



December 13, 2024

The Honorable Robert M. “Bobby” Dyer
The Honorable City Council
City of Virginia Beach

Virginia Beach Development Authority

Dear Mayor Dyer, Members of the City Council, and Members of the Virginia Beach Development Authority,

On behalf of Virginia Beach Vision (VBV), I am writing to express our support for the development of the new Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) Southside Facility in Virginia Beach. This project represents a transformative investment in our region’s transit infrastructure, enhancing connectivity, economic growth, and environmental sustainability and as such represents an important element of improving transit policy within the City and region.

The new Southside Facility will significantly improve transit operations and efficiency, providing capacity for 100 buses and 16 seasonal trolleys. This will be the first net zero energy electric bus maintenance facility in the country, showing a forward-thinking approach to environmental stewardship and resilience.

Additionally, the project is expected to generate operating cost savings of \$650,000 annually to Virginia Beach and increase ridership with more than 6,700 new weekday riders and 7,000 new weekend riders. These improvements will strengthen workforce mobility by enhancing the 757 Express service and increasing the frequency of bus service at key locations, such as the Oceanfront, from one stop per hour to every 15 minutes. The facility will support enhancements to the main 13 regional routes, connecting residents to critical employment hubs across the region.

The project has already secured \$130 million in grants that are tied to the Corporate Landing address. HRT has committed to purchasing the Corporate Landing site at market rate, contributing \$2.4 million, and will invest an additional \$500,000 for stormwater management improvements.

Virginia Beach Vision is committed to advancing initiatives that drive economic growth and improve the quality of life in our community. The HRT Southside Facility is a vital project that aligns with these goals, enhancing our region’s connectivity, workforce mobility, and environmental sustainability. We respectfully urge City Council to support to this transformative initiative.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to ensuring Virginia Beach continues to thrive.

Respectfully,

Scott D. Miller, Ph.D.
Chair, Board of Directors

Laura Chalk
Executive Director and CEO

LOOKING TOWARD TOMORROW'S CITY

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