



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

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VRE System Plan 2050 Adopted by PRTC and NVTC

Long-term vision for the commuter rail system responds to shifting regional travel needs

Alexandria, Va. – Virginia Railway Express (VRE) has officially adopted its System Plan 2050, a forward-looking strategy designed to guide the commuter rail system's evolution over the next 25 years. The plan was finalized after approval last night, Thursday, July 17, by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and previous approval on Thursday, July 10, by the Potomac Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC), the two commissions which jointly own and operate the regional commuter rail system.

Developed over a period of twenty-two months with extensive input from the public, stakeholders, and partner agencies, the [VRE System Plan 2050](#) identifies strategic priorities that support VRE's mission to provide safe, reliable, and convenient commuter rail service in Northern Virginia and beyond.

The plan lays the foundation for future service expansion, infrastructure investments, and enhanced regional connectivity to meet the region's evolving transportation needs as populations grow and travel behaviors shift.

"This plan positions VRE to better meet the shifting needs of our region's commuters and transit users," said VRE CEO Rich Dalton. "But, it's important to remember that it is a vision—not a budget. Additional funding commitments across multiple sources will be needed to fulfil the level of service defined in this plan and lay the groundwork for a more connected, mobile, and resilient region," Dalton continued.

Building on the progress of the existing 2040 plan, the System Plan 2050 and Service Vision aligns VRE with regional goals for sustainable transportation, economic growth, and environmental stewardship.

Changes to travel behaviors, recent infrastructure investments, and shifting populations in communities across Northern Virginia meant the previous System Plan completed in 2014

needed several alterations to better meet travel needs in the region.

The new System Plan 2050 accommodates non-traditional work schedules, changes in housing and employment demographics, and a major commitment by the Commonwealth of Virginia to grow and improve rail service through [Transforming Rail in Virginia](#). In this vision, VRE shifts from a commuter focused rail service to a regional operation with increased frequency and the eventual addition of bi-directional and weekend service.

Key elements of the VRE System Plan 2050 and Service Vision include:

- **Expanded service frequency and hours** to support flexible commuting and non-peak travel.
- **Expanded capacity and access** on both the Fredericksburg and Manassas lines.
- **Improved intermodal connectivity** with Metrorail, local bus systems, and regional trails.
- **Sustainable infrastructure investments** focused on resilience and environmental benefits.
- **Support for regional initiatives** such as the Transforming Rail in Virginia program and long-term collaboration with Amtrak, CSX, and Norfolk Southern.

Parallel to VRE's System Plan 2050 are existing state and federally funded projects already underway to support increased capacity and efficient rail transportation along rail lines leading into the District of Columbia and funneling through Union Station, including construction of the new Long Bridge across the Potomac River and the addition of third and fourth tracks to improve rail capacity from VRE Lorton Station to VRE L'Enfant Station. Improvements to VRE and its supporting infrastructure envisioned in the System Plan 2050 seek to leverage these investments in rail infrastructure and unlock significant opportunities for increased rail service to and from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Investments into specific components of the System Plan will be made strategically as funding opportunities from federal, state, and local sources become available. Learn more about VRE's current projects [on the VRE website](#).

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.

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