WASHINGTON, DC - Today, Congressman Rob Wittman announced the award of an $8.87 million grant to the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) for the purchase of three locomotives to support the Virginia Railway Express (VRE). PRTC will purchase up to three diesel-electric "Motive Power MP36H-3C locomotives with high horsepower (3600 HP)" which come with an expected minimum service life of 25 years. The locomotives being replaced have reached the end of their service lives.

"For many commuters in Prince William, Stafford, and Fredericksburg, VRE plays a daily role in their lives. VRE's Fredericksburg Line is a reliable alternative to the gridlock of I-95, and these locomotives will enable VRE to continue to provide improved service," said Wittman.

The locomotives will provide service on VRE's Fredericksburg and Manassas lines. The grant comes as an award from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration.

Congressman Rob Wittman represents the First District of Virginia. He was elected to his first full term in November 2008 and serves on the Natural Resources Committee and the Armed Services Committee where he is the Ranking Member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.