



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS
OPERATIONS BOARD

Agenda Item 9-E
Action Item

To: Chair Bohmke and the VRE Operations Board

From: Rich Dalton

Date: February 16, 2024

Re: Authorization to Provide a Letter of Support for the City of Manassas Park's FFY25 Congressionally Directed Spending Request for Park Central Complete Streets Improvements

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to provide a letter of support for the City of Manassas Park's request to Virginia's U.S. Senate Delegation for FFY25 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funds for the Park Central Complete Streets Improvements Project.

Summary:

The City of Manassas Park has requested VRE provide a letter of support for its request to U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine for FFY25 CDS funds. If awarded, the CDS funds will be used to implement a series of safety initiatives in the Park Central area within the City of Manassas Park to improve roadway safety for pedestrians and bicyclists including improvements in the vicinity of the VRE Manassas Park Station.

Background:

Park Central is "Virginia's Newest Downtown" and serves as Manassas Park's hub for public services in a redeveloped, transit-oriented, mixed-use Town Center. Manassas Park is committed to continuing the substantial progress it has already realized in Park Central but is in need of additional improvements to ensure pedestrian safety and access to transit, economic development, and public services.



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Transportation Commission
14700 Potomac Mills Road
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The City of Manassas Park has requested VRE provide a letter of support for its request to U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine for FFY25 CDS funds for its Park Central improvements project. Manassas Park is fully committed to the completion of the project and currently has agreements in place with VRE for the construction of a four-level parking garage including funding from the city, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation. A public-private partnership exists for the development of the remainder of the mixed-use site to ensure the destination economic development projects come to fruition to accompany the residential development in a walkable environment.

This project will reconnect three sidewalk gaps in the immediate Park Central downtown that will enhance pedestrian access to the benefits the downtown has to offer including City Hall, VRE Manassas Park Station, the City Library, dining establishments, and community events on the plaza. The request also includes the provision of ADA ramp upgrades, accessible pedestrian signals/detectors, and signage and marking upgrades to ensure proper access to all those with disabilities in an equitable manner. Finally, additional lighting is included in the request to enhance pedestrian safety and ensure the proper illumination of the Park Central area.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with providing a letter of support and no future funding obligations for VRE associated with this project.

**Virginia Railway Express
Operations Board Resolution**

9E-02-2024

**Authorization to Provide a Letter of Support for the City of Manassas Park's
FFY25 Congressionally Directed Spending Request for Park Central Complete
Streets Improvements**

WHEREAS, the City of Manassas Park is applying to the U.S. Senate Delegation for Congressionally Directed Spending for complete streets improvements in the Park Central neighborhood in the City of Manassas Park; and,

WHEREAS, if awarded, these funds will be used to implement sidewalk and lighting improvements to enhance walkability and improve overall safety for pedestrians and bicyclists including improvements in the vicinity of the VRE Manassas Park Station; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Manassas Park is committed to the completion of the Park Central project and currently has agreements in place with VRE for the construction of a four-level parking garage including funding from the City, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, as well as a public-private partnership for the development of the remainder of the mixed-use site; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Manassas Park has requested VRE provide a letter of support for its request for Congressionally Directed Spending;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board does hereby authorize the Chief Executive Officer to provide a letter of support for the City of Manassas Park's request to the U.S. Senate Delegation for FFY25 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funds for the Park Central Complete Streets Improvements Project.

Approved this 16th day of February 2024



Ralph Smith
Secretary



Meg Bohmke
Chair