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VRE Operations Board Recommends Leadership Transition

Alexandria, Va. – The Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Operations Board announced today that CEO Doug Allen and the board have agreed to part ways. “Doug has done an excellent job leading VRE through a period of significant growth,” said Operations Board Chair Katie Cristol. “He helped professionalize the organization, added important staff, led the development of strategic and finance plans to guide the organization over the next decade, and has been a leading voice for transit in both the Commonwealth and throughout the country. We thank Doug for his service and wish him well.”

The Operations Board will be looking for a new CEO with strong leadership qualities as VRE moves to the next level, Cristol noted, pointing to the challenges of managing a growing staff and navigating an increasingly complex environment for passenger rail in the crowded Mid-Atlantic corridor.

The Operations Board has recommended that Deputy CEO/Chief Operating Officer Rich Dalton serve as acting CEO while a leadership search is underway. A seasoned, rail operations veteran, Dalton has been with the system for 10 years and served as acting CEO during VRE’s last leadership transition, in 2012.

VRE is governed jointly by the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission and the Northern Virginia Transportation Commissions; final action on Allen’s departure and Dalton’s appointment as interim CEO during a search period will be taken at the commissions’ meetings on November 7 and November 14, respectively.

The 12th largest commuter rail service in the U.S., VRE’s mission is to provide safe, cost effective, accessible, reliable, convenient, and customer responsive commuter-oriented passenger rail service. The 4.5 million rides the railroad provides annually in Northern Virginia and Washington D.C. remove some 100 million vehicle miles from the region’s interstates. Learn more at www.vre.org.

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