



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

PRESS RELEASE

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VRE Awarded \$25 Million U.S. BUILD Grant to Transform L'Enfant Station

New fourth track and station improvements will relieve a critical bottleneck for VRE and intercity passenger rail

Alexandria, Va. – The Virginia Railway Express (VRE) received an award of \$25 million in federal funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Grant program. [Announced on Tuesday, July 7, by U.S. Senators Tim Kaine \(D-Va.\) and Mark Warner \(D-Va.\)](#), the funding supports the L'Enfant Station and Fourth Track Project, and to date, is the most significant competitive federal grant award in VRE's history.

L'Enfant Station is VRE's busiest stop, used by roughly 45% of all VRE riders. It is also one of the most significant congestion points in the region's rail corridor, where limited track capacity constrains both VRE and intercity passenger rail operations (Amtrak). This project will fund improvements at the station and construct a fourth main track in the corridor between the L'Enfant and Virginia interlockings, easing congestion at the point in the system where it matters most for the greatest number of riders.

"L'Enfant Station is the heart of the VRE system, used by nearly half of all VRE riders," said Katie Choe, VRE Chief Executive Officer, adding that, "This \$25 million investment allows us to address one of our most critical constraints. Adding a fourth track at this location will relieve congestion, improve on-time performance, and unlock the flexibility we need to grow service for years to come, while our station improvements will make L'Enfant Station safer, more efficient, and easier for all of our passengers to navigate. The L'Enfant Station Improvements and Fourth Track Project

is the last piece of the puzzle to unlock the significant service increases beginning in 2030 as part of VRE's System Plan 2050."

"On behalf of the VRE Operations Board, I'd like to express my gratitude to our federal partners for recognizing the immense value this project provides both VRE and intercity passenger rail," said Andrea Bailey, Chair of the VRE Operations Board and Prince William County Potomac District Supervisor. "Entering this period of significant transformation, VRE is steadfast in its commitment to deliver results on a slate of capital projects that revolutionize passenger rail in the region and support long-term growth across the Commonwealth."

The BUILD grant program provides funding for road, rail, transit, and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives. Under the terms of the award, VRE and PRTC will work with the relevant USDOT operating administration in the coming weeks to complete the requirements necessary to execute a grant agreement.

VRE thanks the U.S. Department of Transportation, Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, Virginia Secretary of Transportation Nick Donohue, and our partners across the Commonwealth for their continued support of VRE and this critical infrastructure investment.

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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