To: Chairman Skinner and the VRE Operations Board  
From: Doug Allen  
Date: April 15, 2016  
Re: TIGER Grant Application for Alexandria, Brooke, and Leeland Road Station Improvements

On March 8, 2016 U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced $500 million will be made available for transportation projects across the country under an eighth round of the TIGER competitive grant program. The 2016 TIGER grant program will focus on transportation capital projects that will have a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area, or a region.

Both the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission approved the submission of an application at their April 7, 2016 meetings. The deadline for applications to the TIGER program is April 29, 2016. Due to the timing of the program announcement and the deadline for submission, a formal recommendation from the VRE Operations Board was not possible prior to taking it to the Commissions.

On January 31, 2002, VRE executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CSXT and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) that outlined the process the Commissions would undertake to implement a third mainline track in the CSXT Washington to Richmond rail corridor and corresponding service expansion. In August 2014, a Second Amendment to the MOU was approved by all parties addressing the addition of the VRE Potomac Shores Station and the initiation of VRE service to the station. The Second Amendment to the MOU outlines a set of rail infrastructure and VRE station improvements that must be made in order to allow the Potomac Shores Station to open.
Among the improvements included in the Second Amendment is a pedestrian tunnel at Alexandria Station and second platforms at Brooke and Leeland Rd. Stations.

The preliminary engineering initiated for the Alexandria Station pedestrian tunnel identified the need for approximately $10 million in additional funding to complete the project. The pedestrian tunnel will be constructed beneath the CSXT tracks and is a very complex project; the more detailed engineering that has been completed reflects that complexity and additional cost to complete the tunnel construction. The Brooke and Leeland Rd. station improvements received approximately $18 million in Virginia Rail Enhancement Fund (REF) funding allocated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board for design and construction of the second platforms. VRE’s cost estimate to complete the station improvements is $28.7M, which leaves a $10.7 million shortfall for the two stations. The 2016 TIGER grant program is an opportunity to obtain the necessary funding to complete the improvements at all three stations.

The Commissions authorized the VRE CEO, in coordination with the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC), to submit a 2016 TIGER grant application in the amount of $20.7 million for the Alexandria, Brooke and Leeland Rd. station improvements, to make any necessary corrections to project amounts or descriptions, and to execute all grant agreements on behalf of the Commissions.

Fiscal Impact:

The submission of a project funding request has no fiscal impact. If selected for funding, the TIGER grant would allow the design and construction of the Alexandria Station pedestrian tunnel and Brooke and Leeland Rd. platform improvements to be fully funded.