Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

FY 2015-16 PROJECT DESCRIPTION FORM (8X)

Basic Project Information

Submitting Agency: Virginia Railway Express

Project Title: VRE Crystal City Station Expansion (8X)

Project Type *(check one)*:
Roadway ( ) Transit (X)

VA State Route Number (if applicable) and NVTA Corridor Number (1-8): I-95/I-395/US 1, Corridor 8

1. **Project Description:** This project includes planning and engineering investigations to evaluate the short- and long-term expansion potential of the VRE Crystal City station to alleviate existing crowding and accommodate future service expansion and bi-directional service.

2. **Requested NVTA Funds:** $400,000

3. **Phase(s) of Project Covered by Requested NVTA Funds:**
   This project includes planning and engineering studies.

4. **Total Cost to Complete Project:** $2,000,000 (short-term improvements)

5. **Project Milestone -Study Phase:** Start of Study - October 2015

6. **Project Milestone -Preliminary Engineering (30% Design):** Start of PE - N/A

7. **Project Milestones -Final Design:** Start of Final Design - N/A

8. **Project Milestones -Right-of-Way:** ROW acquisitions completed - N/A

9. **Project Milestone – Construction:** Start of Construction - N/A

10. **Project Milestone – Mass Transit Vehicle Acquisition:** Start of Construction N/A

11. **Is Project in Transaction 2040:**
    Yes (X) No ( )

12. **Project in 2010 CLRP:** Yes

13. **Project Leverages other Funding:** (please state amount)
    - Local ( )
    - State ( )
    - Federal ( )
    - Other:

Stated Benefits

- **What Regional benefit(s) does this project offer?**

  The project will evaluate modifications to the VRE station to enable it to meet long-term needs to service longer trains and higher passenger loads. It will also identify short-term improvements to alleviate existing crowding at the station and encourage the full utilization of the existing platform. The expanded station and platform capacity increases VRE operational flexibility and supports the maintenance of on-time performance (OTP). Maintaining high levels of OTP and service predictability are crucial to sustain and grow commuter rail ridership and retain VRE as a viable regional travel option.

- **How does the project reduce congestion?**

  VRE helps reduce regional congestion by providing an alternative commuting mode to the single occupancy vehicle. Two VRE trains in an hour carry approximately 2,000 persons or the equivalent capacity as one lane of traffic on I-95/I-395. By supporting expansion of VRE capacity in the region, the project expands the capacity of the I-95/I-395/US 1 travel corridors and contributes to the reduction of regional congestion.

- **How does project increase capacity? (Mass Transit Projects only)**

  The project explores opportunities to expand the capacity of the Crystal City station to accommodate greater passenger loads, longer trains and planned bi-directional VRE service. Expanded peak period commuter service and the establishment of bi-directional service are included in the VRE System Plan. Improvement of the Crystal City station will also enhance operational flexibility for VRE and freight trains, which supports expanded operational capacity within the VRE system and overall regional CSX railroad corridor.

- **How does project improve auto and pedestrian safety?**

  Commuter Rail is one of the safest modes of travel. Automobile and pedestrian safety is improved in the region by directly moving commuters and their vehicles from freeway system (one of the most dangerous) and other regional roads to commuter rail (one of the safest ways to commute).

- **List internet links below to any additional information in support of this project:**


V52
V52
RAILWAY
VIRGINIA
EXPRESS