



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS  
OPERATIONS BOARD

**Agenda Item 10-G**  
**Action Item**

**To: Chair Bohmke and the VRE Operations Board**

**From: Rich Dalton**

**Date: May 17, 2024**

**Re: Authorization to Provide a Letter of Support for Prince William County's USDOT FY2023 ATIP Grant Application**

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**Recommendation:**

The Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Operations Board is asked to authorize the VRE Chief Executive Officer to provide a letter of support for a U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIP) funding application for a Rail-With-Trail Study to develop an active transportation network conceptual plan adjacent to a 3-mile section of the VRE Manassas Line between downtown Manassas and Bull Run Trail in Fairfax County.

**Summary:**

On March 19, 2024, USDOT issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to solicit applications for ATIP. Prince William County, the City of Manassas, and the City of Manassas Park have identified a project to study a Rail-with-Trail adjacent to the VRE Manassas Line from Downtown Manassas to Bull Run Trail in Fairfax County. If authorized, USDOT ATIP planning grant funding will be used for the development of a conceptual plan.

**Background:**

On March 19, 2024, USDOT issued a NOFO to solicit applications for ATIP. According to the NOFO, projects seeking ATIP funding will be evaluated based on merit criteria that include safety, climate change and sustainability, equity, workforce development, job quality, and wealth creation. Applications are due on June 17, 2024.



Northern Virginia  
Transportation Commission  
2300 Wilson Blvd., Suite 230  
Arlington, VA 22201  
703-524-3322



Virginia Railway Express  
1500 King Street, Suite 202  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
703-684-1001  
VRE.org



Potomac and Rappahannock  
Transportation Commission  
14700 Potomac Mills Road  
Woodbridge, VA 22192  
703-580-6121

Prince William County, the City of Manassas, and the City of Manassas Park have identified a project to study a Rail-with-Trail adjacent to the VRE Manassas Line from Downtown Manassas to Bull Run Trail in Fairfax County. This project is considered Phase 1 of the overall project titled “VRE Manassas Line Trail: Landmark to City of Manassas” in the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)’s Long-Range Transportation Plan, known as TransAction (ID 439). This multi-jurisdictional project's first phase will span the City of Manassas, Prince William County, and the City of Manassas Park. The project aligns with multiple RAISE merit criteria including safety, climate change and sustainability, equity, workforce development, job quality, and wealth creation.

If authorized, USDOT ATIIP planning grant funding will be used for the development of a conceptual plan. The project cost requested for this work in the grant application will be \$500,000.

Federal ATIIP grant funds may be used for up to 80 percent of the project cost. The balance of the project cost must be from non-Federal sources including State funds originating from programs funded by state revenue, local funds originating from state or local revenue- sources, or private funds. A minimum 20 percent non-federal match contribution is required. The required match for this application in the amount of \$100,000 will be provided from non-federal funds by the City of Manassas and the City of Manassas Park.

Prince William County will be the lead applicant and, along with the City of Manassas and the City of Manassas Park, will develop the required application documentation. The application will be coordinated with VRE and NVTA.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with providing a letter of support and no future funding obligations for VRE are associated with this project.

**Virginia Railway Express  
Operations Board Resolution**

**10G-05-2024**

**Authorization to Provide a Letter of Support for Prince William County's  
USDOT FY2023 ATIP Grant Application**

**WHEREAS**, on March 19, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity to solicit applications for the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program; and,

**WHEREAS**, staff considers the Rail-with-Trail adjacent to the VRE Manassas Line from Downtown Manassas to Bull Run Trail in Fairfax County a strong candidate for planning grant funding under the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program; and,

**WHEREAS**, Prince William County is the lead applicant and the City of Manassas, and the City of Manassas Park are co-applicants; and,

**WHEREAS**, if authorized, the planning grant funding will be used for the development of a conceptual plan; and,

**WHEREAS**, Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program funds may be used for up to 80% of the project cost with the balance of the project coming from non-Federal sources; and,

**WHEREAS**, the project cost requested for this work in the grant application will be \$500,000 with a required non-Federal match in the amount of \$100,000;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the VRE Operations Board does hereby authorize the Chief Executive Officer to provide a letter of support for a planning grant application submitted by Prince William County for a Rail-With-Trail Study to develop an active transportation network conceptual plan along a 3-mile section of the VRE Manassas Line between downtown Manassas and Bull Run Trail in Fairfax County under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program.

Approved this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024

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Meg Boehmke  
Chair

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Ralph Smith  
Secretary