



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

PRESS RELEASE

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Office of Public Affairs

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Virginia Railway Express announces new CEO ***Katie Choe appointed to position by NVTC and PRTC Boards***

Alexandria, Va. – Virginia Railway Express (VRE) has a new Chief Executive Officer. Effective January 20, 2026, Katie Choe will lead the commuter rail service that connects Northern and Central Virginia to Washington, DC’s urban core. The appointment was made by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and the Potomac Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC), VRE’s joint governing bodies, at the commissions’ respective board meetings last night, Thursday, December 4. Choe will replace VRE’s former CEO Rich Dalton, who retired at the beginning of October.

With 25 years of program management and safety oversight leadership in the transportation sector, Choe brings a wealth of experience closely aligned to VRE’s mission. Most recently, Choe served as the Chief of Staff to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. Choe has also served as chief engineer for the City of Boston Public Works, and as a program manager at Massport, the Massachusetts Port Authority. In these roles, Choe delivered numerous major infrastructure projects with an emphasis on safety and quality. In 2022, she was named WTS-Boston’s Woman of the Year.

“The VRE Operations Board believes Ms. Choe is uniquely qualified as VRE’s next CEO,” said VRE Operations Board Chair and City of Alexandria Vice Mayor Sarah Bagley, continuing, “Her record of delivering transformative results for organizations through innovative, safety-oriented, and people-first leadership reflects the core values held dear at VRE.”

Katie Choe takes the helm of VRE at a pivotal point for the organization. For over thirty-three years, VRE has served Northern and Central Virginia as a commuter-focused rail service, with operations aligned around peak hours for weekday commutes. Now, following the adoption earlier this year of VRE's 2050 Service Plan and Vision, and a multi-billion dollar investment in the region's rail infrastructure through the Commonwealth of Virginia's [Transforming Rail in Virginia](#) initiative, VRE prepares to increase service to expand beyond commuter-focused rail and position itself as a regional rail network, with first-ever weekend and late-night service, and increased bi-directional service. These planned system improvements respond to shifting passenger needs while bolstering economic growth for Northern Virginia and surrounding jurisdictions.

Several infrastructure projects scheduled for construction over the next five years will make this service vision of increased reliability, efficiency, and safety possible for VRE, including the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority's (VPRA) Long Bridge improvement project, VPRA's third and fourth track projects at Franconia, Alexandria, and L'Enfant, and VRE station improvements within the corridor.

"I am honored to join VRE at such a significant moment for regional mobility. VRE plays a critical role in connecting communities and supporting economic growth across Northern and Central Virginia and the greater Washington region. I look forward to working alongside our talented staff and partners to enhance the rider experience, deliver transformative capital projects, and build VRE into the first choice for regional transportation in Northern and Central Virginia."

Choe's appointment comes after a nationwide search and selection process conducted over the course of several months, led by the VRE Chief Executive Officer Search Committee.

VRE, the nation's 13th largest commuter rail service, connects Central and Northern Virginia with the District of Columbia. VRE is recognized for its provision of safe, reliable, convenient, and comfortable transportation. Its two lines, Manassas and Fredericksburg, serve 19 stations, including two – L'Enfant and Union Station – in D.C. VRE is co-owned and co-operated by the

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission. Additional information, including fares and schedules, is available at www.vre.org.

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