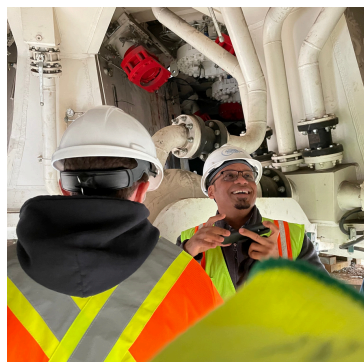
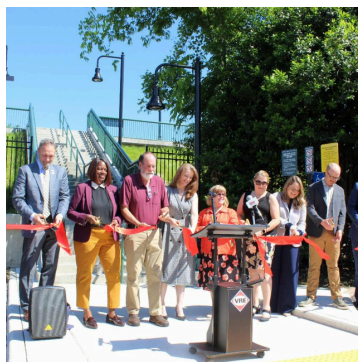




ANNUAL REPORT

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24



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WHO WE ARE

The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) manages all administrative and fiduciary responsibilities for the Commonwealth's state-supported Amtrak Virginia passenger rail service, including the current eight daily roundtrips originating in Roanoke, Norfolk, Newport News, and Richmond. VPRA also provides funding to Virginia Railway Express (VRE).

WHERE TO FIND US

Contact us

📞 804-303-8700

✉️ contactus@vpri.virginia.gov

Connect with us

🌐 vapassengerrailauthority.org



OUR MISSION

To promote, sustain, and expand the availability of passenger and commuter rail service in the Commonwealth.

OUR VISION

To deliver passenger rail service as an integrated, affordable, and convenient travel option that benefits the Commonwealth.

OUR VALUES



Foster Leadership
and Public Service



Demonstrate
Financial Stewardship



Champion Equity
and Inclusion



Ensure Safety
and Reliability



Advance Environmental
Sustainability



Promote Innovation
and Excellence

FY2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Honorable Sharon Bulova
Sandra Bushue
Victor Cardwell
John S. Delandro, III
Patricia Doersch
The Honorable Thelma Drake

Rod Hall
Cynthia Moses-Nedd
Charles W. Payne
Beth Rhinehart
James Spore
The Honorable John C. Watkins
Rich Dalton
Bruno Maestri

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CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

DJ Stadtler
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Steve Pittard
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Joan Verbonitz
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Michael Westermann
GENERAL COUNSEL

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND INTERIM CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This year the team at VPRA furthered our mission to promote, sustain, and expand the availability of passenger and commuter rail service in the Commonwealth. A number of successes have pushed our Transforming Rail in Virginia (TRV) initiative to the next level, and our team continues to focus on providing convenient passenger rail service for Virginians.

- In December, we announced that we had been awarded a \$729 million grant by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) towards the completion of Long Bridge and all Phase II projects of TRV, completing their funding package.
- We also selected and signed contracts with our construction partners for the Long Bridge-North Package and the Franconia-Springfield Bypass project, moving both projects into the next phase of development.
- We also saw record ridership growth on board our state-supported Amtrak Virginia service with more than 1.32 million passengers traveling during calendar year 2023. This was the highest ridership recorded since state-supported service began in 2009, and the total – 1,325,937 – beat calendar year 2022 ridership by 29.8%.
- In addition, three of Amtrak's top five stations in the Southeast in 2023 were in Virginia -- Staples Mill Station in Richmond, Alexandria, and Norfolk.

Virginia's work to expand the availability of passenger rail within the state is a national model for those looking for a new alternative to congested highways and interstates. No other state is bringing more resources to the table to partner with Amtrak to add infrastructure and increase the number of trains available to its citizens.

Since our inception in 2020, each year we have worked diligently to meet and even exceed our goals. As we celebrate last year's successes, we look forward to meeting and even beating next year's goals as we move closer to making rail a viable part of Virginia's transportation mix.

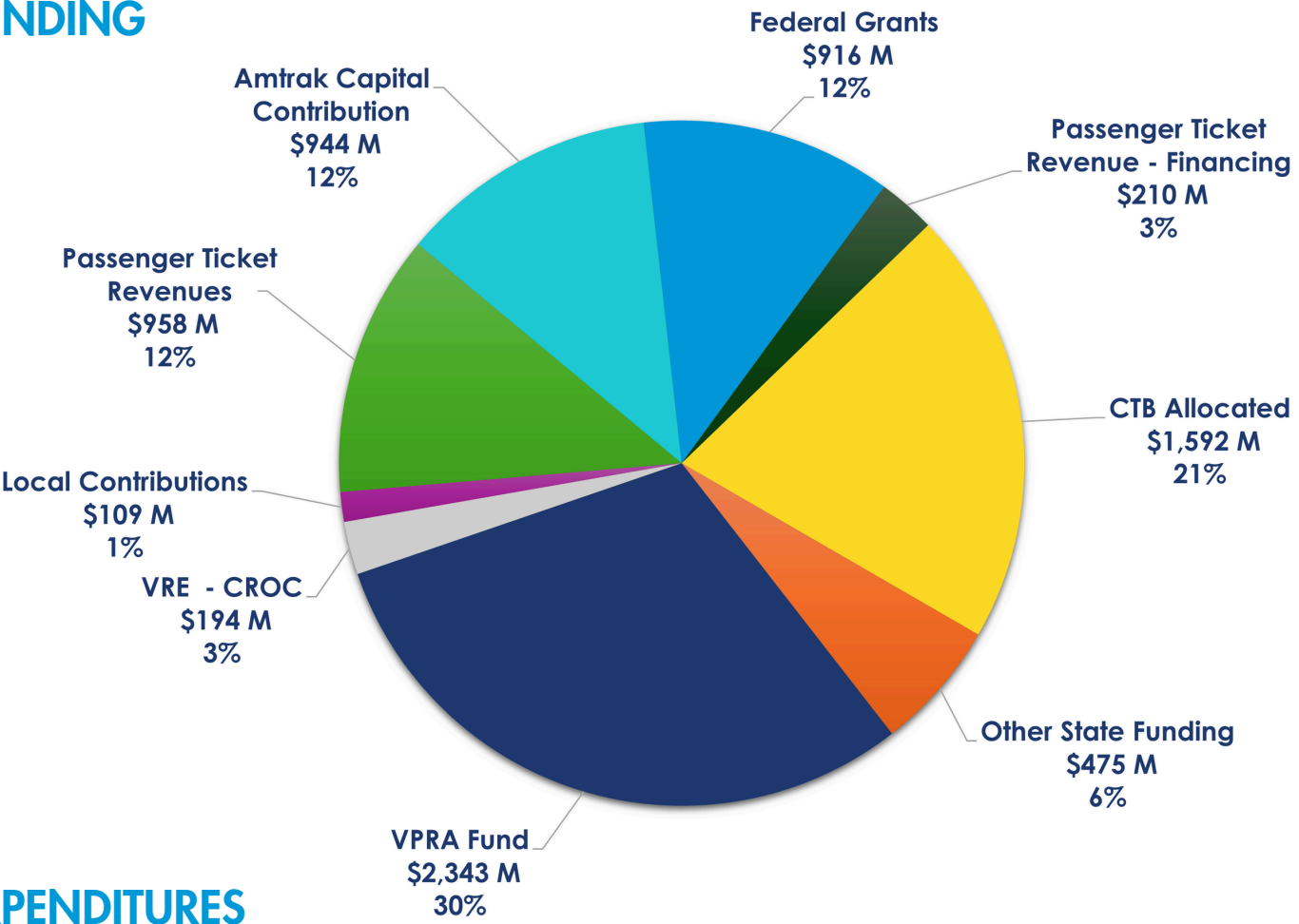
**DJ STADTLER,
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**



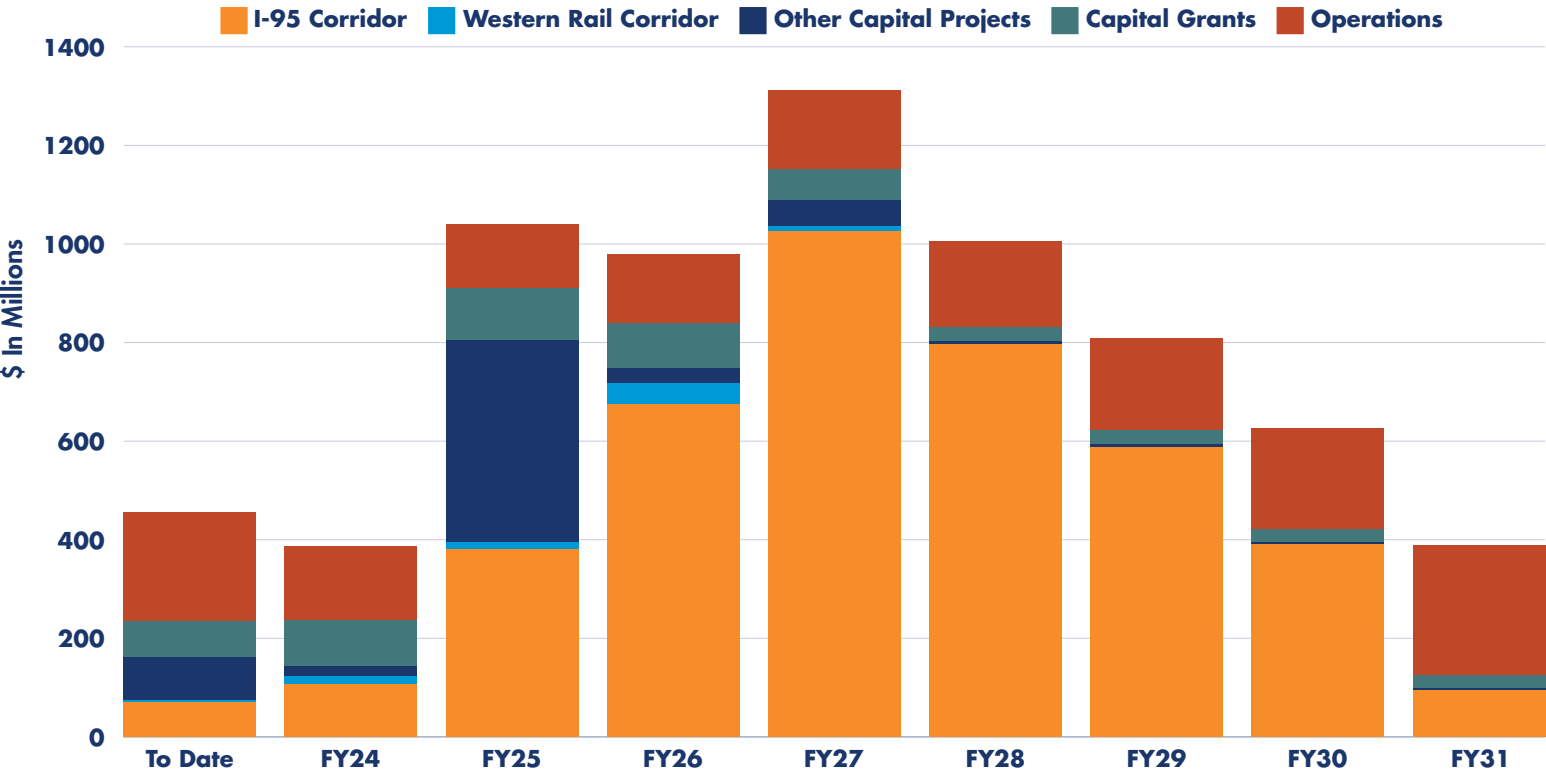
**ZACH TROGDON,
INTERIM CHAIR**

FY2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FUNDING



EXPENDITURES



Project Progress

In September of 2023, VPRA was awarded a \$100 million grant by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) in support of its Franconia-Springfield Bypass project.

As part of the Federal Railroad Administration's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grants program, the \$100 million grant will advance final design and construction of the Bypass project.



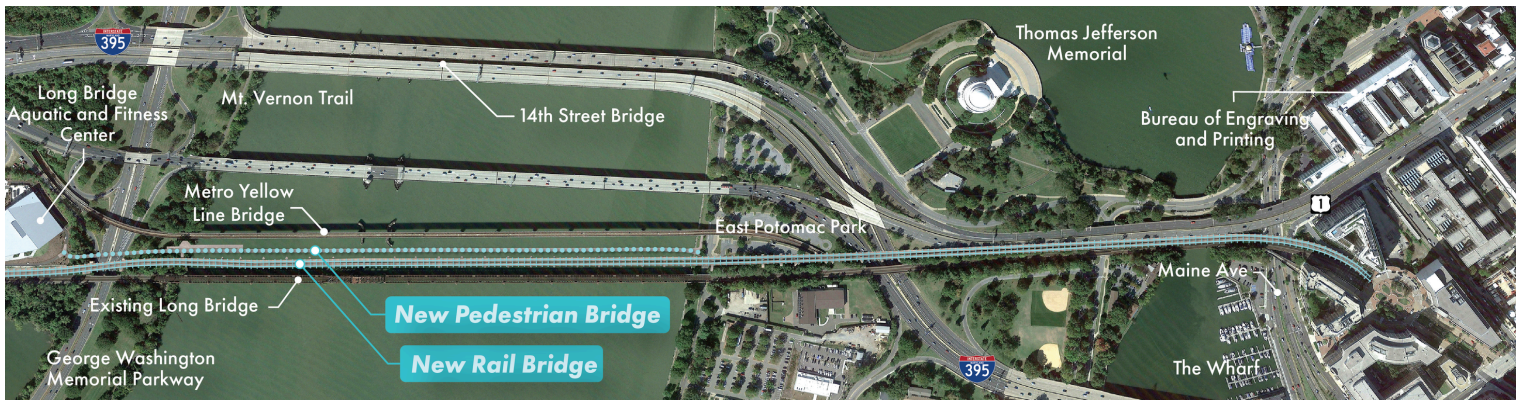
Through the FRA's Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Program (FSP-National), last December VPRA was awarded a \$729 million grant that will aid in completing the final design and construction of Long Bridge and all Phase 2 projects of the Transforming Rail in Virginia (TRV) initiative.

In Northern Virginia, the initiative will separate passenger and freight rail operations from L'Enfant Plaza in Washington, DC to Spotsylvania County just south of Fredericksburg. Separating these two distinct services will improve on-time performance for both.

PROJECT MILESTONES

LONG BRIDGE PROJECT **Status: Final Design and Construction**

Construction activities, including site preparation, began in late 2024, with large-scale construction beginning in 2025. The project is scheduled for completion in 2030. The new bridge will be constructed adjacent to the existing bridge, a 119-year-old river crossing that currently operates at 98% capacity during peak periods – and will relieve one of the largest rail traffic bottlenecks on the East Coast.



NEW RIVER VALLEY PROJECT **Status: Final Design**



In the Summer of 2024, VPRA signed a new agreement with Norfolk Southern that will extend state-supported service to the New River Valley sooner. Under the new deal, VPRA purchased Norfolk Southern's Manassas Line and gained access to the main line or N-Line.

With access to the N-Line, Virginians in the New River Valley will have state-supported Amtrak Virginia service much sooner than previously planned and at a lower cost. By expanding service from Roanoke to Christiansburg on the N-Line, VPRA will use existing infrastructure with a focus on developing a station stop at the Cambria site which previously served the community from 1904 to 1979.

OUR IMPACT: BY THE NUMBERS

RAIL SAFETY OUTREACH

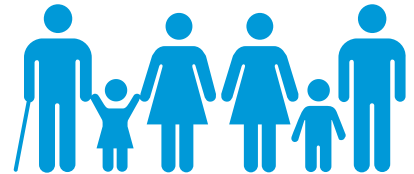


200

In partnership with Operation Lifesaver, during Rail Safety Month VPRA connected with more than 200 families at our train exhibit at the Children's Museum of Richmond to discuss safety around tracks and trains.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

1765



VPRA's work requires constant and varied engagement from stakeholders and the community. In FY24, VPRA held 38 engagement activities including pop-ups at VRE and Amtrak stations and public meetings, with more than 1,765 community members.

TOP 5 STATIONS

The top five stations in the Southeast in 2023 were the Staples Mill Road Station in Richmond, Va., Alexandria, Va., Charlotte, N.C., Norfolk, Va., and Raleigh, N.C.



1.32 MILLION

More than 1.32 million passengers traveled on VPRA's state-supported Amtrak Virginia service during calendar year 2023.

29.8%

CY23 was the highest ridership recorded since state-supported service began in 2009, and the total – 1,325,937 – beat calendar year 2022 ridership by 29.8%.



THE TRACK AHEAD

In 2023, the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRa) launched its inaugural Strategic Plan, a comprehensive blueprint to enhance and expand passenger rail services in the Commonwealth. This forward-thinking plan outlined five strategic goals, each supported by specific objectives, actions, and desired outcomes.

DELIVER PROJECTS EFFECTIVELY TO EXPAND RAIL CAPACITY

Building infrastructure can be complex and challenging, but with a commitment to efficiency, accountability, and innovation, VPRa will advance capital projects on time, within scope, and on budget.

OPTIMIZE SERVICE AND THE PASSENGER EXPERIENCE

Delivering frequent, reliable, and accessible passenger and commuter rail service is integral to our mission.

PROMOTE SAFETY

We will promote safe behaviors at every opportunity, whether in the office, on a construction site, on a train, or near the railroad.

FOSTER A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE AND INTEGRITY

The VPRa team is an incredibly talented, focused group of professionals respected within their industries, driven to deliver the best results effectively and efficiently.

CULTIVATE STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

VPRa must expand and strengthen these shared commitments and enhance information sharing and collaboration with our external stakeholders.