



RESOLUTION #2531

- SUBJECT:** Adopt and Refer the Amended VRE FY 2024 and Recommended FY 2025 Operating and Capital Budgets to the Commissions and Participating and Contributing Jurisdictions
- WHEREAS:** The VRE Master Agreement requires the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) (“the Commissions”) be presented with a fiscal year budget for their consideration at their respective January meetings prior to the commencement of the subject fiscal year;
- WHEREAS:** The VRE chief executive officer has provided the VRE Operations Board with the recommended Fiscal Year 2025 Operating and Capital Budget within the guidelines developed in cooperation with the staff representatives of the local jurisdictions;
- WHEREAS:** The Amended Fiscal Year 2024 and Recommended Fiscal Year 2025 budgets reflect the continuing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic which began in March 2020 and has substantially reduced VRE’s ridership;
- WHEREAS:** The VRE Operations Board finds that the availability of emergency federal pandemic relief funding allows for VRE to supplement lost passenger revenues and achieve a balanced budget without requiring service reductions;
- WHEREAS:** VRE staff recommends a budget based on a service level of 32 weekday daily revenue trains and 12 daily trains on Saturdays and average daily ridership 8,500 trips and 1,000 Saturday trips, respectively;
- WHEREAS:** Planned Saturday service is contingent upon VRE reaching agreement with the host railroads and operations and maintenance contractor;
- WHEREAS:** The operating budget includes two new full-time positions to support VRE’s expanded facility maintenance programs and to ensure continued high-quality information technology infrastructure and cybersecurity;
- WHEREAS:** The Fiscal Year 2025 budget includes a 5% increase in passenger fares over Fiscal Year 2024 fares;
- WHEREAS:** The Fiscal Year 2025 budget includes additional changes to the VRE Tariff including a flat \$5.00 fare for travel entirely within Zones 1 to 3 with associated multi-ride fares; the elimination of the seven-day weekly pass; and the elimination of the youth discount ticket and the extension of free rides to all children age 18 and under;

WHEREAS: In accordance with its Public Participation Policy, VRE has held public hearings across the VRE service area and solicited public comment on the recommended Fiscal Year 2025 fare changes;

WHEREAS: In accordance with its Major Service Change and Fare/Service Equity Policy, VRE has conducted a Title VI analysis on the recommended Fiscal Year 2025 fare increase and determined that the fare increase will not have a disparate impact based on race, color or national origin, nor will it have a disproportionate burden on low-income populations;

WHEREAS: The Fiscal Year 2025 budget recommends a total jurisdictional subsidy contribution of \$18,300,780, equal to the subsidy contribution in Fiscal Year 2021; and

WHEREAS: The VRE Operations Board recommends the following action.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hereby adopts the FY 2025 VRE Operating and Capital Budget in the following amounts and authorizes this budget be forwarded to the participating and contributing jurisdictions for inclusion of their respective shares in their budgets and appropriations in accordance with the Master Agreement:

Operating Budget	\$118,425,230
Capital Budget	<u>\$ 87,285,283</u>
Total Operating and Capital	\$205,710,513

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC adopts the amended FY 2024 VRE Operating and Capital Budget in the following amounts:

Operating Budget	\$108,946,488
Capital Budget	<u>\$ 95,616,081</u>
Total Operating and Capital	\$204,562,569

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC hereby authorizes amendments to the VRE Passenger Tariff to increase base fares by 5%; to institute a flat \$5.00 fare for travel entirely within Zones 1 to 3 with associated multi-ride fares; to eliminate the seven-day weekly pass; and to eliminate the youth discount ticket and extend free rides to all children aged 18 and under.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC hereby concurs with the VRE Operations Board's recommendation that, given the availability of federal pandemic relief funding to supplement lost passenger revenues, it is in the best interests of the Commissions and the riders of VRE that the Amended FY 2024 and Recommended FY 2025 Operating Budgets not achieve a 50% recovery of operating expenses from passenger fares.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC hereby concurs with the VRE Operations Board and hereby authorizes the VRE chief executive officer, following the approval of the FY 2025 Operating and Capital Budget by the Commissions, to initiate recruitment and hiring activities for the two new VRE employee positions prior to the start of the fiscal year on July 1, 2024.

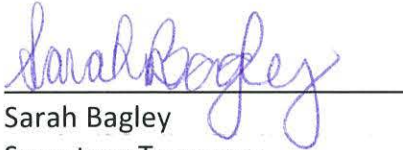
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC hereby authorizes the executive directors of both PRTC and NVTC to submit to the Transportation Planning Board of the National Capital Region and to the Federal Transit Administration or other federal agencies, applications for Transit Improvement Program and grants for FY 2024 and FY 2025, the anticipated revenues from which have already been incorporated in the VRE budgets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC hereby authorizes its executive director to submit to the Commonwealth the approved VRE budget as part of any FY 2025 state grant or other funding applications, the anticipated revenues from which have already been incorporated in the VRE budgets.

Approved this 4th day of January 2024.



Matt de Ferranti
Chair



Sarah Bagley
Secretary-Treasurer