



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **VRE CEO Rich Dalton Announces Retirement**

***Dalton has led the commuter rail service since 2019***

Woodbridge, Va. – At the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Operations Board Meeting on Friday, June 20, VRE Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Rich Dalton announced his intent to retire from the organization, effective October 3, 2025.

Rich Dalton joined VRE in 2009 as the Chief Operating Officer (COO), although his prior work through positions with the locomotive manufacturing company Morrison-Knudsen (MK), now known as Wabtec, involved Dalton in VRE operations since the first VRE trains left the station in June 1992. During his 16-year tenure at VRE, Dalton managed numerous transformative projects for the system, including the implementation of Positive Train Control (PTC), making VRE one of the first commuter railroads to do so. Dalton also played a critical role in the implementation of both lifecycle maintenance and reliability-centered maintenance regimes, and extension of VRE service to Spotsylvania County in 2015.

Dalton stepped in as the Interim CEO in 2019 and was ultimately appointed as the permanent CEO in 2020. He led VRE through substantial evolutions, as well as periods of instability, including the COVID-19 pandemic which continues to challenge commuter rail networks across the nation to navigate diminished ridership and uncertain budgetary cycles. Under Dalton's leadership, VRE consistently maintained high rider satisfaction with no substantial impacts to operations during the pandemic.

Most recently, Dalton led VRE through its planning process for the [2050 System Plan and Vision](#). Adopted by the VRE Operations Board in June 2025, the 2050 System Plan aims to transform rail in Virginia by shifting VRE from a commuter focused rail service to a more regional operation with the eventual addition of bi-directional and weekend service, responding to shifting passenger needs and bolstering economic growth throughout Northern Virginia and surrounding jurisdictions.

Dalton's service at the VRE will conclude on October 3, 2025. A search and selection committee for a new CEO will be formed by members of the VRE Operations Board.

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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