



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

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Jennifer DeBruhl
Chairperson

RESOLUTION OF THE VIRGINIA PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY BOARD

August 30, 2023

MOTION

Made By: Sharon Bulova Seconded By: Cynthia Moses-Nedd

Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Franconia-Springfield Bypass Project Application for NVT A Regional Funds in the FY2024 – 2029 Six Year Program

WHEREAS, the mission of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (“VPRA”) is to promote, sustain, and expand the availability of passenger and commuter rail service in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, VPRA is the sponsor of the Franconia-Springfield Passenger Rail Bypass Project (the “Bypass Project”), which is a Phase 1 project under the Transforming Rail in Virginia (“TRV”) initiative and specifically tied to increased Virginia Railway Express frequencies, with the initiation of weekend services in northern Virginia, and expanded Amtrak service frequencies between Washington, D.C., Richmond, and Hampton Roads; and

WHEREAS, the Bypass Project is a critical component of the TRV initiative to remove existing bottlenecks, expand passenger rail services, and improve reliability of freight and passenger rail in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Bypass Project will improve reliability by enabling passenger trains to cross from the east to the west sides of the tracks without interference from freight trains; and

WHEREAS, the Bypass Project received environmental clearance from the Federal Highway Administration under a Categorical Exclusion on January 13, 2020, which was subsequently adopted by the Federal Railroad Administration on April 19, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Bypass Project is eligible to receive Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (“NVT A”) regional funding as a project associated with TransAction Primary ID 93 (Fredericksburg Line Capacity Improvements), and has previously been awarded NVT A regional funding (the “Previous NVT A Bypass Award”) under an application submitted by the Department of Rail and Public Transportation; and

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2023, VPRA submitted to NVTA an application for up to \$50,000,000 of NVTA regional funding in support of the construction of the Bypass Project (the “**2023 NVTA Bypass Application**”); and

WHEREAS, NVTA requires a grant applicant’s governing body to endorse applications for NVTA regional funding as a condition of application eligibility and the Board now desires to endorse VPRA’s 2023 NVTA Bypass Application.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby:

- (i) endorses VPRA’s 2023 NVTA Bypass Application, seeking NVTA regional funding of up to \$50,000,000 in support of the construction of the Bypass Project, which up to \$50,000,000 is in addition to and not reduced by the Previous NVTA Bypass Award, and
- (ii) authorizes the Executive Director of VPRA, or his designee, to execute any documents necessary or useful to secure NVTA grant funding resulting from the 2023 NVTA Bypass Application.

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