



FY 2015-16 PROJECT DESCRIPTION FORM (8W)

Basic Project Information

Submitting Agency: Virginia Railway Express

Project Title: VRE Slaters Lane Crossover (8W)

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 the design and construction of a rail crossover and related railroad signal equipment in the vicinity of Slaters Lane, north of the VRE Alexandria station, and is associated with the Alexandria station pedestrian tunnel project. The crossover enables trains to move from one track to another. Currently, a VRE train heading northbound from the Alexandria station is limited to the two westernmost tracks because there is no connection with the easternmost track. The Slaters Lane crossover will enable trains to move between all three tracks and makes the east side (Metro side) platform at the VRE Alexandria station usable from both sides.
2. **Requested NVTA Funds:** \$7,000,000
3. **Phase(s) of Project Covered by Requested NVTA Funds:**
This project includes design and construction.
4. **Total Cost to Complete Project:** \$7,000,000
5. **Project Milestone -Study Phase:** Start of Study -- N/A
6. **Project Milestone -Preliminary Engineering (30% Design):** Start of PE - N/A
7. **Project Milestones -Final Design:** Start of Final Design - November 2015
8. **Project Milestones -Right-of-Way:** ROW acquisitions completed -- N/A
9. **Project Milestone – Construction:** Start of Construction -- May 2016
10. **Project Milestone – Mass Transit Vehicle Acquisition:** N/A
11. **Is Project in Transaction 2040:**
Yes (X) No ()



12. Project in 2010 CLRP: N/A

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 expand VRE, and Amtrak, operational flexibility and the maintenance of on-time performance (OTP). Maintaining high levels of OTP and service predictability are crucial to sustain and grow commuter/passenger rail ridership and retain VRE and Amtrak as viable regional travel options. As the railroad serves both the VRE Fredericksburg and Manassas Lines as well as Amtrak trains it will benefit riders from all jurisdictions, including jurisdictions beyond the NVTA boundaries. This project also supports the full utilization of the east side (Metro side) platform at the Alexandria station, which will be modified to service trains from both sides in conjunction with the construction of a pedestrian tunnel from the VRE station to the King St. Metro Station, and was partially funded by NVTA.

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

VRE (and Amtrak) 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 each on I-95/I-395/ US 1 and I-66. By supporting expansion of VRE capacity in the region, the project expands the capacity of the I-95/I-395/US 1 and I-66 travel corridor and contributes to the reduction of regional congestion.

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

The project expands operational capacity for VRE, Amtrak and freight trains within the VRE system and overall regional CSX rail corridor by enabling greater flexibility in train movements to maneuver around one another and utilize all three tracks within the railroad corridor; currently VRE trains are only able to use two of the three tracks in the 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:**