VRE Welcomes Senator Tim Kaine to Spotsylvania Station and Crossroads Maintenance Facility

Alexandria, VA – On Wednesday, December 14, U.S. Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia visited VRE facilities in Spotsylvania County to learn more about the commuter rail’s operations and infrastructure needs. His visit included a tour of the VRE Spotsylvania Station at the end of the Fredericksburg line, a briefing on passenger rail issues in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and a tour of the Crossroads Maintenance and Storage Facility.

On hand to greet the Senator were VRE Operations Board Chairman Gary Skinner, VRE CEO Doug Allen, and a number of State and local government officials, including Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) Director Jennifer Mitchell, Commonwealth Transportation Board member Hap Connors, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission Executive Director Kate Mattice, and Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission Acting Director Eric Marx.

During the briefing portion of the tour, VRE Operations Board Chairman Skinner welcomed Senator Kaine, and provided a brief overview of the new station, which opened last November and features a 700 foot covered platform, spacious waiting room with restroom facilities and a 1,500 space parking lot.

Virginia CEO Doug Allen thanked the Senator for his long-term support of passenger rail in the Commonwealth, and presented an overview of VRE’s services. Mr. Allen discussed several infrastructure needs that would have to be addressed to expand capacity and service in the face of growing ridership demand. For example, he noted that VRE’s ridership has increased 7.5% over the past year, and that VRE looks forward to working with all of its funding partners to find the necessary resources to expand future capacity to serve more passengers. Both Mr. Allen and DRPT Director Mitchell identified the need to expand rail capacity over the Potomac River at the Long Bridge crossing into the District of Columbia as a top priority, and explained the project could cost upwards of $600 million.

About the Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

VRE is the tenth largest commuter rail service in the U.S. and 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 rail passenger service. It provides over 4.5 million rides annually in northern Virginia and Washington D.C. and its offices are based in Alexandria, VA. Visit our website at: www.vre.org

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