Agenda Item 8-I
Action Item

To: Chairman Smedberg and the VRE Operations Board

From: Doug Allen

Date: October 18, 2013

Re: Support for *Momentum: The Next Generation of Metro* Strategic Plan

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is being asked to formally support Metro’s Strategic Plan entitled: *Momentum: The Next Generation of Metro*.

Background:

In 2010, the Governors of Virginia and Maryland and Mayor of the District of Columbia called on Metro’s Board of Directors to review the authority’s governance. As part of its governance reforms, the Metro Board developed a new Vision, Mission and Strategic Goals which guided the preparations of the Strategic Plan. In March 2013, the Metro Board established the 2025 Committee to “secure regional agreement on advancing and funding the Momentum plan” and in June 2013 Metro’s Board formally adopted *Momentum: The Next Generation of Metro* Strategic Plan.

The plan is a result of more than a year of outreach and input from key stakeholders. Metro is now seeking endorsements from the business community, local jurisdictions and other partners in the region. As one of Metro’s regional partners, and with 25% of VRE riders completing their daily commute via Metrorail or Metrobus, VRE has an interest in the plan and investments recommended to address Metro’s future growth.
*Momentum* includes seven key investment priorities, called Metro 2025, that are essential for Metro to maintain the system in a continued state of good repair and meet regional travel needs over the next decade: operation of all eight-car trains during rush hour; core station improvements; new Blue Line connections at Rosslyn; special track work such as pocket tracks to expand core capacity; completion of the Metrobus Priority Corridor Network (PCN); implementation of next generation communications including regional transit trip planning and payment (NEPP) systems; and bus fleet expansion.

While several of VRE's governing jurisdictions have endorsed *Momentum: The Next Generation of Metro*, others that have no direct stake in Metro have not. Yet, VRE riders from every governing jurisdiction connect daily with Metro from VRE or utilize VRE's “Metro Option” during VRE service disruptions. Additionally, VRE's System Plan and other planning endeavors supports the notion that all transit agencies should work collaboratively to plan and implement mobility solutions that will contribute to building an interconnected public transportation network throughout the region. Therefore, it is appropriate for VRE to support Metro's Strategic Plan.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.
Virginia Railway Express
Operations Board

Resolution
81-10-2013

Support for Momentum: The Next Generation of Metro
Strategic Plan

WHEREAS, the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) is recognized as an important part of the transportation system for Northern Virginia and the greater Washington Metropolitan Region; and,

WHEREAS, the success VRE has achieved is due, in part to the connections it provides with the other successful public transportation services in the region; and,

WHEREAS, a quarter of VRE riders take a portion of their commute by connecting with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Metrorail or Metrobus routes; and,

WHEREAS, WMATA has developed a new strategic plan called Momentum: The Next Generation of Metro; and,

WHEREAS, Momentum goals emphasize delivering quality service, ensuring financial stability and improving regional mobility align with VRE’s own mission statement; and,

WHEREAS, VRE is advancing initiatives, such as the Alexandria Station Tunnel, that support Momentum strategies to enhance intermodal connections and connect communities with high-quality transit that supports regional trip-making across local boundaries; and,

WHEREAS, VRE is also a regional partner with WMATA in developing its Next Electronic Payments Program (NEPP) which advances the Momentum strategy to promote interoperability across modes and will allow VRE riders to seamlessly access the Metro system; and,

WHEREAS, while VRE provides the equivalent capacity of 150 highway lane miles to our region, WMATA and its riders relieve the need to construct at least an additional 1,000 lane miles of roads, thus we are already linked in our goals to provide the region with safe and reliable commuting options; and,
WHEREAS, VRE's System Plan and planning endeavors support the notion that all transit agencies should work collaboratively to plan and implement mobility solutions that will contribute to a regionally-optimized transportation network through robust use of public transportation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the VRE Operations Board supports Momentum: The Next Generation of Metro.

Approved this 18th day of October 2013

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Paul Smedberg
Chairman

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John Cook
Secretary