To: Chairman Smedberg and the VRE Operations Board

From: Doug Allen

Date: July 21, 2017

Re: Draft 2017/2018 Legislative Agenda

An annually, VRE prepares a Legislative Agenda that is approved by the Commissions to communicate VRE priorities and strategies.

The VRE Operations Board is asked to provide comment on this draft 2017/2018 VRE Legislative Agenda. The Operations Board will be asked to act in September recommending a Legislative Agenda to the Commissions.

Federal Legislative Strategy:

Generally, there is a need to keep abreast of the new Administration’s policies, programs and personnel. In addition, we will monitor any new funding and financing infrastructure initiatives, possible regulatory reform, changes to INFRA (formally FastLane) and TIGER, and workforce development. Specific issues to be tracked include:

Issue 1: Positive Train Control (PTC) Implementation

- Continue monitoring PTC legislative and regulatory activity.

Issue 2: Commuter Benefits

- Track possible federal tax reform including changes to commuter benefits.
- Analyze and communicate to our Congressional delegation any impacts of proposed changes to current commuter benefit levels.
**Issue 3: 49 CFR Part 270 System Safety Program**


**State Legislative Strategy:**

Our focus in Richmond will continue to be on funding, both for transit throughout the Commonwealth and specifically for VRE. In addition to tracking the specific issues outlined below, we will monitor any legislation that may affect VRE.

**Issue 1: 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 finding in the Financial Plan is the clear need for increased funding, even without any 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.

**Issue 2: Protective Floor for the Regional 2.1% Motor Fuels Tax**

- VRE will support its parent commissions on the creation of a “protective floor” for the regional 2.1% motor fuels tax. 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 3: Additional Commonwealth Transit Capital Support**

- VRE will support its parent commissions as they advocate for a fix to the reduced Commonwealth funding for Transit Capital.
- Will continue to coordinate with NVTC Executive Director Kate Mattice on issues being discussed by the Transit Service Delivery Committee (TSDAC) and on any legislative initiatives arising from the Revenue Advisory Board’s (RAB) recommendations.