



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS  
A better way. A better life.

# PRESS RELEASE

Office of Public Affairs

**For Immediate Release**  
December 19, 2019

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

## **VRE Commends Commonwealth and CSXT on Transformational Rail Agreement** *Accord Will Allow for Increased VRE Service and Improved Reliability*

**Alexandria, Va.** – A landmark [agreement between the Commonwealth of Virginia and CSX](#)

[Transportation](#) will allow the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) to significantly expand service and improve reliability on its Fredericksburg Line over the next decade. “This agreement represents the start of an exciting new chapter for commuter rail in Virginia,” said VRE Operations Board Chair Katie Cristol. “A new publicly-owned rail crossing over the Potomac River will enable us to grow VRE service to include new riders, new hours and new weekend service, thereby improving the quality of life and increasing economic opportunities for tens of thousands more Virginians. We look forward to partnering with the Commonwealth to transform commutes in the I-95 corridor.”

Infrastructure improvements and property acquisition by the commonwealth will result in a dedicated passenger rail corridor between Franconia, Virginia and the District of Columbia. In addition to a second rail bridge, proposed infrastructure improvements include a fourth track between Crystal City and Alexandria, a third track between Franconia and Lorton, a Franconia-to-Springfield bypass for passenger trains, and six sidings to allow trains to pass. The improvements are estimated to cost \$3.7 billion. “This investment is key to relieving congestion in the corridor and improving the reliability of our riders’ commutes,” said VRE Acting CEO Rich Dalton. “This foresighted plan will yield benefits for decades to come.”

- continued -

The 12th largest commuter rail service in the U.S., VRE is a transportation partnership of the Northern Virginia and Potomac & 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 in Northern Virginia and Washington D.C. remove some 100 million vehicle miles from the region's interstates. Learn more at [www.vre.org](http://www.vre.org).

# # #