To: Chairman Skinner and the VRE Operations Board

From: Doug Allen

Date: October 21, 2016

Re: Gainesville Haymarket Extension Update

The VRE System Plan 2040 identified the need to study a possible extension of VRE to the Gainesville-Haymarket area in western Prince William County. The Gainesville-Haymarket Extension Study (GHX Study) began last year and is analyzing a range of alternatives for serving the Innovation, Gainesville and Haymarket areas as well as an alternative that would relocate the Broad Run Station to accommodate a larger Broad Run Yard.

The first phase of the GHX Study is nearing completion. Estimates of the potential demand, costs, benefits and impacts of each of the alternatives have been developed and will be presented and discussed with the Operations Board. A copy of the draft presentation is attached.

Meetings are set for November and December with the GHX stakeholder committees and the public to present the results of the initial study phase, answer questions, and receive input. After receiving this input, but before moving into the next phase of the project, VRE staff will request that the Operations Board provide direction on which alternative(s) should proceed into the more detailed analysis. This second phase will examine the environmental impacts and mitigation associated with the alternative(s) and select a preferred alternative to be implemented. A more refined assessment of the funding potential for the final alternative(s) and updated cost estimates based on more detailed engineering design will also be conducted in this next phase.
It should be noted: VRE does not have an agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway for any of the alternatives presented and will need to obtain their formal approval to advance any improvements as they relate to the Norfolk Southern Railway right-of-way and operations.