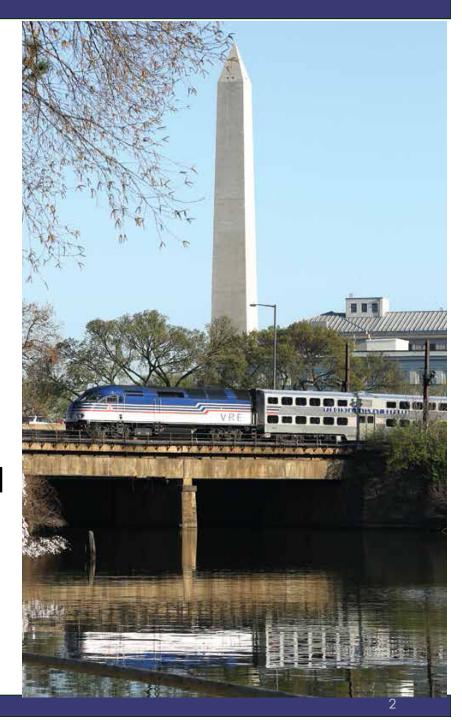
# VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS MOVING DC TOWARDS REGIONAL RAIL



# **TODAY'S PRESENTATION**

- The Case of Regional Rail
- Philadelphia Center City Commuter Connection (1984)
- Virginia Railway Express
  - Overview
  - Moving from commuter rail towards regional rail



#### FOCUS ON LONGER-DISTANCE TRAVEL MARKETS



#### **Rail Rapid Transit — High-Density, Urban/Suburban Travel Markets**

Station Spacing: ½ to 2 miles System Extent: 15 to 20 miles

Typical Maximum Speed: 65 mph Average Speed (with stops): 25 mph



#### **Commuter Rail — Lower-Density, Suburban/Exurban Travel Markets**

Station Spacing: 1 to 4 miles System Extent: 20 to 75 miles

Typical Maximum Speed: 79 mph Average Speed (with stops): 45 mph



**Intercity Rail** — Regional, Longer Distance Travel Markets

Station Spacing: 20 to 30 miles System Extent: 50 to 300 miles

Ideal Maximum Speed: 110 mph

Average Speed (with stops): 55 mph



## REGIONAL RAIL VS. COMMUTER RAIL



- Service philosophy espoused by Paris' Réseau Express Régional
  - "Regional Express Network" or "RER"
  - Integration of rapid transit operating principles using commuter rail technology
    - Bi-directional, all day service
    - Less frequent but faster and longer distance than travel by Metro
  - Five Parisian commuter rail lines converted since 1977



## REGIONAL RAIL VS. COMMUTER RAIL





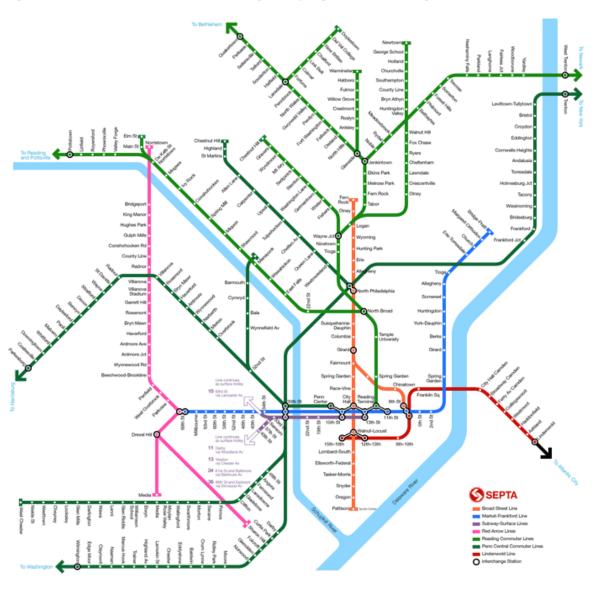
- A shift in VRE operating practice
  - More frequent, two-way service
  - Reverse-peak train service
    - Connecting DC & NoVA residents with jobs in Virginia
  - Midday & evening train service
- North American examples
  - SEPTA (Philadelphia)
  - GO Transit (Toronto)
  - NJ Transit (New York City)
  - MTA (New York City)
  - MBTA (Boston)
  - Caltrain (San Francisco)

# SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (SEPTA)



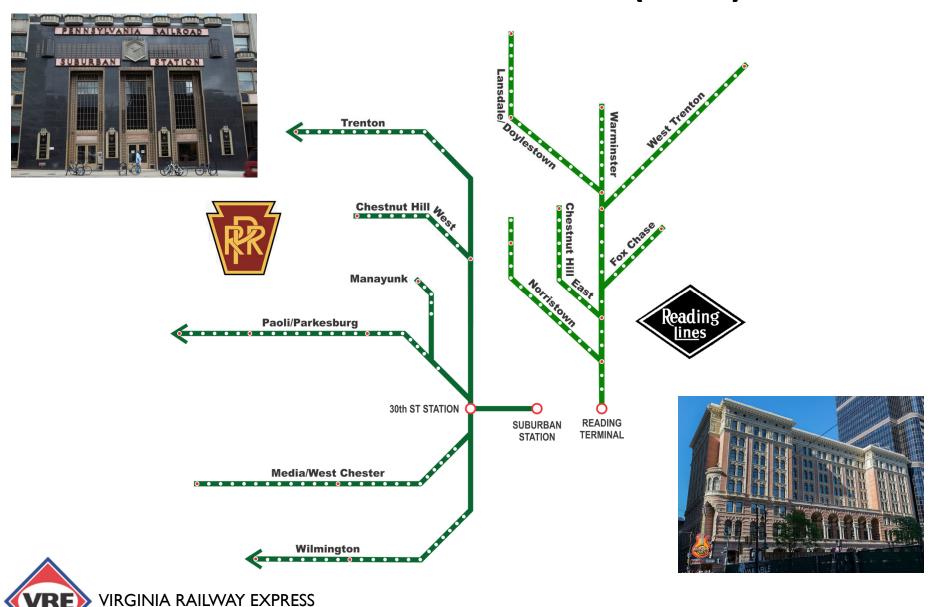


# **SEPTA RAPID & COMMUTER RAIL**

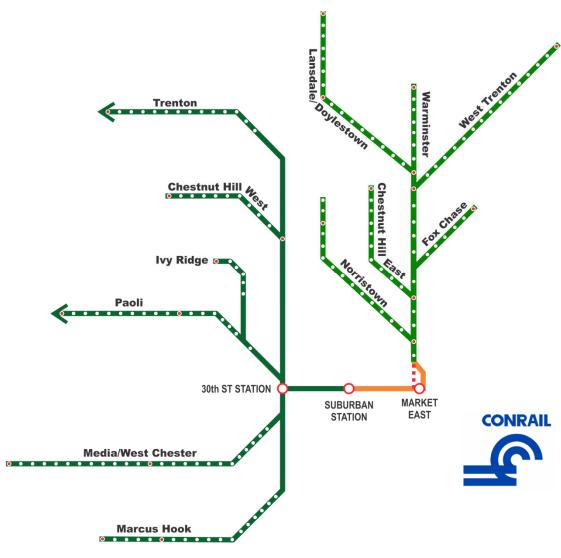


**VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS** 

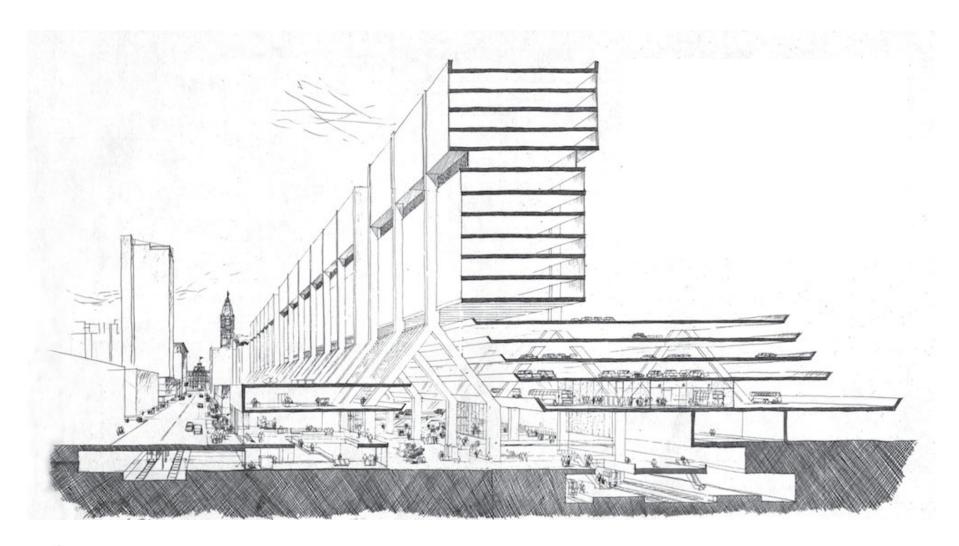
# **SEPTA COMMUTER RAIL (1982)**



## **CENTER CITY COMMUTER CONNECTION**



# **VISION OF MARKET EAST REDEVELOPMENT**



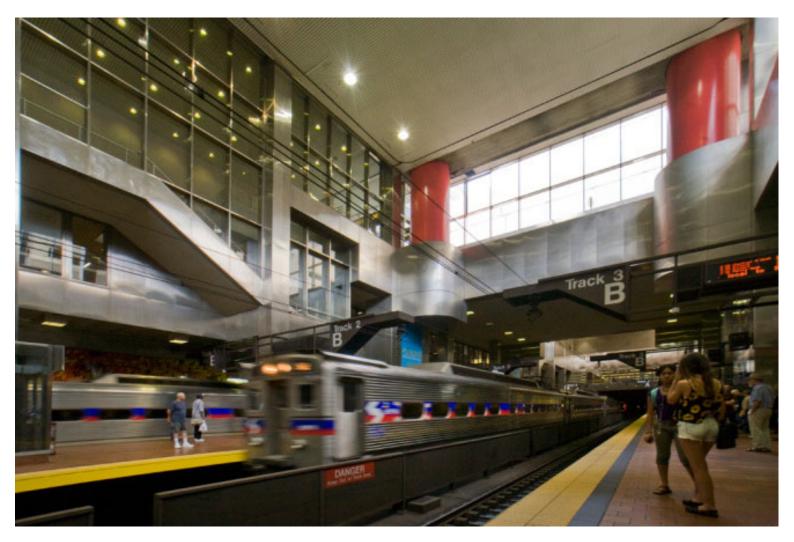


## **CENTER CITY COMMUTER CONNECTION**

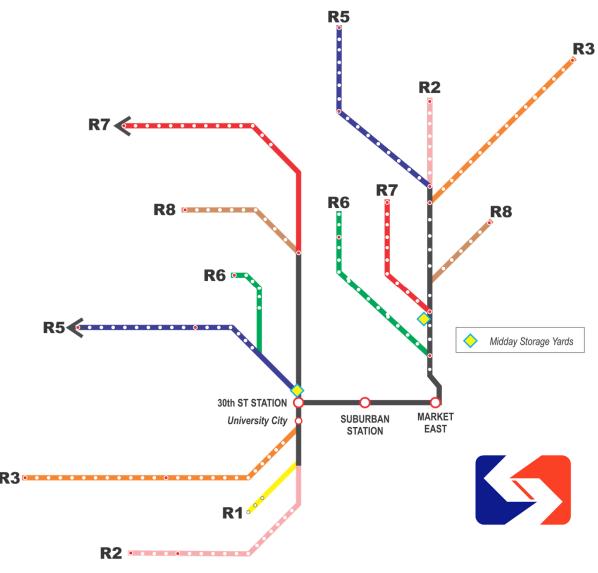




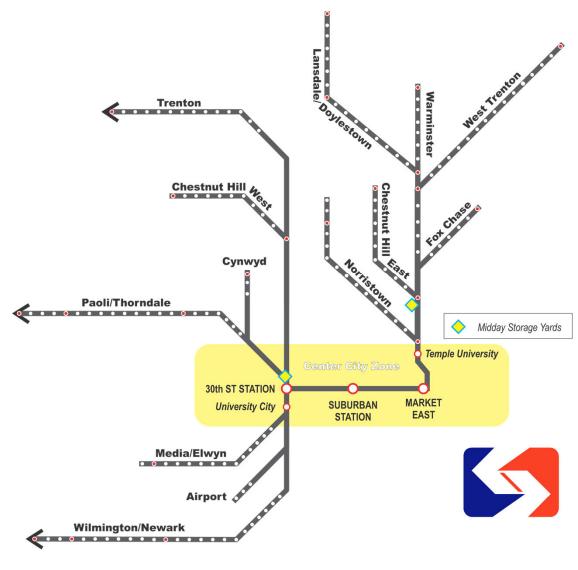
## **CENTER CITY COMMUTER CONNECTION**



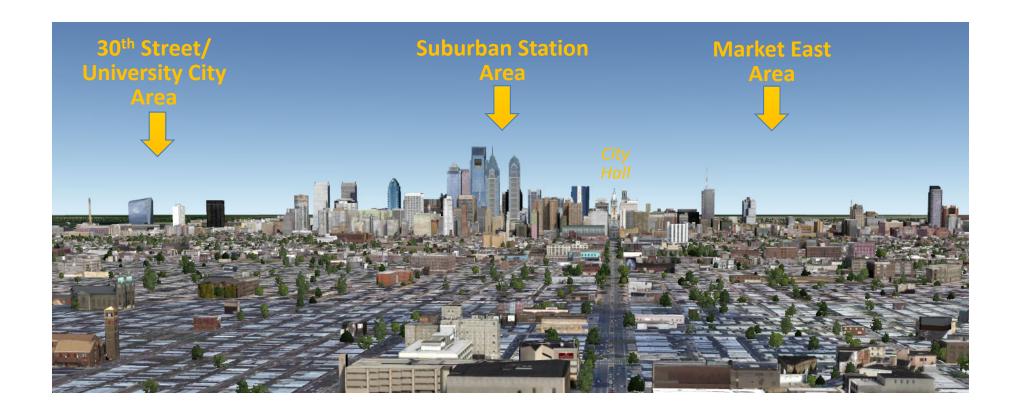
# **SEPTA REGIONAL RAIL (1985)**



# **SEPTA REGIONAL RAIL (TODAY)**



## **IMPACT ON REDEVELOPMENT**





# **VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS**





## WHO WE ARE

A commuter rail system

Running on existing railroad tracks

Serving Washington DC and Northern Virginia

Carrying long-distance commuters to DC, Arlington & Alexandria

Two lines, 90 miles

Adding peak capacity to I-95, I-395 & I-66 corridors

20,600 daily trips

Commuters that would otherwise drive alone in cars







## WHERE OUR RIDERS GO

- L'Enfant busiest station
  - Primary destination
  - Nearby offices
  - Metro connections
- Crystal City, Union Station& Alexandria
  - Next three busiest destinations
- Busiest origin stations are at the end of lines
  - Big park-ride lots
    - Most VRE passengers have a car available\*

# REGIONAL COLLABORATION

**WMATA Metrorail** 

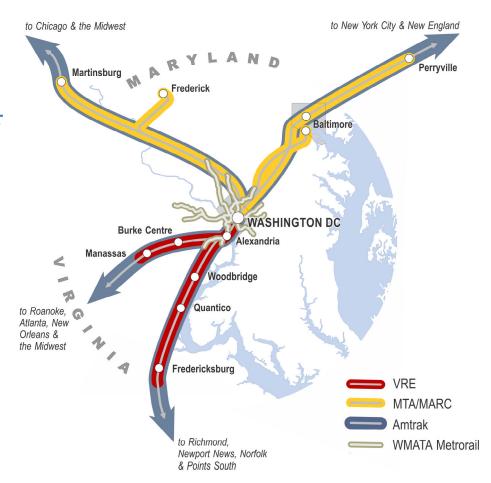
WMATA expands the reach of VRE 17% VRE riders presently transfer

Amtrak Virginia Trains Step-Up fares available Faster ride for longer trips

## MTA/MARC Train Service

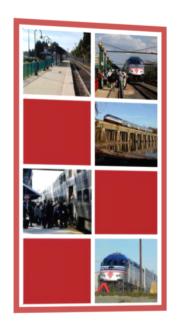
Fare Integration

Exploring Through-Running Opportunities



Long Bridge and other infrastructure improvements needed to further regional rail expansion

VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS



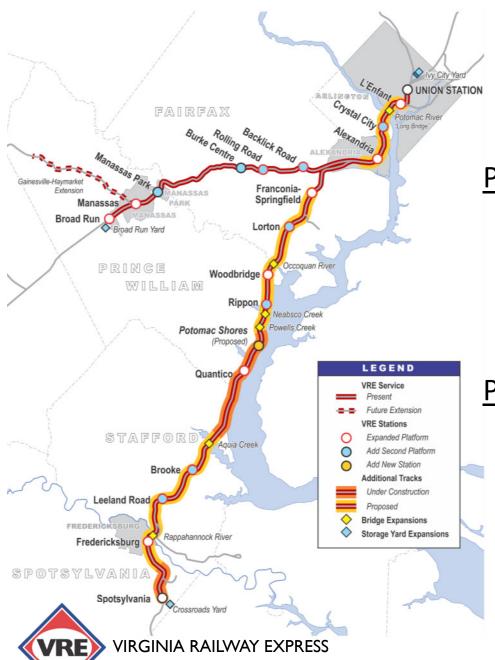
VRE System Plan Summary

January 2014

## **SYSTEM PLAN 2040**

- Adopted by VRE Operations Board in January 2014
- Outlined phased approach to capacity and service improvements
- Adapts VRE service to meet the challenges of a growing, rapidly changing region
  - Transition to "Regional Rail"
    - More bidirectional and frequent peak service
    - More midday and evening service
  - Double ridership by 2040





## **VRE SYSTEM PLAN 2040**

Add rail capacity to grow to 50,000+ daily riders

### PHASE 1: Run Longer Trains

- More railcars
- More station parking
- More train storage tracks
- Second & longer platforms

### PHASE 2 & 3: Run More Trains

- Earn additional slots through capacity improvements
  - Additional CSXT tracks
  - Long Bridge Expansion
  - More parking, railcars, yards
  - Broad Run Expansion
     was Gainesville-Haymarket Extension

