



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS  
OPERATIONS BOARD

**Agenda Item 10-I**  
**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 Amtrak's  
Application for Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety  
Improvements Program Funding for the Crystal City High  
Level Platform Project**

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**Recommendation:**

The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to provide a letter of support for Amtrak's application to the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program for the Crystal City High Level Platform Project.

**Summary:**

Amtrak has requested VRE provide a letter of support for its application to the FFY24 CRISI Program. If awarded, the CRISI Program funds will be used for the Crystal City High Level Platform Project.

**Background:**

Amtrak, in partnership with the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) and VRE, is embarking on a project to bring intercity rail service to Crystal City, Virginia.

This Project will provide safe, equitable, sustainable transportation opportunities for a growing regional center while supporting the job creation and economic benefits being generated by the unprecedented development underway in Crystal City. Amtrak accessibility in Crystal City will address the existing and projected growth in mobility



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demands with a direct rail link via Amtrak between Arlington County and destination centers along the Northeast Corridor, such as Washington, DC, New York, NY and Boston, MA to the north and other Virginia municipalities to the south, such as Richmond, Roanoke, and Newport News. The project also creates local, regional, national and international connections. The local transportation network will be enhanced by pedestrian and bicycle access to the station and a connection to the nearby Mount Vernon Trail. The regional transportation system will be improved through a contiguous platform with VRE, allowing for a seamless connection between intercity and regional travel. Finally, a complementary project being advanced by Arlington County will, for the first time, allow for a direct connection to Ronald Regan National Airport in Washington, D.C.

Specifically, the Project will construct an 850-foot high-level platform that complies with The Americans with Disability Act (ADA). To provide ADA-accessible service to both Amtrak and VRE customers, the Crystal City location will include both high- and low-level platforms. The Amtrak platform will be constructed for high-level boarding and the VRE platform will be constructed for low-level boarding to accommodate the current VRE train fleet. The two platforms will have connecting ramps and shared access points, which VRE will construct. In support of a larger coordinated transportation development endeavor on the VPRA's RF&P Corridor intended to increase passenger rail service, alleviate train congestion, and provide increased operational flexibility and reliability for both passenger and freight rail operations, the station will have a center island platform, located between the realigned Track 3 (west track) and Track 2 (east track). Amtrak will own the high-level platform.

The scope of this CRISI Program application is construction. Design is currently underway and scheduled to be completed in FFY25. This Project demonstrates maturity of project design and strong project readiness, as construction efforts will begin in a timely manner should this grant be awarded.

**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**

**10I-05-2024**

**Authorization to Provide a Letter of Support for Amtrak's Application for  
Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program  
Funding for the Crystal City High Level Platform Project**

**WHEREAS**, Amtrak has requested VRE provide a letter of support for its application to the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program; and,

**WHEREAS**, if awarded, the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements funds will be used for the construction of the Crystal City High Level Platform Project; and,

**WHEREAS**, Amtrak accessibility in Crystal City will address the existing and projected growth in mobility demands with a direct rail link via Amtrak between Arlington County and destination centers along the Northeast Corridor to the north and other Virginia municipalities to the south; and,

**WHEREAS**, design is currently underway and scheduled to be completed in Federal Fiscal Year 2025 indicating strong project readiness, as construction efforts can begin in a timely manner should this grant be awarded;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the VRE Operations Board does hereby authorize the Chief Executive Officer to provide a letter of support for Amtrak's application to the Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program for the Crystal City High Level Platform 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