



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
February 12, 2004

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THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION and THE POTOMAC AND RAPPAHANNOCK TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION SEEK NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

Arlington, VA – The Northern Virginia (NVTDC) and Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commissions (PRTC) are seeking a Chief Executive Officer for the highly successful and popular Virginia Railway Express (VRE).

VRE serves nearly 16,000 commuter rail passenger trips on 32 trains each day, with contract operations provided by Amtrak using rights-of-way leased from private railroads and rolling stock owned by the commissions. The CEO will direct a current staff of 32 (which is expected to grow) with an annual VRE operating and capital budget of \$56 million.

Since its introduction to Northern Virginia commuters more than 10 years ago, VRE has experienced tremendous growth and has added many nationally recognized customer service innovations.

PRTC Chairman John Grzejka stated that the new VRE CEO will “require strong leadership, management and communication skills as well as success in connecting with front line operating personnel, customers, elected officials and governing boards.”

NVTDC Chairman Bill Euille added, “VRE has rapidly become a vital link in Northern Virginia’s public transportation network. The VRE Chief Executive Officer will be expected to build on that success.”

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VRE Operations Board Chairman, John Jenkins, noted that applications are due by March 1st with a decision anticipated by early May after extensive interviews and background checks. He expects the announcement to attract intense interest from around the country from a field of very strong executive candidates, given the success of VRE and its strategic location in the nation's capital.

VRE's staff, headquartered in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia has been under the direction of Acting CEO, Dale Zehner since mid-2003. Prior to Mr. Zehner, VRE has had only three chief executives since the original multi-jurisdictional Master Agreement was created and signed in 1989.

A complete job description and employment application are available at www.vre.org, www.thinkoutsidethecar.org, and at www.prtctransit.org.

NVTC