

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4606

May 23, 2024

The Honorable Amit Bose
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20003-3660

Dear Administrator Bose,

I write today in support of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority's (VPRA) grant proposal to the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program to assist with the Amtrak Richmond Staples Mill Road Station ADA Improvements Project.

VPRA is seeking CRISI funds as part of planning effort that will design and construct needed operational and structural improvements to the Staples Mill Station in Henrico County, just outside Richmond, Virginia. I understand that Staples Mill is the busiest station in the Southeast, serving more than 424,617 intercity passenger rail customers in calendar year 2023 alone on 18 daily trains. It serves as a crucial transportation hub, offering an alternative to congested highways like I-95 and I-64. Despite significant growth, the station's infrastructure has remained largely unchanged since its construction in 1975.

This project will complete critical Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements at this station as the platforms are not currently ADA compliant. Additional investment in this station is required to accommodate increased service and ridership, improve accessibility to the local and regional transportation network, and provide capacity to support future rail service. Moreover, as the highest utilized rail station in the Southeastern United States, the project will advance necessary improvements to the station and ensure an accessible travel experience for all Virginians utilizing the station. The Staples Mill Train Station is a key station stop along existing passenger rail corridors in the Commonwealth and provides multi-modal connections for Virginians as they travel both within and to destinations outside the Commonwealth.

As a vital service nexus in Virginia's rail network, the current infrastructure at Staples Mill Station falls short of modern safety standards. This project offers a transformative opportunity to enhance the station, prioritizing safety, functionality, and a positive passenger experience. I ask that you give this proposal every appropriate consideration. To the extent possible, please continue to update my office on the status of this grant by emailing GrantSupport_Warner@warner.senate.gov.

Thank you for your service on behalf of my constituents.

Sincerely,



MARK R. WARNER
United States Senator

MRW/aw

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