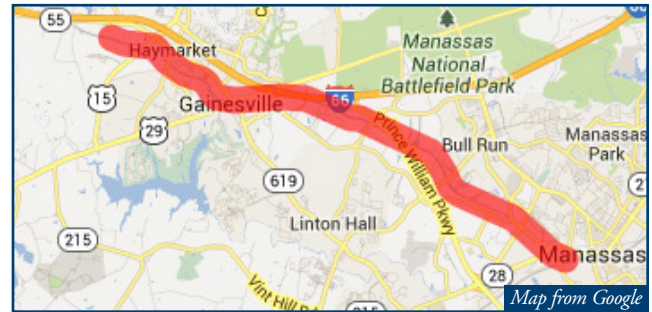




# Project Description Form — 6G

## Basic Project Information

1. **Submitting Agency:**  
Virginia Railway Express (VRE)
2. **Project Title:** VRE Gainesville-Haymarket Extension Project Development
3. **Project Type:**  
 Roadway    Multimodal    Transit
4. **Project Description/Scope:** This project involves a corridor study and preliminary project development for a potential 11 mile VRE extension from Manassas to the Gainesville-Haymarket area of Prince William County. An extension along the Norfolk Southern (NS) B Line will be studied; other VRE options that address the need for the service may be investigated as well. The project will also identify VRE existing core system capacity improvements necessary to support the existing service and the extension.
5. **Route (if applicable)/Corridor:**  
I-66 / U.S. 29 / U.S. 50 / Corridor 6
6. **Total Project Cost:** \$1,500,000
7. **Total Funds Required:** \$1,500,000
8. **Phase/s of Project Covered by Funding:** Planning, project development and conceptual design.



9. **Project Milestones (by phase, include all phases):**  
  - Project development: FY 2014
10. **In TransAction 2040 plan?**  
 Yes    No
11. **In CLRP, TIP or Air Quality Neutral?**  
Yes. CLRP, ID # 2420
12. **Leverages Sources:**  
 Local    State    Federal  
 Other (*please explain*)  
 The project advances the investigation and identification of enhancements to the VRE system as an initial step to enable the project/ VRE to potentially leverage future state (Rail Enhancement Fund or Mass Transit) and federal (Fixed Guideway Capital Investment) grant programs. The NVTA funding will provide the local match to a state Rail Enhancement Fund grant if VRE's request for funding is approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

**PROJECT ANALYSIS**

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**Tier I**  Pass    Fail     
 **Tier III Congestion Reduction Relative to Cost:**  
**Tier II** 6 out of 8 points     
 **Plan**  CLRP    TA2040 only     
 **Rating**  High    Med    Low

# Stated Benefits

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- 1. What regional benefit/s does this project offer?** This project will expand VRE commuter rail service to the Gainesville-Haymarket corridor in western Prince William County and expand the transit options to an area that currently has limited transit choices. The corridor encompasses the Gainesville Regional Activity Center and is projected to experience some of the highest employment and population growth in the Washington, DC region.

The project will also determine the VRE core capacity improvements necessary to address long-range growth in travel demand. Expanded VRE service in the Gainesville-Haymarket corridor is projected to attract up to 1,500+ new riders to the VRE system and remove an equivalent number of vehicles from the highway network each AM and PM, reducing regional congestion and benefiting regional safety and air quality. By expanding VRE Manassas Line capacity and frequency, the extension benefits travelers in Prince William County (and the Town of Haymarket), the City of Manassas, Fairfax County, and jurisdictions beyond the NVRTA boundaries.

- 2. How does the project reduce congestion?** The Gainesville-Haymarket extension is estimated to attract up to 3,000+ new trips/day within the extension corridor plus additional trips within the existing VRE core network as a result of the expanded Manassas Line service frequency the extension enables. VRE helps reduce regional congestion by providing an alternative commuting mode to the single occupancy vehicle. Two VRE trains in an hour carry the equivalent capacity as one lane of traffic on I-66. By supporting expansion of VRE core capacity in the corridor and region, the project expands the capacity of the I-66 travel corridor and contributes to the reduction of regional congestion.

- 3. How does the project increase capacity?** (*Mass transit projects only*) Extending VRE service to the Gainesville-Haymarket corridor expands VRE capacity in the corridor and core network and provides additional transit options to an underserved and growing area of northern Virginia. The extension will expand the operational capacity of the Norfolk-Southern B Line for VRE and freight trains as well as eliminate potential bottlenecks on the NS main line at Manassas where it intersects the B Line, and potentially elsewhere in the VRE core network. This study will consider potential ridership from both the Broad Run branch and a potential future Gainesville-Haymarket branch. The VRE operating plan for the proposed VRE Gainesville-Haymarket extension has not yet been determined. Conceptual operating plans will be developed as the extension project advances through the planning and design process. Any changes to existing VRE schedules would be the subject of public hearings prior to the change being implemented.

- 4. How does the 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).

- 5. List internet address/link to any additional information or documentation in support of project benefits.** (*Optional*)

The project is also included in the Prince William County Comprehensive Plan, Transportation Element found at:

<http://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/planning/Pages/Comprehensive-Planning.aspx>

- 6. Project Picture/Illustratives** N/A