



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS
OPERATIONS BOARD

245519

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
April 20, 2018
Part of
Public Record

April 20, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Docket No. FD 36171,
*Commuter Rail Division of the Regional Transportation Authority and
Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation – Petition for
Declaratory Order – Status of Chicago Union Station*

Dear Ms. Brown:

The Virginia Railway Express, a commuter rail service owned and operated by the Northern Virginia and Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commissions (together, the “VRE”) serving the Virginia suburbs of Washington D.C., has reviewed the recent petition for declaratory order filed by Metra in the above-referenced proceeding. VRE hereby notifies the Surface Transportation Board (the “Board”) that it supports Metra’s request for a Board-ordered procedural schedule, including the responsive filing time frames that Metra seeks. VRE is very interested in this proceeding, agrees that the case presents issues extending beyond the Chicago area, and supports Board facilitation of public comments under the circumstances. Adoption of Metra’s proposed procedural schedule would ensure that the public interest ramifications of Board action are fully assessed.

VRE regards the issues raised in Metra’s petition as potentially consequential for commuter rail operations into and out of Washington Union Station in the District of Columbia, including VRE’s operations. The present case could bear upon whether VRE, like Metra, enjoys certain Board-administered protections of commuter rail service, and could resolve whether Amtrak has discretion unilaterally to deprive entities such as VRE of such protections without the involvement or authorization of this Board – issues upon



Northern Virginia
Transportation Commission
2300 Wilson Blvd. #620
Arlington, VA 22201
703.524.3322



Virginia Railway Express
1500 King Street, Suite 202
Alexandria, VA 22314
703.684.1001
VRE.org

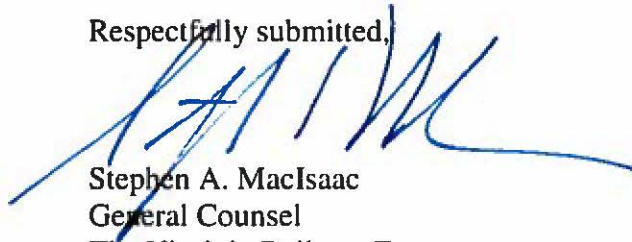


Potomac and Rappahannock
Transportation Commission
14700 Potomac Mills Road
Woodbridge, VA 22192
703.580.6121

which VRE intends to share its views at the appropriate juncture. VRE also believes that its concerns are shared by the commuting public in general, who also should be afforded a fair opportunity to comment.

Accordingly, VRE urges the Board to institute a proceeding and, in so doing, adopt the procedural schedule Metra has requested in its petition filing.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen A. MacIsaac
General Counsel
The Virginia Railway Express
1500 King St. Suite 202
Alexandria, VA 22314

CC: All parties of record
Eleanor D. Acheson (Amtrak)