

TIM KAINE
VIRGINIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4607
(202) 224-4024

COMMITTEE ON
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AND PENSIONS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4607

June 4, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

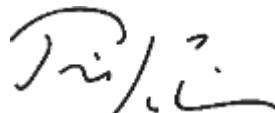
I write to express support for Virginia Passenger Rail Authority, an applicant for grant funding under a Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant for the Amtrak Richmond Staples Mill Road Station ADA Improvements Project.

VPRA is seeking CRISI funds as part of a multi-million-dollar planning effort that will design and construct needed operational and structural improvements to the Staples Mill Station in Henrico County, just outside Richmond, Virginia. Staples Mill is the busiest station in the southeast, serving over 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. However, despite significant growth, the station's infrastructure has remained largely unchanged since its construction in 1975.

This project will complete the 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.

Please give full and fair evaluation to this project, which will benefit a vital service nexus in Virginia's rail network by offering a transformative opportunity to enhance Staples Mill Station, prioritizing safety, functionality, and a positive passenger experience. Should you have any questions regarding this project, contact my Office's Grants Coordinator, Elda_Stanco@kaine.senate.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Tim Kaine