To: Chairman Skinner and the VRE Operations Board
From: Doug Allen
Date: July 15, 2015
Re: Draft 2016/17 Legislative Agenda

The VRE Operations Board is asked to provide comment on the draft 2016/17 VRE Legislative Agenda. The Operations Board will be asked to take action in September recommending a Legislative Agenda to the Commissions.

**Background:**

Annually, VRE prepares a Legislative Agenda to communicate VRE Legislative priorities in coordination with the Commissions and local jurisdictional staff.

**VRE 2016/17 Legislative Issues**

**Federal Legislative Issues:**

**Issue 1: Positive Train Control (PTC) Implementation**

- Continue monitoring PTC legislative and regulatory activity

**Issue 2: FAST Act Rule Making**

- On December 4, 2015, President Obama signed into law the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, or “FAST Act.”
• The FAST Act includes new programs and changes to existing programs that will require agencies to go through the federal rule making process.

• Monitor and participate in the rule making process.

**State Legislative Issues:**

**Issue 1: Protective Floor for the Regional 2.1% Motor Fuels Tax**

• VRE will continue to support its parent commissions on the creation of a "protective floor" for the regional 2.1% motor fuels tax. Currently without a protective floor, the existing regional 2.1% motor fuels tax generates less revenue than expected due to the drop in fuel prices.

**Issue 2: Explore, Identify and Secure Additional VRE Capital and Operating Funding**

• As VRE implements the 2040 System Plan, it has developed an accompanying Financial Plan that identifies capital and operating requirements needed to implement the plan.

• A key findings in the Financial Plan is the clear need for increased funding, even without any proposed expansion of service.

• The local jurisdiction members of VRE are financially constrained in their ability to fund existing VRE operations and capital needs and will experience even greater challenges in securing funding for operational and capital costs identified in the System Plan. VRE will explore, identify and secure a long term, dependable funding source for both existing and future operations and capital costs.