



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS  
OPERATIONS BOARD

**Agenda Item 10-H**  
**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 VPRA's CRISI Grant Application for Lorton to Route 1 Third Track and Railroad Bridges Over Route 1**

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**Recommendation:**

The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to provide a letter of support for the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority's (VPRA) application to the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) FY 2023-2024 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) discretionary infrastructure grant program for the Lorton to Route 1 Third Track and Railroad Bridges Over Route 1 Project.

**Summary:**

VPRA is applying to the FRA FY 2023-2024 CRISI grant program for funding for the Lorton to Route 1 Third Track and Railroad Bridges Over Route 1 Project and requests a letter of support from VRE.

**Background:**

Investing in rail improvement projects to support projected increases in freight, commuter and intercity passenger rail traffic along the RF&P corridor is crucial to continued economic growth and enhanced mobility. For this reason, Virginia, through the Transforming Rail in Virginia (TRV) Program, is investing heavily in rail projects to add capacity and improve the reliability of service along this corridor.

The Lorton to Route 1 Third Track and Railroad Bridges Over Route 1 Project, located in Fairfax County, VA, will replace an existing two track railroad bridge with two new two-track railroad bridges and provided 2.2 additional miles of third mainline track to the RF&P



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corridor. The project extends from milepost CFP 90.1 to CFP 92.3. The existing bridge over US Route 1 was constructed in 1943 and will be removed and replaced with two new two-track bridges. The superstructure depth on the new bridges will be reduced by approximately three feet compared to the existing bridge to improve the roadway vertical clearance and the bridges will be longer than the existing bridge to accommodate the future Route 1 roadway widening project.

The additional third mainline track constructed as part of the Project will complement other TRV Franconia area projects currently underway, including the Franconia to Lorton Third Track, other Railroad Bridges over Route 1, and the Franconia-Springfield Bypass. Completion of this project and the other Franconia Area projects will result in a continuous third mainline track between Alexandria, VA and the Occoquan River.

The Project will benefit passenger rail users on the RF&P corridor, including both Amtrak Virginia and VRE, by providing additional mainline capacity and improving the reliability of service.

The estimated cost of the Lorton to Route 1 Third Track and Railroad Bridges Over Route 1 Project is \$184 Million. VPRA is planning to request 80% of the funding from FRA and the CRISI program.

**Fiscal Impact:**

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

**Virginia Railway Express  
Operations Board Resolution**

**10H-05-2024**

**Authorization to Provide a Letter of Support for VPRA's CRISI Grant  
Application for Lorton to Route 1 Third Track and Railroad Bridges Over  
Route 1**

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority is applying for funding for the Lorton to Route 1 Third Track and Railroad Bridges Over Route 1 Project from the Federal Railroad Administration's FY 2023-2024 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements discretionary infrastructure grant program; and,

**WHEREAS**, VPRA requests a letter of support for its application from VRE; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Lorton to Route 1 Third Track and Railroad Bridges Over Route 1 Project includes the design and construction of about 2.2 miles of third track and two new two-track railroad bridges over Route 1 in Fairfax County, VA; and,

**WHEREAS**, the additional third mainline track provided by the Project will complement other planned Transforming Rail in Virginia projects in the Lorton-Franconia area and together will result in a continuous third mainline track between Alexandria, VA and the Occoquan River; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Project will benefit passenger rail users on the RF&P corridor, including both Amtrak Virginia and VRE, by providing additional mainline capacity and improving the reliability of service;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the VRE Operations Board does hereby authorize the Chief Executive Officer to provide a letter of support for VPRA's application to the Federal Railroad Administration's FY 2023-2024 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements discretionary infrastructure grant program for the Lorton to Route 1 Third Track and Railroad Bridges Over Route 1 Project.

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

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Meg Bohmke  
Chair

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Ralph Smith  
Secretary