

**TO: CHAIRMAN JENKINS AND THE VRE OPERATIONS BOARD**  
**FROM: DALE ZEHNER**  
**DATE: MAY 16, 2008**  
**RE: SUPPORT FOR TRANSPORTATION FUNDING IN THE SPECIAL  
SESSION OF THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**RESOLUTION  
8F-05-2008  
OF THE  
VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS  
OPERATIONS BOARD**

**WHEREAS**, the 2007 General Assembly enacted HB 3202 establishing a dedicated funding program for the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority which would have provided \$25 million in annual funding for Virginia Railway Express (VRE) projects; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court of Virginia declared HB 3202 unconstitutional; and,

**WHEREAS**, Governor Kaine has called for a special session of the Virginia General Assembly to address transportation funding on June 23, 2008; and,

**WHEREAS**, there is a clear and immediate need for transportation funding in Northern Virginia to accommodate regional growth on an already over burdened transportation network; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Northern Virginia area, as part of the National Capitol Region, already ranks as one of the most congested metropolitan areas in the United States; and,

**WHEREAS**, VRE, as part of the regional transportation network is made up of the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William, and Stafford and the Cities of Alexandria, Fredericksburg, Manassas and Manassas Park; and,

**WHEREAS**, VRE has seen significant ridership growth over the years and currently carries over 15,500 passenger trips per day, exceeding its original ridership projections; and,

**WHEREAS**, this ridership growth is expected to continue into the future; and,

**WHEREAS**, substantial capital investment will be necessary for VRE to expand service, add trains, purchase locomotives and add automobile parking to meet expected future ridership demands.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the VRE Operations Board does hereby acknowledge the efforts of Governor Kaine and the Virginia General Assembly to correct the transportation funding problem; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, the VRE Operations Board does hereby urge the General Assembly to adopt a dedicated funding program that is simple, sustainable, and which funds transportation at levels equal or greater than the amounts approved in HB 3202 beginning in FY 2009; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, Northern Virginia regional revenues should come from sources that can be used for the issuance of transportation revenue bonds; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, said funding should maintain an allocation formula that is supportive of regional needs while keeping in place the \$25 million annually for VRE for capital and operating needs; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, the VRE Operations Board Chairman will transmit this resolution to the Governor and General Assembly, including the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Chairman of the Senate Financing Committee and Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.