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PRESS RELEASE

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Maclsaac Appointed VRE General Counsel

Alexandria, Va. – Arlington County Attorney Stephen A. Maclsaac has been named general counsel for the two parent commissions of the Virginia Railway Express (VRE). The announcement follows a May 6 vote of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC), the co-owners and operators of VRE, to appoint Maclsaac, a lawyer with more than 40 years of public service, to the new full-time post of general counsel for VRE matters.

“As VRE prepares to seize the transformative opportunities ahead for commuter transit in the region, the complexity of passenger rail in Virginia is growing significantly,” said NVTC Chair and Arlington County Board Member Katie Cristol. “Securing professional counsel with Steve Maclsaac’s level of legal experience, subject matter expertise and dedication to VRE is a critical step for the Operations Board and commissions to deliver on the promise of service expansion for Northern Virginia’s rail riders.”

“As we recover from a pandemic that has rocked our transportation system, having someone who can provide sage legal advice to help move our commuter rail system forward is invaluable,” said PRTC Chair and Prince William County Supervisor Margaret Franklin. “Steve Maclsaac’s in-depth knowledge of VRE and the jurisdictions it serves will allow us to chart a course for the future that will better serve our communities and passengers.”

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“Arlington County has been served well by Steve Maclsaac, and we wish him the very best at VRE as he pursues building the legal frameworks needed to build our regional transportation network,” said Matt de Ferranti, chair of the Arlington County Board. “We will miss him, wish him the very best, and look forward to working with the team of attorneys he has built to continue to serve Arlington well.”

Maclsaac, who has been the Arlington County attorney since 2000, has also served as part-time general counsel to VRE since planning for the commuter rail service began in the mid-1980s. He will transition from the county’s employ over the next several weeks, joining VRE on May 31. Maclsaac previously served VRE as acting director of operations in 2000 while a search was underway for a permanent director. Prior to his work in Arlington, he spent 18 years in Prince William County’s Office of County Attorney and was named deputy county attorney in 1989.

Maclsaac earned his undergraduate degree from Tufts University and Juris Doctor from the Washington College of Law at American University. He has been active in regional transportation issues throughout his career, to include serving with other local jurisdiction attorneys as counsel to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. He also is active in the Virginia Local Government Attorneys Association.

The 13th largest commuter rail service in the U.S., VRE is a transportation partnership of NVTC and PRTC. The 4.5 million rides the railroad provides annually remove some 100 million vehicle miles from Northern Virginia’s interstates. Learn more at www.vre.org.

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