



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

### *Virginia Passenger Rail Authority*

DJ Stadtler  
Executive Director

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September 11, 2025

Mark L. Bellamy, Jr.  
County Administrator  
York County, Virginia  
224 Ballard Street  
Yorktown, VA 23690-0532  
Email: [heather.schott@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:heather.schott@yorkcounty.gov)

Dear Mr. Bellamy

Thank you for your interest in VPRA's mission to enhance and expand passenger rail service, and specifically Long Bridge Project. We appreciate you taking the time to write.

The Long Bridge Project is one of the largest railroad construction projects undertaken in the Commonwealth in years. Its completion is critical to our ability to add more passenger rail frequencies throughout the Commonwealth and will mean generational changes in passenger rail for Virginians.

We are working closely with our partners at Amtrak, Virginia Railway Express (VRE), CSX, and Norfolk Southern to ensure as much rail service as possible – including both passenger rail as well as freight rail -- is maintained while "work windows" are created so that Long Bridge construction can proceed safely and efficiently. A number of critical factors are in play as we finalize our service plans. These include:

- Preserving as much of the current service - passenger and freight – as possible, with the least impactful changes in schedule. We are prioritizing ridership, including one-seat rides from Virginia through to Amtrak's Northeast Corridor with optimal arrival and/or departure times between major city pairs across the commonwealth, including Norfolk, Newport News, and Washington, DC.
- Creating the longest possible work window without interruptions (5 hours) for construction crews to make meaningful progress each day. Crews will be working not only on Long Bridge, but also on our [Alexandria Fourth Track](#) project and [VRE's L'Enfant project](#) as they both are critical connections to the Long Bridge Project.

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- Scheduling the daily work window around Washington, DC's noise and vibration restriction which prohibits crews from working between 7pm and 7am, a restriction that does not exist in Virginia.
- Looking beyond Virginia to determine the impact of other large infrastructure projects currently underway along the east coast, most notably large-scale [Amtrak Northeast Corridor projects](#) outside Baltimore (B&P Tunnel Replacement Program) and New York City (Portal North Bridge, Hudson Tunnel Project, East River Tunnel Rehabilitation). Schedule changes for these projects impact service to and from Virginia.

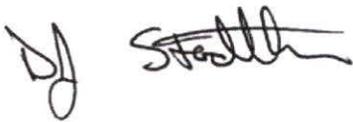
Together the team is looking at schedules for not just our Amtrak Virginia service, but also VRE's Fredericksburg Line and Manassas Line services, Amtrak's Northeast Regional and long-distance services as well as CSX's and Norfolk Southern's freight services which transport necessary goods through the Commonwealth every day. After considering numerous scenarios, the working plan is to temporarily offer four daily roundtrip trains and two daily express buses to and from Hampton Roads. This plan ensures that some train service is available on all of our current Amtrak Virginia corridors, complemented by bus service for those who are interested in that alternative. While departure and arrival times will change, the option to travel by train will still be available, and with express bus service from Hampton Roads to DC, this plan includes six combined rail and bus roundtrips vs. the current five rail roundtrips.

Please know that we do not take these decisions lightly and are evaluating every possible scenario which is difficult because we know that with construction comes disruption, and these planned changes will impact some of our passengers. Our goal is to offer as much service as possible while working to upgrade our infrastructure with the final result being more service throughout the Commonwealth.

We will be communicating the details of our plan as soon as it is finalized through the local media as well as our social media handles, email blasts, our website, and station pop-ups, to name a few. Currently, we are reaching out to local leaders and responding to emails from the public providing details on the process we are working through to make these decisions.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. We look forward to working with you to expand rail service in the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DJ Stadtler". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

DJ Stadtler, Executive Director  
Virginia Passenger Rail Authority