

To express the Greater Richmond Transit Company's Board of Director's support for a GRTC grant application for "Transit Ridership Incentive Program, Zero Fare and Low Income Projects" funding through the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 1230 of the Acts of Assembly of 2020, the General Assembly enacted the Transit Ridership Incentive Program (the "TRIP Program"); and

WHEREAS, the TRIP Program was developed by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, the application process opened on August 1, 2021 and closes on September 17, 2021 and all supplemental data is due by October 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the TRIP Program is a statewide grant program whose purpose is to improve regional transit connectivity in urban areas and reduce barriers to public transit through low income and zero fare programming; and

WHEREAS, the TRIP Program focuses on urban metropolitan areas with populations of 100,000 or more, which includes the GRTC service area; and

WHEREAS, other Virginia localities and transit agencies are considering the extension of "fare free" or "zero fare" policies post COVID-19 including the cities of Alexandria, Charlottesville, Lynchburg, and Roanoke; and

WHEREAS, GRTC believes there is a need for further study of the social and economic impacts of fare collection systems, including zero fare operations on GRTC's current service population; and

WHEREAS, GRTC must obtain commitment from one or more local partners to match state pilot funding under the TRIPS grant application; and

WHEREAS, GRTC must explore and define additional sources of funding for all potential future fare collection systems prior to permanent implementation of any; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond City Council passed a resolution stating it's belief that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Richmond that the Council supports the Greater

Richmond Transit Company's application for the TRIP Program through the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transport for the purpose of maintaining the Greater Richmond Transit Company's current zero fare policy.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GREATER RICHMOND TRANSIT COMPANY BOARD OF DIRECTORS;

That the GRTC Board of Directors hereby supports the Greater Richmond Transit Company's application for the TRIP Program through the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transport for the purpose of maintaining the Greater Richmond Transit Company's current zero fare policy while studying social and economic impacts of various fare collection systems.