Agenda Item 9-D
Action Item

To: Chairman Milde and the VRE Operations Board
From: Doug Allen
Date: November 21, 2014
Re: Approval of the 2015 VRE Legislative Agenda

Recommendation

The VRE Operations Board is being asked to recommend the Commissions approve the 2015 Legislative Agenda and authorize the Chief Executive Officer to actively pursue the elements set forth in the document.

Background:

The VRE Legislative Agenda is formulated in coordination with the Commissions and local jurisdictional staff to communicate VRE’s legislative priorities. Advocacy positions related to specific federal and state legislative issues are presented.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no direct funding impact associated with adopting this agenda item.
State Legislative Issues:

**Issue 1: Avoid the Commonwealth “Transit Capital Funding Cliff”**
- In FY 2019, the CTB will allocate the last of the Transportation Revenue Bond revenue authorized by the 2007 act. Starting in fiscal year 2018, unless the Transit Capital Funding Cliff issue is resolved, the Commonwealth's transit capital funding will be reduced by 62%.
- Begin discussions with transportation partners, DRPT, CTB, the Governor's office, and General Assembly members to advocate the benefit and need for continued capital funding to avoid the Transit Capital Funding Cliff.

**Issue 2: Amend State Law to allow VRE to earn interest on funds it has invested in the State Insurance Trust Fund**
- VRE retains over $10M in the Insurance Trust Fund to pay operations related claims. Prior to 2011, VRE received interest earnings from the funds invested in the pool. Change law so VRE can earn interest earnings on the funds it has deposited.

**Issue 3: Amend State Law to better leverage State and Federal grant funds for railroad infrastructure projects**

Federal Legislative Issues:

**Issue 1: Commuter Benefits Equity**
- Advocate for passage of currently proposed legislation (H.R. 2288 and S. 1116) to establish parity between parking and transit benefits.
- Advocate for legislation to make commuter benefits permanently equal to parking benefits in the Internal Revenue Code.

**Issue 2: Support Reauthorization of a Long-term Federal Transportation and Infrastructure Authorization Bill**
- MAP-21, the current authorization law, expires May 31, 2015. At that time, the Highway Trust Fund and its Mass Transit Account will again be depleted.
- Support long-term, dedicated funding mechanisms that ensure the solvency and supplement the Highway Trust Fund and its Mass Transit Account.
Virginia Railway Express  
Operations Board

Resolution  
9D-11-2014

Approval of the 2015 VRE Legislative Agenda

WHEREAS, VRE is an essential part of regional transportation network for the Northern Virginia and DC Metropolitan region; and,

WHEREAS, VRE serves residents throughout the Commonwealth to provide a meaningful public transportation option; and,

WHEREAS, it is essential for VRE to advocate its funding needs and legislative concerns with members and staff in Congress, in the Virginia General Assembly and with the Governor; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board does hereby recommend that the Commissions approve the 2015 VRE Legislative Agenda and authorize the Chief Executive Officer to actively pursue the elements set forth in the document.

Approved this 21st day of November 2014

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Paul Milde  
Chairman

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Gary Skinner  
Secretary