

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mark L. Bellamy, Jr.



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September 4, 2025

Mr. DJ Stadtler
Virginia Passenger Rail Authority
919 East Main Street, Suite 2400
Richmond, VA 23219
Email: contactus@vpra.virginia.gov

Dear Mr. Stadtler:

On behalf of York County, I am writing to express concern regarding plans to replace two Hampton Roads passenger rail trains with buses during the construction of the Long Bridge project in Northern Virginia. We understand the importance of the Long Bridge project to enhance passenger rail service for the Commonwealth of Virginia and support this important project. However, we ask that the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) consider all alternatives to the proposed plan to replace one passenger rail train to Newport News and another passenger rail train to Norfolk with bus service.

We express our concerns based on the following information:

- The Hampton Roads regional community has embraced passenger rail service as an important transportation choice, as evidenced by over 937,000 riders who accessed trains at the Norfolk/Newport News stations in Fiscal Year 2025. Hampton Roads passenger rail riders represented 65% of all State-supported Amtrak riders in Virginia in Fiscal Year 2025. We are concerned about any revisions that would impact the positive growth in passenger rail riders we have experienced in Hampton Roads.
- Replacing a successful passenger rail train with a bus will result in a reduction of available seats for our residents and visitors.
- As evidenced by ridership numbers in Hampton Roads, our region's residents enjoy the train riding experience. We are concerned that the same experience will not be possible via bus service.
- The Long Bridge project will be under construction until 2030, and we are concerned that the replacement of two passenger rail trains with bus service for a 5-year period could have long-term impacts on passenger rail ridership numbers.

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A Hampton Roads Community

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For these reasons, we request that VPRA consider all options to ensure that the current level of passenger rail service to Hampton Roads is maintained and enhanced.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "M Bellamy, Jr.", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mark L. Bellamy, Jr.
County Administrator

Copy to: York County Board of Supervisors
Mr. Robert A. Crum, Jr., Executive Director, HRPDC