



## **Resolution Expressing Appreciation for Dr. Trani In Advancing RVA757 Connects and the I-64 Innovation Corridor**

WHEREAS, Eugene “Gene” P. Trani, Ph.D. is a distinguished undergraduate alumnus of the University of Notre Dame and earned his master’s and doctoral degrees in history from Indiana University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Trani served as the fourth president of Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) from 1990 to 2009; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Dr. Trani inspired education, public, and private sector leaders to collaborate to advance VCU and the Richmond region; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Trani's leadership, VCU expanded both academically and physically, with major initiatives on both campuses, including the schools of Business and College of Engineering, the Virginia BioTechnology Research Park, VCU Life Sciences, and a visionary master site plan leading to the redevelopment of Broad Street in downtown Richmond; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Trani's leadership, VCU was widely recognized for its exemplary community outreach and economic development efforts. In 2002, VCU was cited as one of two national case studies, along with Columbia University, in "Leveraging Colleges and Universities for Urban Economic Revitalization: An Action Agenda," by CEOs for Cities and the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Trani's leadership, VCU became the largest university in the commonwealth in 2007 and a major force in metropolitan and statewide development; and

WHEREAS, upon retirement from VCU, Dr. Trani created Richmond’s Future, an independent regional think tank to explore ways to make Richmond a world-class city. One of the strategic recommendations of this region-wide planning initiative called for greater collaboration and coordination between the Richmond and Hampton Roads regions to create an I-64 education corridor that could drive talent development, research, and innovation on a national scale; and

WHEREAS, following the release of Richmond’s Future’s final report, Dr. Trani continued to encourage Richmond and Hampton Roads education, public, and private sector leaders to connect and collaborate to create a nationally competitive megaregion; now, therefore,



BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees expresses its deep appreciation for Dr. Trani’s visionary inspiration for the I-64 Innovation Corridor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in recognition of Dr. Trani’s enduring commitment to VCU, the educational institutions across the Commonwealth, and the Richmond-Hampton Roads megaregion, this statement of appreciation be inscribed and conveyed to Dr. Trani, and a copy be included in the official minutes of the June 28, 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees and Megaregion Institutional Council.

June 28, 2022

Theodore L. Chandler, Jr., Co-Chairman  
Thomas R. Frantz, Co-Chairman  
RVA757 Connects