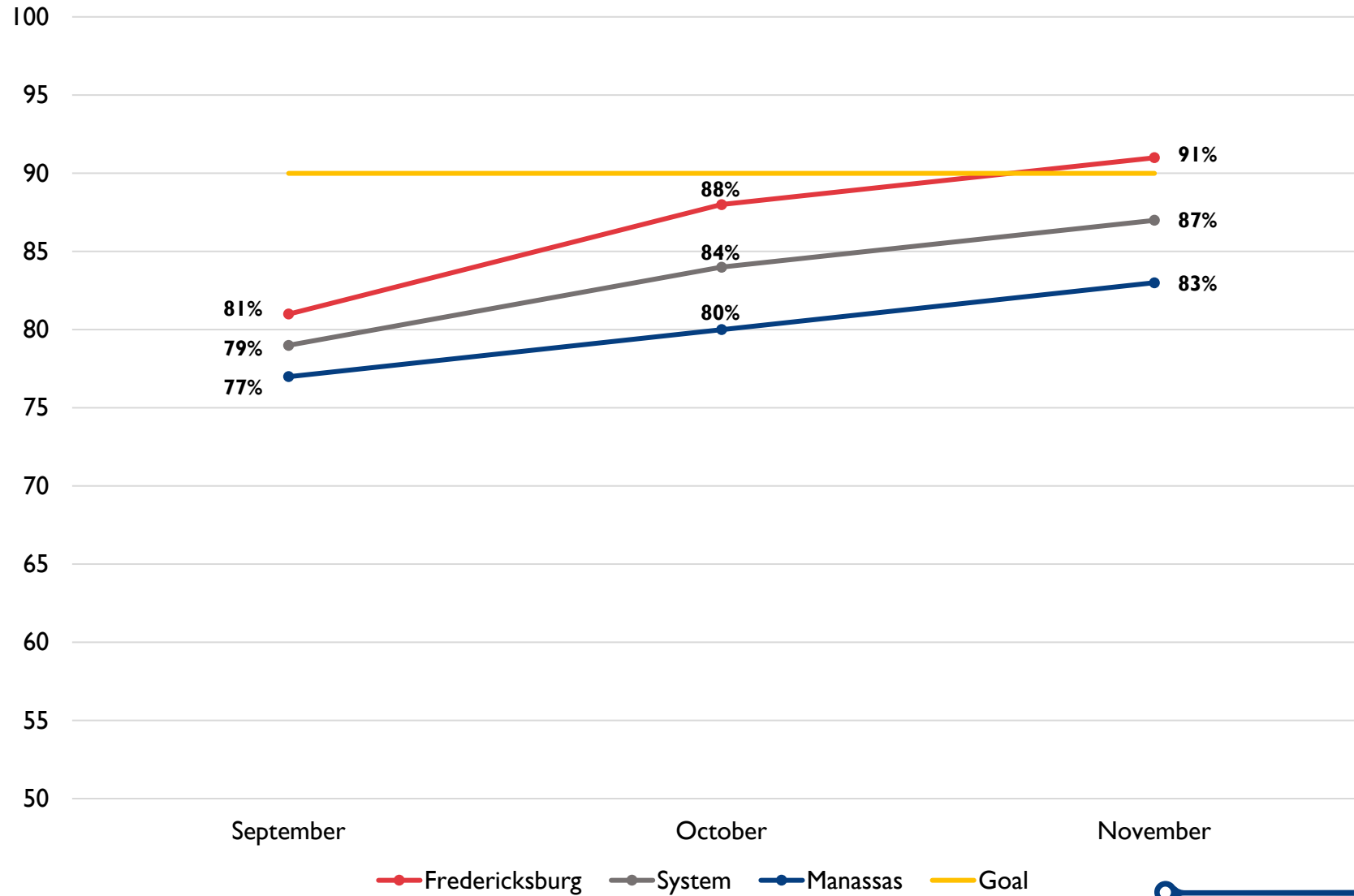


CEO REPORT – ON-TIME PERFORMANCE

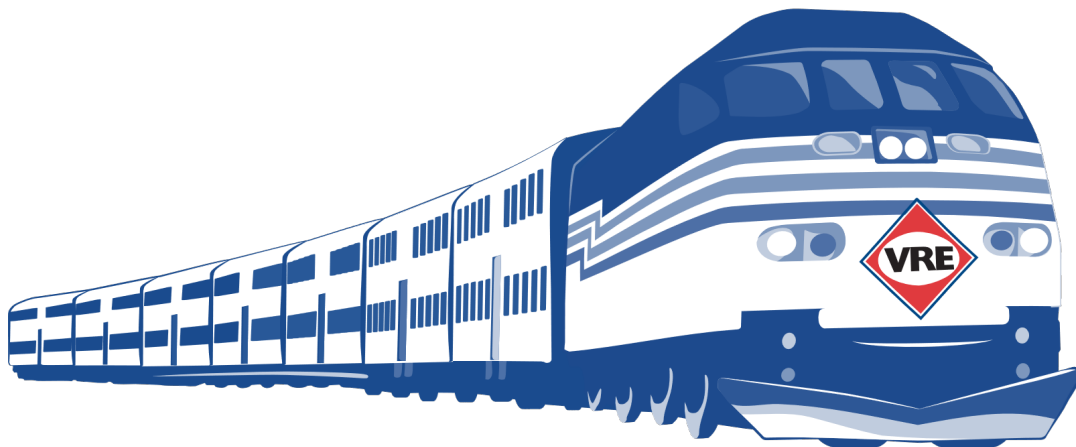
November Comparisons



CEO REPORT – ON-TIME PERFORMANCE



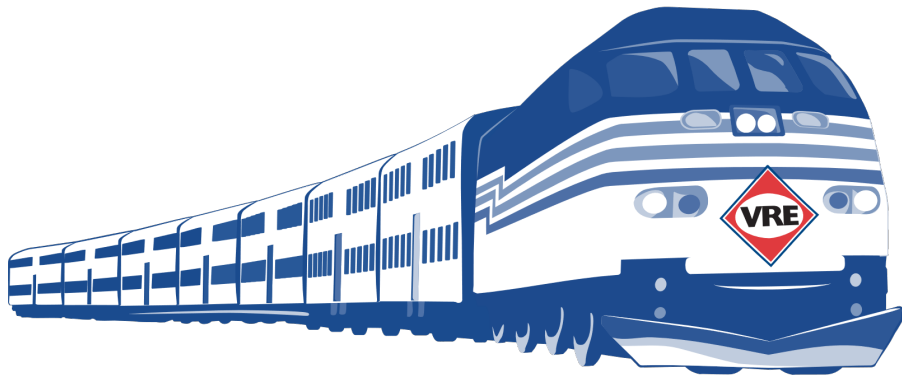
CEO REPORT – ON-TIME PERFORMANCE



	SEPT 2023	OCT 2023	NOV 2023
	20 Days	21 Days	21 Days
<i>LATE TRAINS</i>			
Manassas	99	72	52
Fredericksburg	57	60	30
Systemwide	156	132	82
<i>AVERAGE MINUTES DELAYED</i>			
	16	21	16
<i># TRAINS 30+ MINUTES LATE</i>			
	14	19	13
<i>OTP</i>			
Manassas	77%	80%	83%
Fredericksburg	81%	88%	91%
Systemwide	79%	84%	87%



CEO REPORT – ON-TIME PERFORMANCE

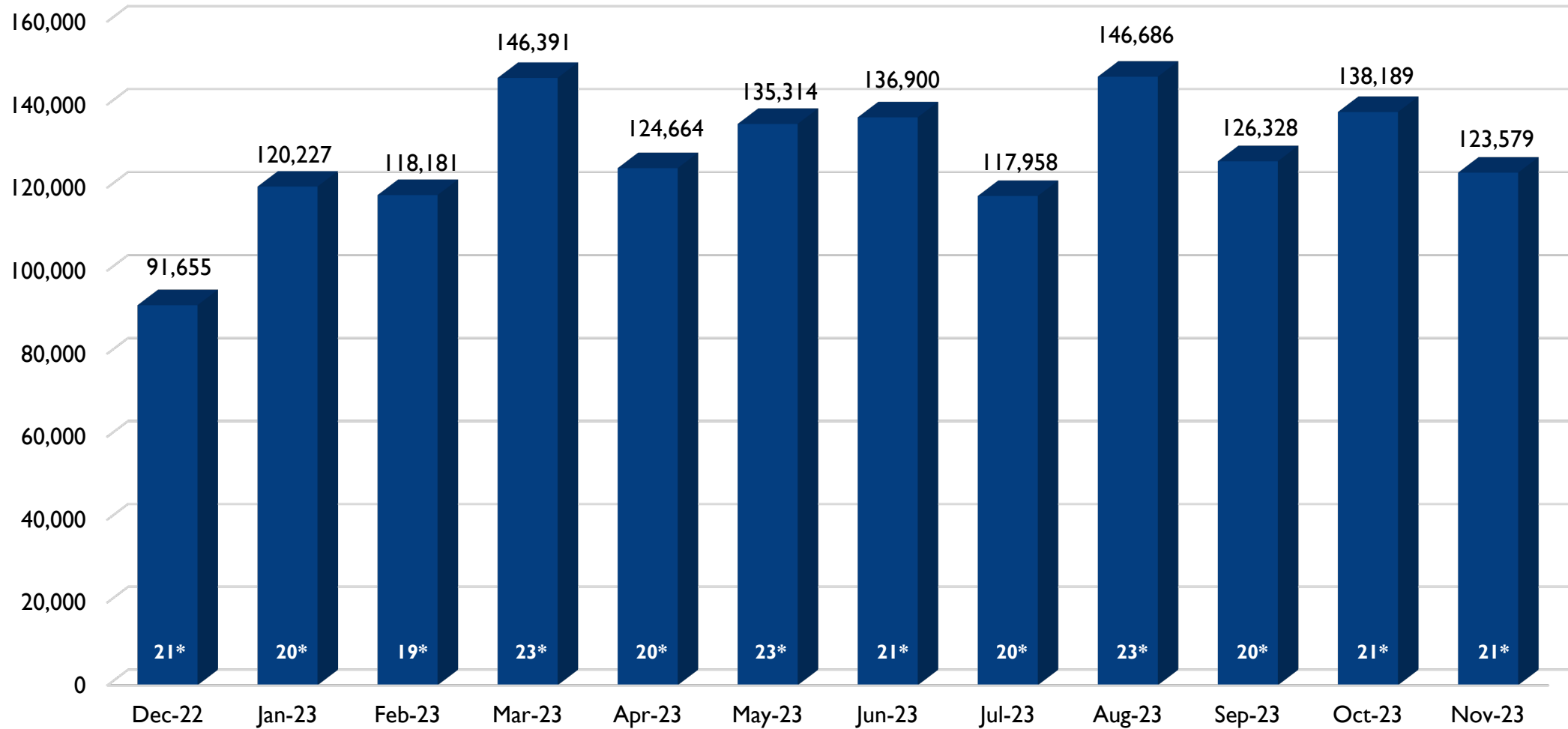


CAUSE		SEPT	OCT	NOV	TOTAL #	TOTAL %
		20 Days	21 Days	21 Days	62 Days	
		<i># OF TRAINS DELAYED</i>				
Congestion		76	69	51	196	61.3%
Switch/Signal Issue		25	11	6	42	13.1%
Speed Restrictions		13	-	-	13	4.1%
Dispatcher		1	2	9	12	3.8%
Positive Train Control	Primary	2	7	1	10	3.8%
	Cascading	2	-	-		
Amtrak Fire Alarm Test		9	-	-	9	2.8%
Paperwork Issue		-	9	-	9	2.8%
Mechanical	Primary	1	1	2	4	2.5%
	Cascading	2	1	1		
Leaf Oil (Wheel Slip)		1	5	1	7	2.2%
Police Activity		-	-	5*	5	1.6%
Trespasser		-	1	4	5	1.6%
Crew		-	-	1	1	0.2%
Maintenance of Way		-	-	1	1	0.2%
Total Delays		132	106	82	320	100.0%

*3 trains, 1117, car on tracks, Manassas Line; 2 trains, 1122, disabled CSX421 (fire in trash car), Fredericksburg Line

CEO REPORT – MONTHLY RIDERSHIP

Exclusive of Boardings at Alexandria and Crystal City

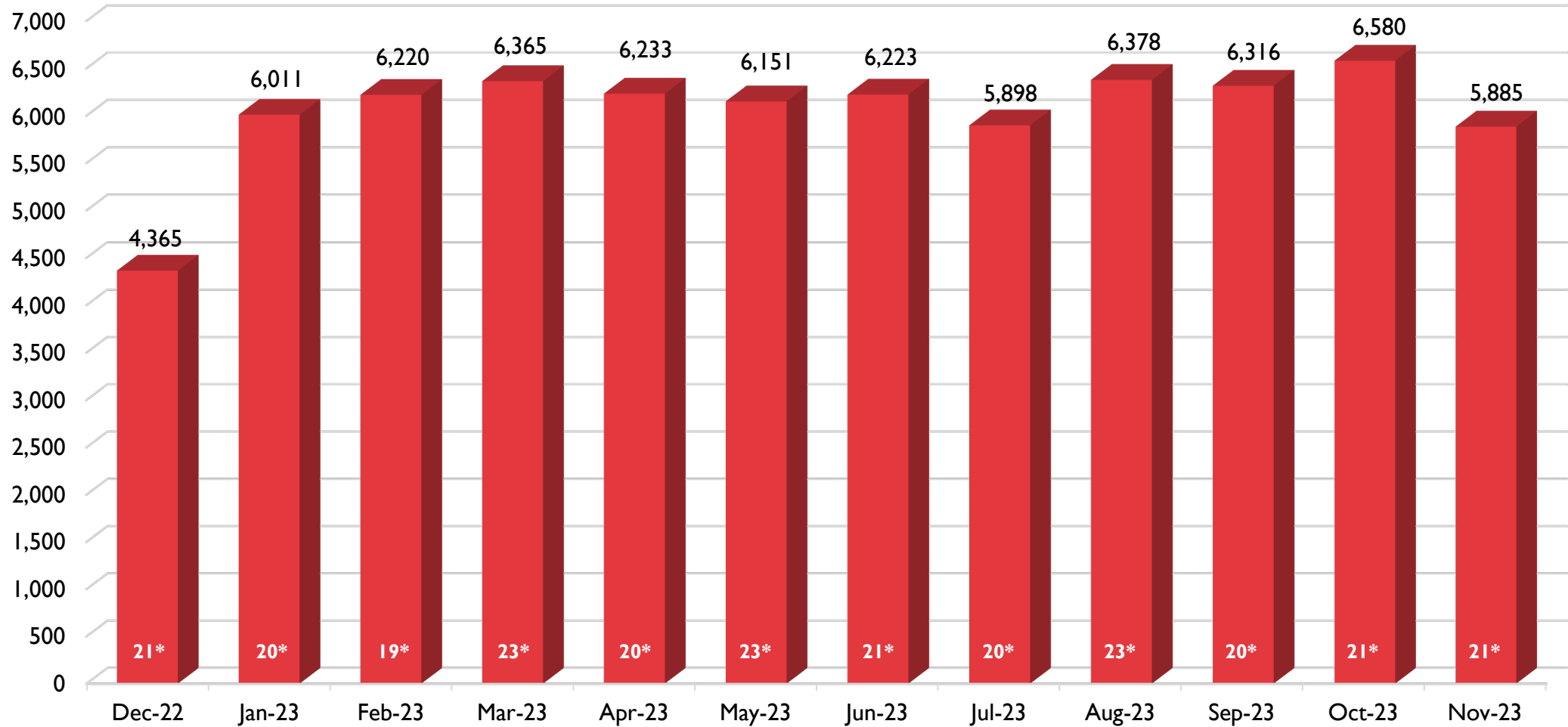


*service days per month



CEO REPORT – AVERAGE DAILY RIDERSHIP

Exclusive of Boardings at Alexandria and Crystal City



*service days per month



CEO REPORT – FREDERICKSBURG CHRISTMAS PARADE



CEO REPORT – SANTA TRAINS



SANTA TRAIN 2023



[Click above to be directed to VRE's Santa Train video](#)

CEO REPORT – TOYS FOR TOTS



CEO REPORT – A SHOUT OUT TO STAFF



CEO REPORT



REFERRAL OF THE AMENDED FY 2024 AND RECOMMENDED FY 2025 VRE OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS TO THE COMMISSIONS AND JURISDICTIONS

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to adopt the amended FY 2024 VRE Operating and Capital Budget and the recommended FY 2025 VRE Operating and Capital Budget and refer them to the commissions for their consideration and subsequent referral to the jurisdictions for their formal review and adoption; and to recommend the commissions authorize the executive directors of NVTC and PRTC to take the necessary actions to apply for federal and state grant funding.

Summary:

Following the presentation of the preliminary FY 2025 budget in September and the budget updates in October and November, staff is presenting the recommended FY 2025 operating and capital budget for adoption and referral. The recommended budget is balanced, with no funding gap, and with all projected uses of funding in FY 2025 supported by reasonably expected sources of funding. The FY 2025 budget includes a 5 percent increase to passenger fares as compared to FY 2024 and a total jurisdictional subsidy contribution of \$18.3 million.



James Walkinshaw
VRE Operations Board Chair
& Fairfax County Supervisor



Rich Dalton
VRE CEO



IMPROVING AND EXPANDING SERVICE

- Opportunities for service enhancements on weekdays to partially offset new costs
- Total increase in service (train miles) of about 8 percent
- Planned inauguration of Saturday service
- Three round-trip trains on each line with service northbound in the morning and southbound in the afternoon/evening
- All changes contingent upon final approval of host railroads, operations and maintenance contractor, and other key stakeholders



Recommended Fare Changes	Expected Impact
1. Make Zone 1-3 promotional \$5.00 fare permanent (with associated multiride fares)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitive option for shorter trips • Zero to slight positive on revenue
2. Increase base fares by 5%, maintain existing multiride discount structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional revenue of ~\$1 million • Possible loss of ~100 daily riders
3. Eliminate 7-day (weekly) pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplified choices • Riders shift to 10-trip or monthly with minimal revenue impact
4. Allow children ages 18 and under to ride free, eliminate Youth (age 11-18) 50% discount	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few youth travelers currently • Make VRE travel by families more attractive

Public feedback was generally positive/supportive for all recommended fare changes, as well as for planned Saturday service

JURISDICTIONAL SUBSIDY

Fiscal Year	Subsidy Amount	Change
2021	\$18,300,780	3%
2022	\$ 4,756,658	-74%
2023	\$13,544,122	185%
2024	\$16,000,000	18%
2025	\$18,300,780	14%

- Subsidy would be ~\$22 million if had grown with inflation since 2021
- Pandemic relief funds continue to provide support, but will not last forever
- Ridership return slower than hoped, jurisdictional support critical to continued recovery



FY 2025 EXPENSE DRIVERS

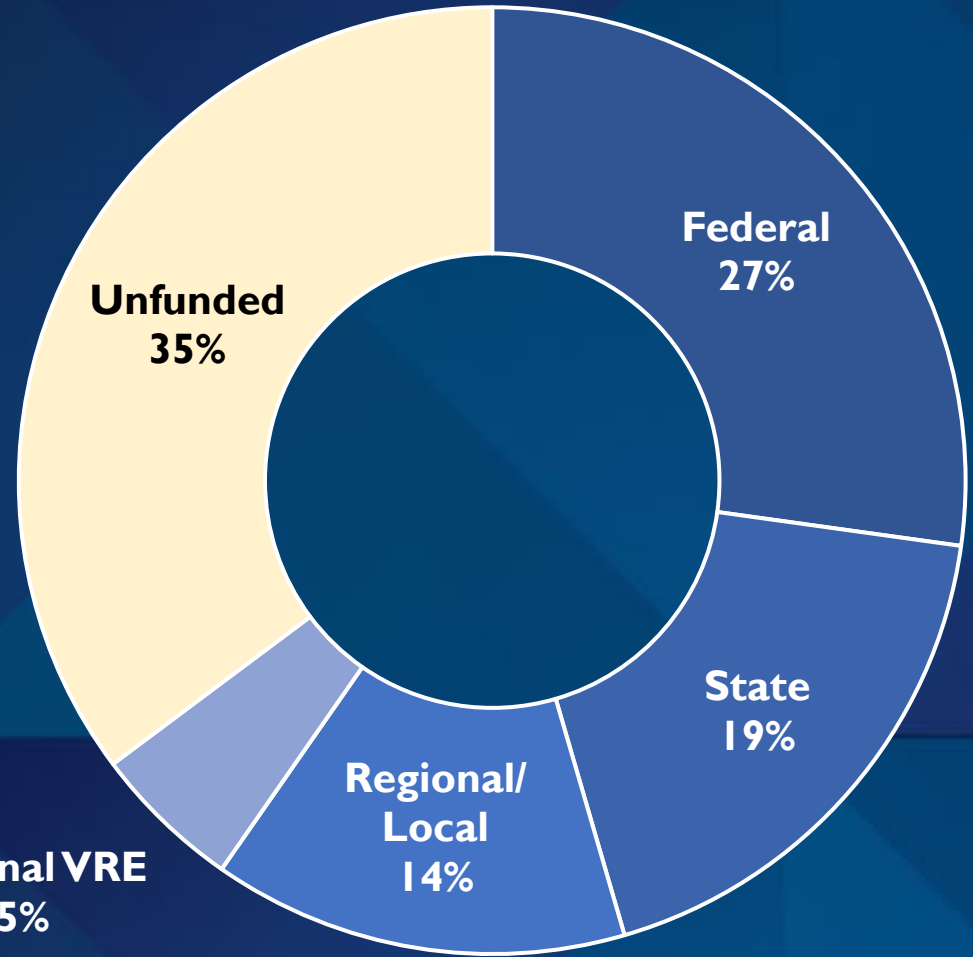
- Costs reflect Saturday service implementation and weekday savings opportunities
- Major contracts with Keolis/host railroads/Amtrak services escalated with inflation (CPI and AAR)
- Diesel fuel: \$3.25/gallon and 1.83 million gallons
- Insurance: annual market-based increases and expanded coverages (e.g., cyber)
- Recommend adding two FTEs: Facilities and Information Technology positions to meet expanding requirements
- Nothing deferred: continue to deliver safe, cost effective, accessible, and reliable commuter-oriented service, with additional focus on attracting new riders

FY 2025 – 2030 CIP BY PROGRAM AREA

(in millions)

Program Name	Cost of Projects	Funded	Unfunded
Asset Management/State of Good Repair	\$94.7	\$94.7	\$0.0
Information Technology	\$4.5	\$4.5	\$0.0
Maintenance & Storage Facilities	\$450.4	\$309.6	\$140.8
Station Parking	\$47.3	\$40.8	\$6.5
Rolling Stock	\$359.0	\$84.6	\$274.3
Passenger Station Facilities	\$366.5	\$322.5	\$43.9
TOTAL	\$1,322.3	\$856.7	\$465.6

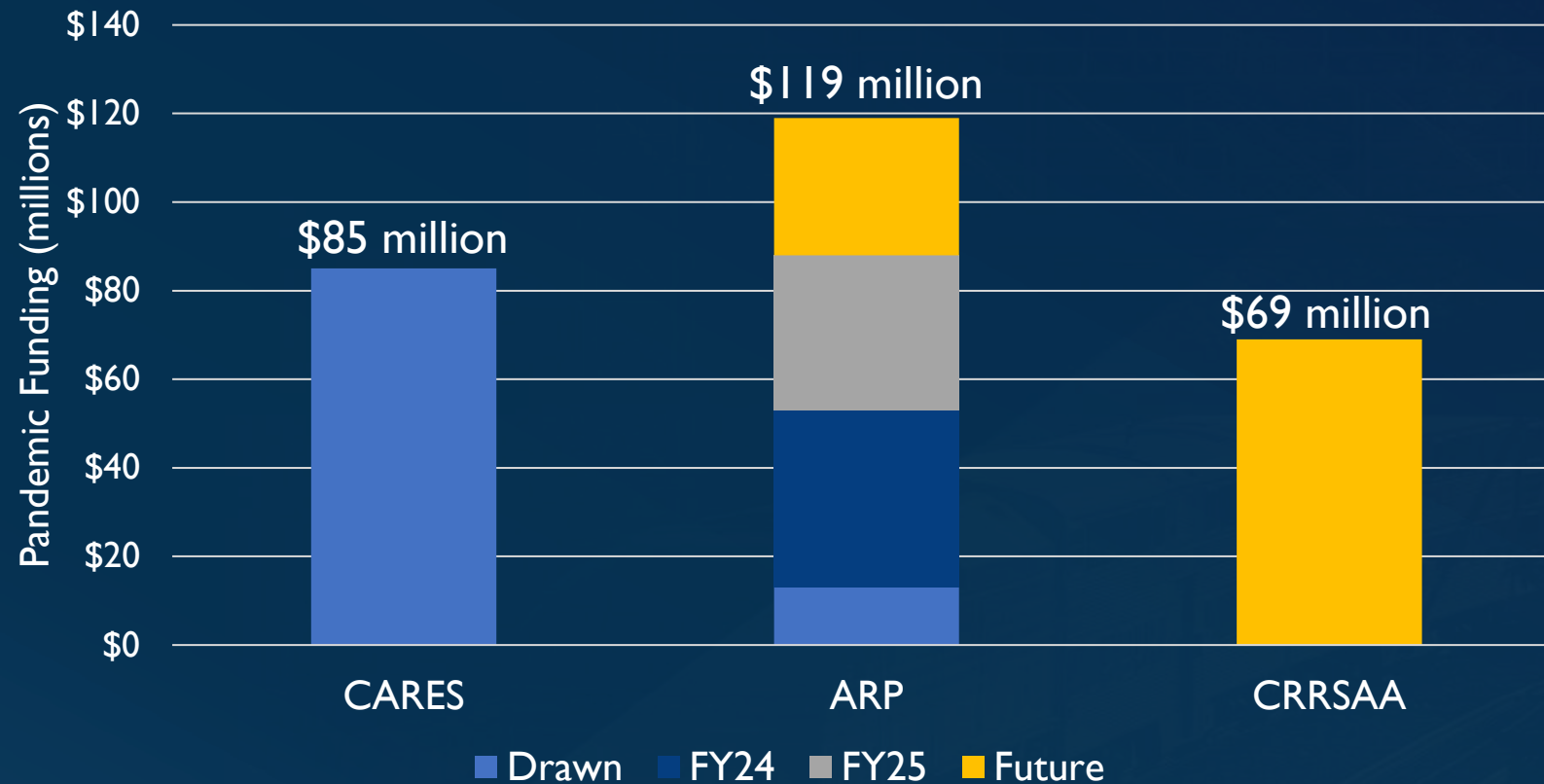
FY 2025 – 2030 CIP BY FUNDING TYPE



Internal VRE
5%

USE OF PANDEMIC RELIEF FUNDS

- Use of relief funds is downstream of ridership return and our policy decisions on subsidy, fares, etc.
- Will use more funds in FY 2024 than originally budgeted as ridership return has been below projections



APPROVAL OF THE 2024 VRE OPERATIONS BOARD OFFICERS

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to approve the nominees for the 2024 VRE officers as recommended by the Nominating Committee. The nominees are as follows:

- Chair: Meg Bohmke (PRTC)
- Vice Chair: Sarah Bagley (NVTC)
- Secretary: Ralph Smith (PRTC)
- Treasurer: Dan Storck (NVTC)
- At-Large: Andrea Bailey (PRTC)
- Immediate Past Chair: James Walkinshaw (NVTC)

Installation of the 2024 VRE officers shall take place at the January 2024 Operations Board meeting.

Summary:

The VRE Bylaws stipulate each commission shall provide two officers from among its Operations Board members. The offices of chair and vice chair shall not be held at the same time by members representing the same jurisdiction or the same appointing commission and the office of chair shall be rotated each year between the two commissions.



James Walkinshaw
VRE Operations Board Chair
& Fairfax County Supervisor



Rich Dalton
VRE CEO



AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE AN MEC VIITASK ORDER FOR ENGINEERING OVERSIGHT FOR NEW PASSENGER RAILCARS PHASE III

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the CEO to issue a mechanical engineering consulting services task order to STV Inc. for engineering oversight for new passenger railcars phase III in the amount of \$1,362,608, plus a 10 percent contingency of \$136,261, for a total not to exceed \$1,498,869.

Summary:

The Federal Transit Administration, Federal Railroad Administration, and other regulating or funding partners require VRE to perform engineering oversight for design reviews, first article inspections, in-plant inspections, and other on-site inspections of all new passenger railcars. This action will provide those services through a mechanical engineering consulting services task order with STV Inc. for VRE's base order of 21 new passenger railcars, which are being manufactured by Alstom Transportation Inc.



James Walkinshaw
VRE Operations Board Chair
& Fairfax County Supervisor



Rich Dalton
VRE CEO



AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR LOCOMOTIVE LAYOVER BATTERY CHARGING SYSTEMS

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the CEO to execute a contract with Dina Consulting & Design, LLC of Caldwell, Idaho for locomotive layover battery charging systems in the amount of \$321,732, plus a 10 percent contingency of \$32,173, for a total amount not to exceed \$353,905.

Summary:

Locomotive battery charging systems are required to ensure proper maintenance and function of the nickel-cadmium batteries utilized by VRE's fleet of locomotives. The current locomotive layover battery charging systems are increasingly experiencing failures and have reached the end of their useful life thus necessitating replacement. The new charging systems will be installed by VRE's maintenance contractor, Keolis Rail Services Virginia, once received.



James Walkinshaw
VRE Operations Board Chair
& Fairfax County Supervisor



Rich Dalton
VRE CEO



AUTHORIZATION TO EXTEND A LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR THE LEASE OF TOWER SPACE FOR THE VHF RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the CEO to extend a license agreement with American Towers, Inc. for the lease of space on their cell tower located in Fairfax Station, Virginia, for a period of five years at a cost of \$224,324 for the five-year period and a total authorization of \$728,748 over the 20-year term of the license agreement.

Summary:

VRE operates a VHF two-way radio communications system for communication between VRE trains and VRE Headquarters. The radio system operates utilizing transmitters and other equipment installed on a network of towers, including two rooftop antennas in Alexandria, a tower at Leeland Road and the tower in Fairfax Station that is owned by American Towers, Inc.



James Walkinshaw
VRE Operations Board Chair
& Fairfax County Supervisor



Rich Dalton
VRE CEO



SPENDING AUTHORITY REPORT

On September 18, 2020, the VRE Operations Board approved increasing the CEO'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.

- November 6, 2023, VRE issued a task order in the amount of \$59,800 to HDR Engineering, Inc. under the general engineering consulting services contract to provide the design for renovations to the Quantico station house.
- On November 7, 2023, VRE issued a sole source purchase order in the amount of \$69,828 to Paragon Products, LLC to purchase a total of 22 new fuel pumps for VRE's fleet of locomotives.
- On November 17, 2023, VRE issued a task order in the amount of \$140,830 to U.S. Facilities, Inc. under the maintenance services for VRE facilities contract to grade and pave the access road leading to the Crossroads Maintenance and Storage Facility.
- On November 18, 2023, VRE issued a purchase order in the amount of \$54,276 to National Auto Fleet Group, utilizing an existing cooperative contract, to purchase a new Ford F-250 pickup truck to augment the vehicles in VRE's fleet used by staff responsible for facilities maintenance.



Rich Dalton
VRE CEO



CRYSTAL CITY STATION PROJECT UPDATE

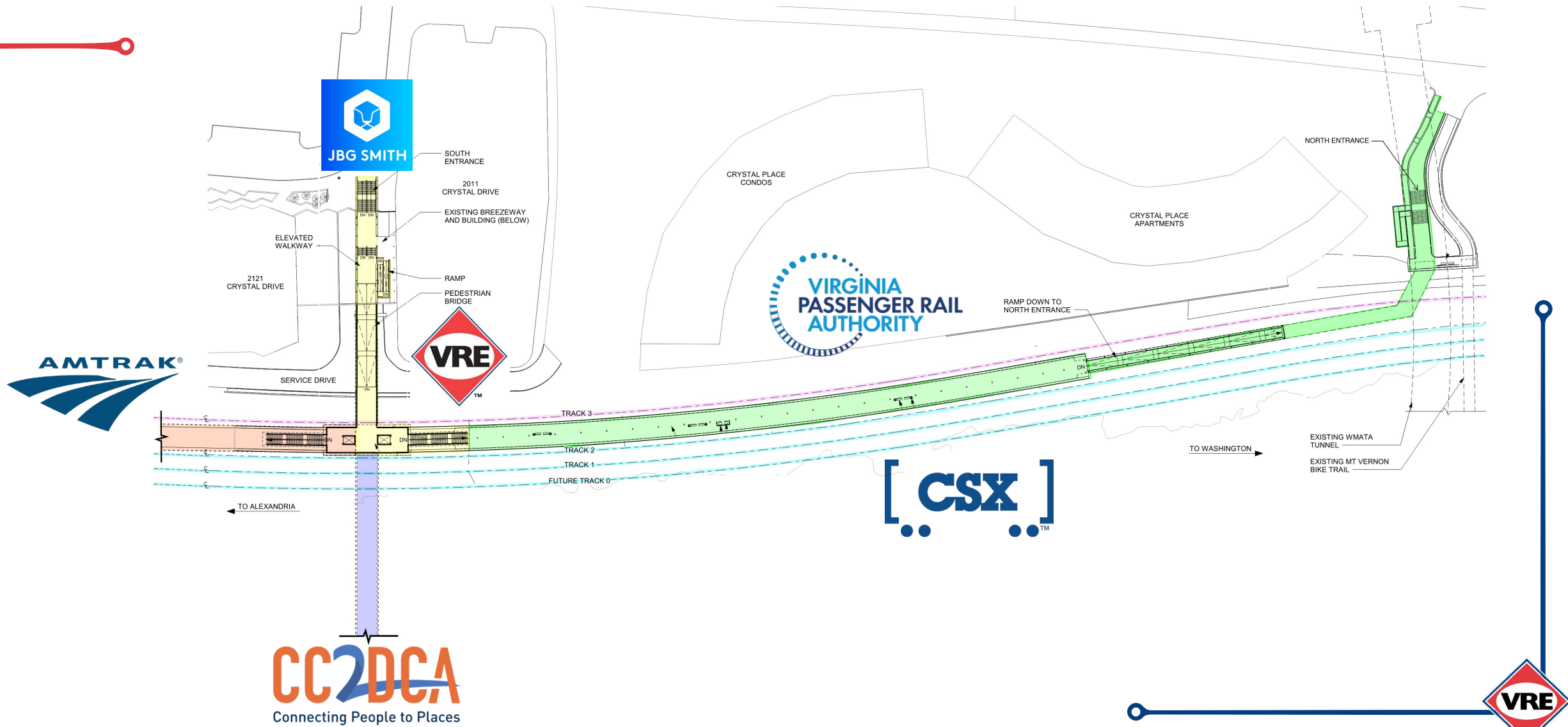
- Project relocates station approximately 400 yards south of current station
- NEPA review by FTA complete
- North entrance and station platform have completed 60 percent design
- 60 percent design of stair tower underway



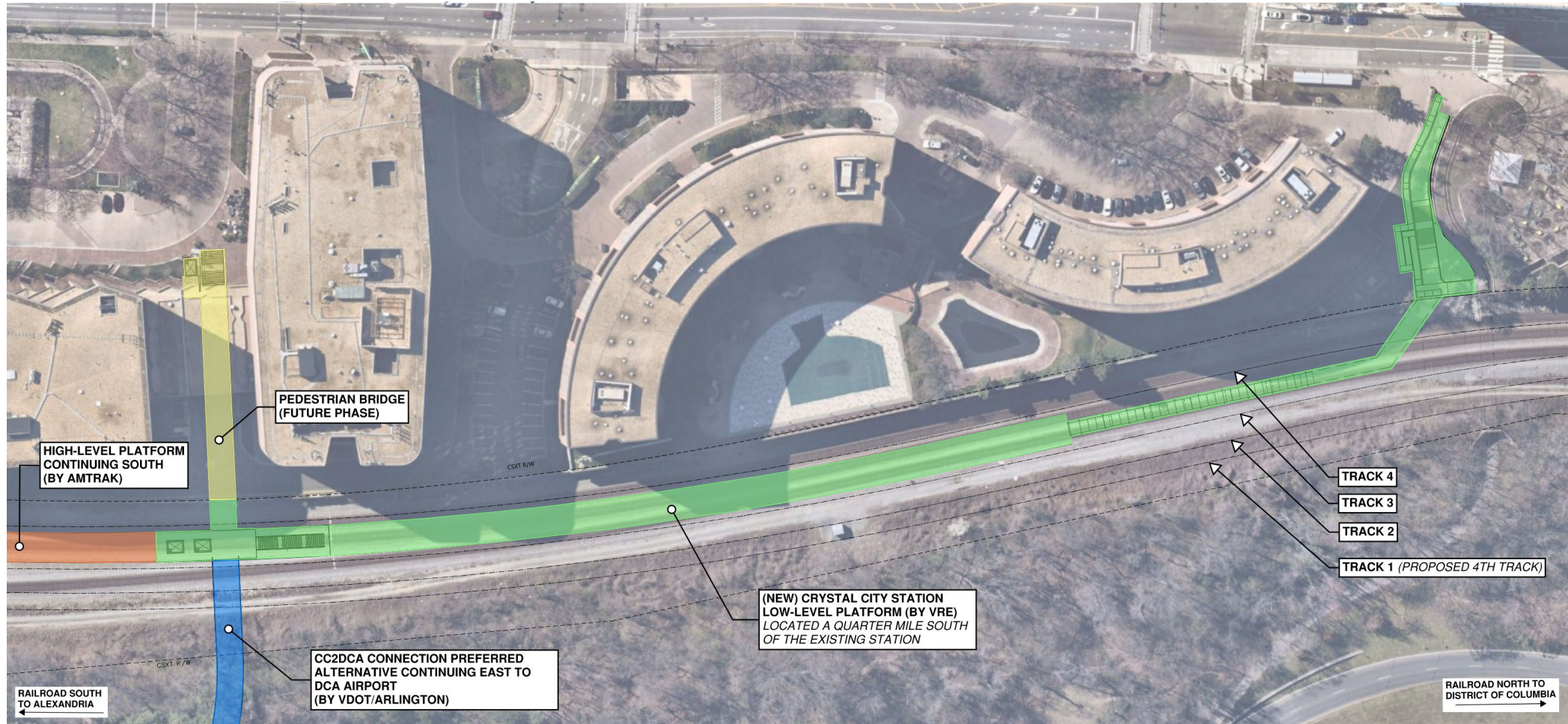
Anticipated Project Schedule

Phase	Start Date	Finish Date
Development	12/01/2016	06/30/2021
Property Acquisition	07/01/2020	06/30/2021
Final Design	11/01/2021	01/24/2025
Construction	10/02/2025	06/10/2027

PROJECT OVERVIEW



CRYSTAL CITY STATION PROJECT PHASED APPROACH



ADJACENT PROJECTS & RELATED FUNDING – PHASE I

- **VPRA / CSXT Alexandria Fourth Track (AF to RO)**
 - Funded by VPRA as part of TRV
 - Design and construction by CSXT
 - Construction anticipated 2024 (utility) 2025 (track)
- **VRE Crystal City Station**
 - Coordinated closely with Fourth Track design and construction sequence
 - Funded (partially) by NVTA and NVTC



ADJACENT PROJECTS & RELATED FUNDING – PHASE 2

- **CC2DCA Connection of Crystal City to Airport**
 - Led by Arlington County assisted by VDOT
 - Funded (partially) by NVTA
 - NEPA completion anticipated in early 2024
- **Amtrak High-Level Platform**
 - Requires gauntlet track
 - In service once Long Bridge project is completed by VPRA



BENEFITS OF RECOMMENDED PHASED APPROACH

- **Enhances Constructability (Safety and Operations)**
 - Reduces construction between active tracks
- **Allows Delivery of Station Coordinated with Fourth Track**
 - Critical to construct platform prior to Fourth Track
- **Permits Open Design of CC2DCA Connector Alternatives**
 - Design is not constrained infrastructure built by VRE
- **Enhances Continuity and Appearance of Adjacent Structures**
 - Bridge to JBG Smith and bridge to DCA similar in size and architecture

NEXT STEPS

- **Advance to 90% Design**
 - Seek board authorization at January meeting
- **Continued Coordination with Stakeholders**
 - Agreements with JBG Smith, CSXT and VPRA
- **Public Outreach**
 - Meet the Management (Spring of '24)
 - Project-specific events



QUESTIONS?



OPERATIONS BOARD MEMBERS' TIME



Sarah Bagley
Alexandria



Andrea Bailey
Prince William County



Meg Bohmke
Stafford County



Margaret Franklin
Prince William County



Monica Gary
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**THE DECEMBER 15, 2023 MEETING OF THE
VRE OPERATIONS BOARD HAS
CONCLUDED**



[VRE.ORG](https://www.vre.org)

