



Notice of Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Changes to VRE Passenger Tariff

The Virginia Railway Express (VRE) is accepting public comment on changes to fares proposed in its preliminary fiscal year 2025 budget. VRE's Public Participation Policy (<https://bit.ly/3rqtoWZ>) states: "Any proposed amendment to the VRE Passenger Tariff (<https://bit.ly/3ZBqGL2>) involving an increase in fares or major change in service, as defined in the Major Service & Fare/Service Equity Policy (<https://bit.ly/3RFLOxs>), shall be open to public comment at a public hearing."

The public comment period runs from 9 a.m. on Friday, September 29 through 5 p.m. on Thursday, November 16, 2023. Individuals interested in providing comment may do so at one of three in-person public hearings, or via mail, email, telephone or fax. Public hearings are scheduled for:

- Monday, October 16 from 12-1 p.m.
WMATA Headquarters (walking distance from VRE's L'Enfant station)
300 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20024
- Wednesday, October 18 from 6-7 p.m.
Manassas Museum (walking distance from VRE's Manassas station)
9101 Prince William Street
Manassas, VA 20110
- Thursday, October 26 from 6-7 p.m.
Fredericksburg City Hall, Council Chambers (walking distance from VRE's Fredericksburg station)
715 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Spanish-language and American Sign Language interpreters will be made available at the public hearings upon request. Such requests, and any other request for accommodation, must be received at least five business days prior to the public hearing by email (publiccomment@vre.org).

A virtual public presentation is scheduled for:

- Tuesday, October 24 from 12-1 p.m.
Via VRE's YouTube channel (<https://bit.ly/3PQDCcv>)

Public comment may also be provided by:

Mail

VRE FY 2025 Budget Public Comment
1500 King Street, Suite 202
Alexandria, VA 22314

Email

publiccomment@vre.org

Telephone

540-524-2662

Fax

703-684-1313

VRE's preliminary FY 2025 operating budget totals \$119.9 million, which includes operations, maintenance, and existing debt service. This is an increase of \$11.0 million or 10 percent over the approved FY 2024 operating budget. The budget includes increases to fares of 5 percent and the jurisdictional subsidy of 14 percent. VRE's last broad-based fare increase was 3 percent in FY 2020.

The proposed budget provides for the first-ever operation of VRE weekend service, as well as a proposal to allow children under 18 to ride free and changes to simplify fare payment.

VRE, the nation's 13th largest commuter rail service, connects parts of Central and Northern Virginia with the District of Columbia. VRE is recognized for its provision of safe, reliable, convenient, and comfortable transportation. Its two lines, Manassas and Fredericksburg, serve 19 stations, including two – L'Enfant and Union Station – in Washington, D.C. Additional information about VRE service is available at www.vre.org.