



**RESOLUTION #2543**

**SUBJECT:** Authorize the VRE CEO to Execute an Operating Access Agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway for Track Access and Dispatching

**WHEREAS:** The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) (the "Commissions") currently have an amended Operating Access Agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway that has been extended through October 10, 2024;

**WHEREAS:** Following negotiations with Norfolk Southern Railway and the Virginia Passenger Raily Authority (VPRA), most of the current Manassas Line was purchased by the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority effective September 5, 2024;

**WHEREAS:** The new Operating Access Agreement between VRE and Norfolk Southern Railway permits VRE operations on the portions of the Manassas Line retained by Norfolk Southern Railway and provides dispatching services for VRE trains;

**WHEREAS:** A fixed operating fee has been established for both access and dispatching services and will be escalated annually by an agreed upon Association of American Railroads (AAR) index;

**WHEREAS:** Funding for the Norfolk Southern Railway fixed operating fee has been included in the VRE FY 2025 budget;

**WHEREAS:** Funding for additional fiscal years will be included in the annual budgets submitted for approval to the VRE Operations Board and Commissions; and

**WHEREAS:** The VRE Operations Board recommends the following action.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hereby authorizes the VRE Chief Executive Officer to execute an Operating Access Agreement with the Norfolk Southern Railway Company for track access and dispatching.

Approved this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt de Ferranti", written over a horizontal line.

Matt de Ferranti  
Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Bagley", written over a horizontal line.

Sarah Bagley  
Secretary-Treasurer