



Dear Contributor,

The first leg of the TransDominion Express is performing beyond anyone's expectations. And, to build on this success, Virginia's General Assembly recently approved a measure that moves us even closer toward our collective vision of expanding passenger rail service to Roanoke, Bristol and beyond.

Thank you for your support for our passenger rail initiative. Without you, the TDX would have been just another idea that languished on a dusty shelf. Together, we convinced public officials to invest in the first phase of the plan to unite the Commonwealth with this new passenger rail service.

Despite early success, we still have much to do. While we are not content to rest on our laurels, consider these recent benchmarks of progress:

- Now awaiting the Governor's signature, Virginia's General Assembly has budgeted for a new bus service to connect Roanoke to Lynchburg's Kemper Street Station, the start of Amtrak's Lynchburg to Boston passenger rail service. The new bus service will bolster ridership for the "Northeast Regional Service," paving the way for extending passenger rail service to Roanoke and eventually to Bristol.
- The Lynchburg-DC-Boston service achieved 253 percent of its first-year ridership goal and 246 percent of its first-year revenue goal. The passenger train serves stations in Lynchburg, Charlottesville, Culpeper, Manassas, Alexandria and Fairfax County before traveling to northern destinations of Washington, D.C., New York and Boston.
- Amtrak has called the new service its "best performing state-supported train in Amtrak's system in terms of cost recovery." Amtrak routinely lists the Lynchburg-DC service among its top performing routes for ridership growth. This service recorded passenger growth of 26.7 percent and 22.6 percent in the last quarter of 2010 and January 2011.

We hope you share our pride and sense of accomplishment.

In 2011, we will seek to advance our initiative in four ways: to identify and support a dedicated source of funds for passenger rail operations; to assist in the implementation and marketing of bus transportation from Roanoke to Kemper Street Station in Lynchburg; to continue to build ridership for the Lynchburg-DC-Boston service; and to strengthen efforts to stimulate new Tennessee service from Chattanooga to Bristol that connects with the Northeast Regional Service.

We know that your time and financial resources are more scarce than ever. We do not make this request lightly. Still, we hope that our accomplishments convince you that we can make a difference and that the aforementioned goals convince you of the need to press on.

Again, thank you for your support. Please contact us with any questions and comments or if we can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

French Moore, Jr.
Chairman, Committee to Advance the TDX

Rex Hammond
TDX Executive Director