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**Contact:** Karen Finucan Clarkson  
571-255-0931 (mobile)  
703-838-5433 (office)  
[kfinucanclarkson@vre.org](mailto:kfinucanclarkson@vre.org)

## **Congressional Delegation Urged to Help VRE Weather COVID-19 Crisis** *Commuter rail system dealing with dramatic loss of revenue*

**Alexandria, Va.** – The Virginia Railway Express (VRE) today urged its Congressional delegation to help the commuter rail service deal with potentially dire financial circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 crisis. [In a letter](#), VRE Acting CEO Rich Dalton noted that trains are now carrying 80-90 percent fewer passengers. “As a result of this significant drop in ridership, VRE is dealing with a dramatic loss of revenue,” he wrote.

Federal assistance is critical in helping VRE offset those losses. “We need support for transit operations, but traditional transit formula funding is not designed to address our unique circumstances. Operating funding is what’s required to address this unprecedented loss,” Dalton noted.

VRE and its parent commissions – the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission – [have joined more than 220 elected officials, transit agencies, and organizations](#) imploring Congress to provide \$13 billion in emergency funding for public transportation. [The letter, drafted by Transportation for America](#), noted that such funding will ensure that transit agencies survive the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to provide safe and reliable access to jobs, schools, and services for millions of Americans.

The 12th largest commuter rail service in the U.S., VRE is a transportation partnership of the Northern Virginia and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commissions. VRE’s mission is to provide safe, cost effective, accessible, reliable, convenient, and customer responsive commuter-oriented passenger rail service. The 4.5 million rides the railroad provides annually remove some 100 million vehicle miles from Northern Virginia’s interstates. Learn more at [www.vre.org](http://www.vre.org).

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