

VPRA Decision Brief

Authorization to Enter into Master Funding Agreement for VRE Track Access Fees July 21, 2022

Issue: This resolution would authorize the VPRA Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission under which VPRA would have the option to contribute funding toward annual track access fees in support of commuter rail service.

Facts: The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission operate the commuter passenger rail service known as “Virginia Railway Express”. To operate the Virginia Railway Express service, the Commissions pay compensation to Class I host railroads and the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) for track access, maintenance of right-of-way, dispatch, and other related services. Historically, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation has contributed funding to support up to 84% of these fees. VPRA, as the Commonwealth entity now charged with promoting, sustaining, and expanding commuter rail service in the Commonwealth now desires to enter into an agreement with the Commissions that would give VPRA the option to contribute funding to the Commissions to support up to 84% of these fees each year.

Recommendation: Authorize the VPRA Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the Commissions that permits VPRA the option to contribute funding up to 84% of the fees each year.

Action Required by VPRA: Authorize execution of the *Master Funding Agreement for VPRA Track Access Elective Contributions for VRE Track Access Fees*.

Options: Approve. Deny. Defer.