



October 22, 2019

The Honorable Mark Warner
U.S. Senator, Commonwealth of Virginia
703 Hart Senate Office Building

The Honorable Tim Kaine
U.S. Senator, Commonwealth of Virginia
231 Russell Senate Office Building

The Honorable Robert Wittman
Representative, 1st District, Virginia
2055 Rayburn House Office Building

The Honorable Elaine Luria
Representative, 2nd District, Virginia
534 Cannon House Office Building

The Honorable Robert Scott
Representative, 3rd District, Virginia
1201 Longworth House Office Building

The Honorable Donald McEachin
Representative, 4th District, Virginia
314 Cannon House Office Building

The Honorable Denver Riggleman
Representative, 5th District, Virginia
1022 Longworth House Office Building

The Honorable Ben Cline
Representative, 6th District, Virginia
1009 Longworth House Office Building

The Honorable Abigail Spanberger
Representative, 7th District, Virginia
1239 Longworth House Office Building

The Honorable Don Beyer
Representative, 8th District, Virginia
1119 Longworth House Office Building

The Honorable Morgan Griffith
Representative, 9th District, Virginia
2202 Rayburn House Office Building

The Honorable Jennifer Wexton
Representative, 10th District, Virginia
1217 Longworth House Office Building

The Honorable Gerald Connolly
Representative, 11th District, Virginia
2238 Rayburn House Office Building

To Members of Virginia's Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of the **Virginia Transit Association (VTA)** and **Virginians for High Speed Rail (VHSR)**, I am writing to request your support on three key items that will be coming before you over the course of the next year.

- Ensure there are the necessary resources available in the federal programs to support the expansion of the Long Bridge, as well as support the continued improvement of our passenger rail and transit networks. We need full funding in the following federal funding programs: US DOT **Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA)** and **Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD)** programs, FRA's **Consolidated Rail**

Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program, and FTA's **New Starts, Small Starts**, and **Core Capacity** programs, in addition to fully funded **Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act** (TIFIA) and **Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing** (RRIF) programs.

- Ensure the full funding of the Federal Transit Administration's **Transit Operating Formula Grants** and **Amtrak's funding request** to allow for the continued operation of the Commonwealth's public transportation and intercity passenger rail systems.
- Ensure that intercity passenger rail and public transportation are included in any 'Infrastructure Package'. Should Congress take up consideration of an infrastructure package, our organizations believe a strong transit and passenger rail component must be included.

These requests are vital for the continued enhancement of our public transportation and intercity passenger rail networks, which in return helps to grow our economy and improve our environment.

Annually, over 152 million trips are taken in Virginia on transit and passenger rail. This helps to generate over \$3 billion in economic benefits for our economy which creates/sustains over 30,000 jobs. Our rail and transit systems also remove nearly 2 billion passenger miles from our roadways, reduce our fuel consumption by over 25 million gallons, and lower our greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 320,000 metric tons.

Simply put, Virginia's passenger rail and public transportation system connects jobs, moves Virginians, and improves our environment. Thank you in advance for your support of our initiatives.

If I may be of any assistance or if you would like more information, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Regards



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Virginia Transit Association (Danny@VATransit.com)
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