



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

## PRESS RELEASE

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## Virginia Railway Express Selects Chief Operations Officer

*Chris Henry transitions to role after 16 years as Director of Rail Operations at VRE*

Alexandria, Va. – The Virginia Railway Express (VRE) today announced the selection of a Chief Operations Officer (COO). Effective March 14, 2026, Chris Henry will transition into the role from his current position as Director of Rail Operations at VRE. Henry will be the first COO for the commuter rail service since 2019, when the role was vacated upon Rich Dalton’s appointment as Chief Executive Officer (CEO), a position subsequently held by Dalton until October 2025.

As COO, Henry will serve as a key strategic partner to VRE CEO Katie Choe, with a primary charge of ensuring operational readiness to increase service in accordance with the recently adopted [System Plan 2050](#). Working collaboratively with other senior leadership, Henry will be responsible for the delivery of safe and reliable commuter service for all passengers and stakeholders, day-to-day rail operations, mechanical operations, and promoting and ensuring a positive customer experience. He will also provide oversight and guidance to the departments of Rail Operations and Mechanical Operations.

Henry first joined VRE as Director of Operations in 2010. In this previous role, he was responsible for ensuring reliable daily operations of rail service, the management of operating contracts, incident response coordination, and partnering with mechanical leadership to align mechanical priorities with operating needs. Henry also led the customer service teams and operational communications to passengers. In total, Chris Henry brings over 40 years of experience in providing multi-site operations management and customer support. He holds a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Central Florida in Orlando and Masters of Business Administration from Rollins College.

VRE is poised for a dramatic transformation over the next several years, with capital projects underway throughout the system that will improve reliability, enhance the passenger experience, and allow for significant increases in the level of service provided. The projects are coordinated in conjunction with the Commonwealth of Virginia’s multi-billion-dollar investment into rail infrastructure through the “Transforming Rail in Virginia” initiative. VRE’s COO will provide critical support to liaise across departments and agencies to plan and activate service adjustments throughout the life of these projects, and implement service increases as enabling projects are completed.

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. Additional information, including fares and schedules, is available at [www.vre.org](http://www.vre.org).

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