



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Commonwealth Transportation Board

**THROUGH:** Matthew O. Tucker  
Agency Director

**FROM:** Corey Hill  
Chief of Public Transportation

**DATE:** October 15, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Monthly Transit Ridership Report

DRPT is pleased to present the monthly transit ridership report, summarizing August 2008 transit ridership data. This monthly report provides a snapshot of current transit performance and recent trends. DRPT continues to work with individual transit operators to refine transit data and ensure that all transit modes, including bus, rail and specialized service for the elderly and disabled, are accurately reported, and to ensure that this monthly report is comprehensive.

Beginning this month, the monthly ridership report includes a comparison of fiscal-year-to-date totals for the current fiscal year and the previous fiscal year in order to provide a broader context for the current month's ridership data.

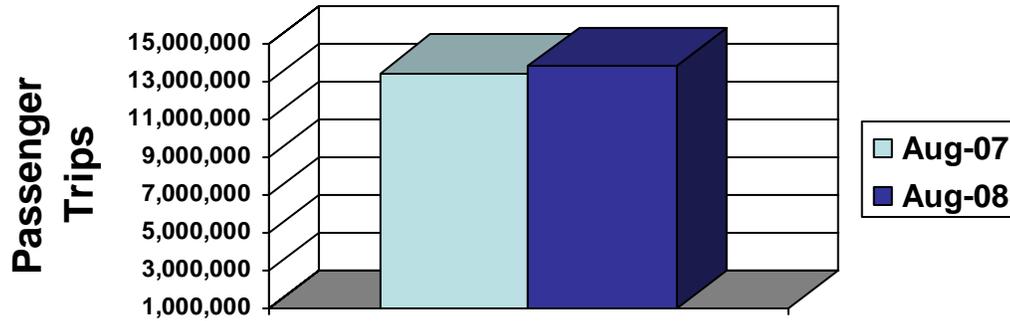
The following key facts are based on a year-over-year comparison of monthly results reported by transit operators for August 2007 and August 2008.

### Key Facts

- Transit ridership in Virginia increased by 3 percent, or 378,961 trips in August 2008 as compared to August 2007, based on reports from all 56 transit operators, 18 (of 56) human service operators, and two passenger rail operators. The number of human service operators reporting monthly will increase over time.
- The Lynchburg District achieved the highest growth in transit trips at 30 percent, and two districts, Salem and Hampton Roads, recorded losses of 11 percent and 5 percent, respectively.
- The Northern Virginia District accounts for 72.8 percent of statewide transit ridership for August 2008. The Hampton Roads and Richmond Districts account for 12.2 percent and 6.8 percent, respectively, of statewide transit ridership for August 2008.
- Numerous operators are considering changes to fares or schedules. In Northern Virginia, where 94 percent of ridership growth took place, the demand is outpacing available resources and some operators are considering fare increases. In other areas where ridership has not increased as dramatically, some operators are considering fare increases or service cuts to manage the significantly higher cost of fuel, which was 36 percent higher than last year. Key factors influencing ridership declines in some areas include two less weekdays in August 2008 than in August 2007, a decline in tourism, a decline in retail and employment trips and service cuts.

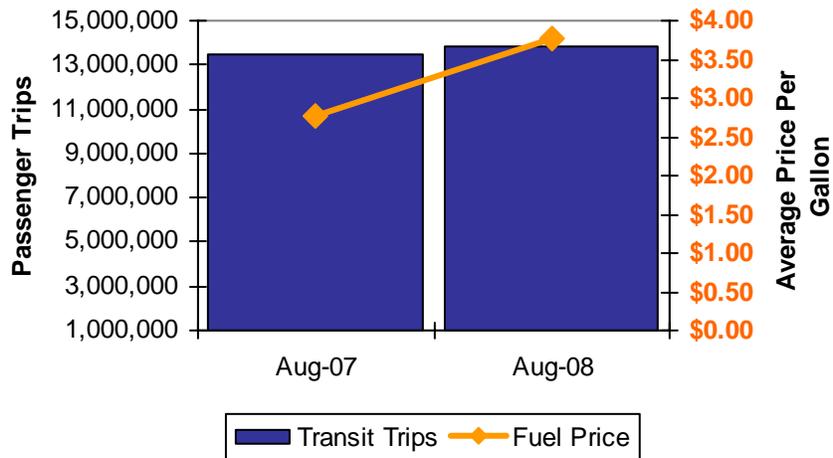
## Statewide Transit Ridership August 2007 and August 2008

*3% Ridership Increase*

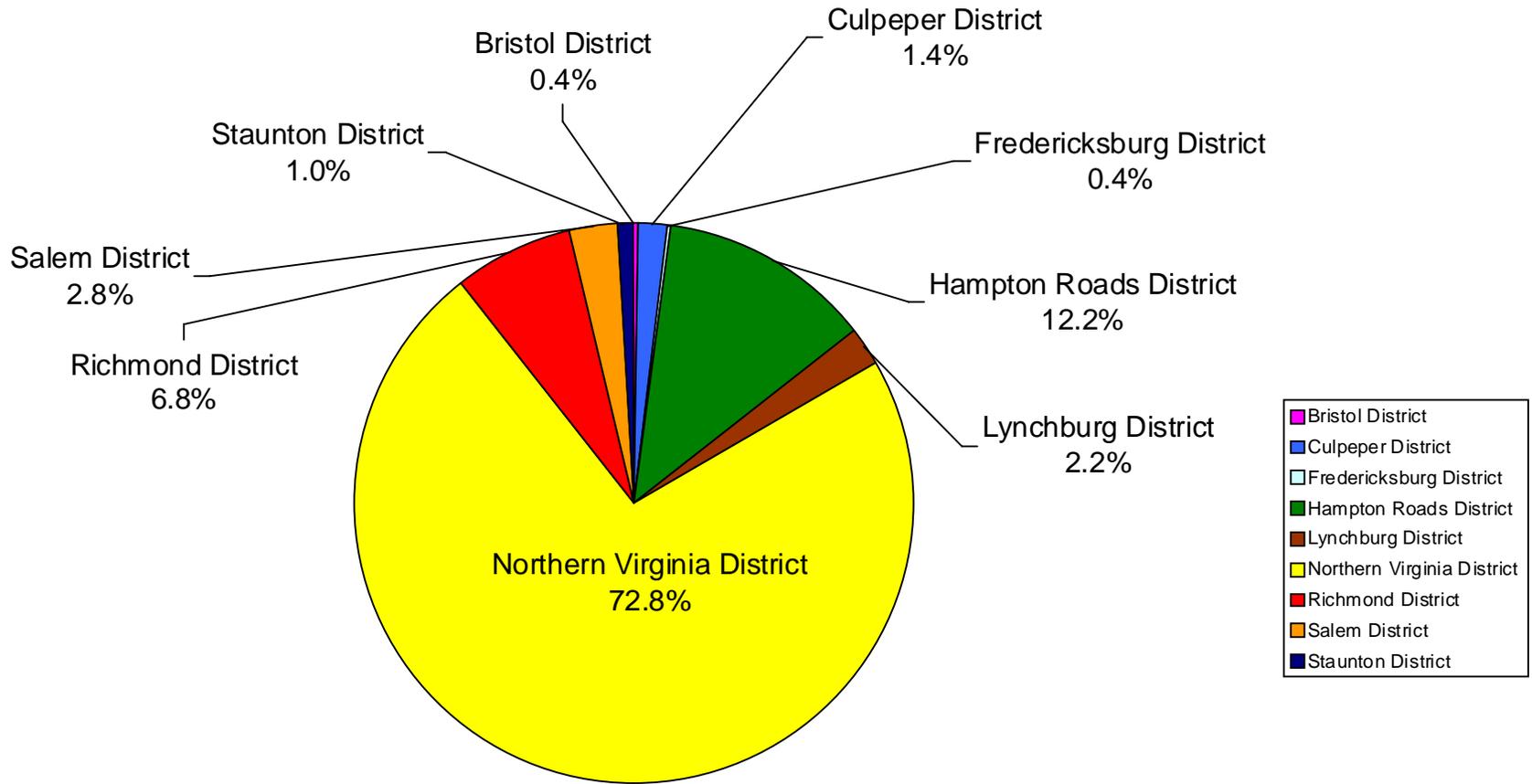


## Average Fuel Price vs. Transit Ridership August 2007 and August 2008

*36% Fuel Price Increase*



# August 2008 District Ridership



## August Ridership

Operator	Total Ridership August 2008	Total Ridership August 2007	Percent Change	Fiscal Year-to- Date 2009 (July- August 2008)	Fiscal Year-to- Date 2008 (July-August 2007)	Percent Change
<b>INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL</b>						
Amtrak (Virginia only)	103,059	92,365	12%	210,731	180,924	16%
<b>ON-TIME PERFORMANCE</b>						
	Percent On-Time Performance August 2008	Percent On-Time Performance August 2007		FYTD 2009 (July-August 2008)	FYTD 2008 (July-August 2007)	
Virginia Railway Express	92%	85%		87%	88%	
Amtrak*	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	
<b>BRISTOL DISTRICT</b>						
AASC / Four County Transit	13,890	17,592	-21%	29,893	29,597	1%
City of Bristol Virginia	6,753	5,380	26%	14,029	10,423	35%
District Three Public Transit	23,481	18,028	30%	43,665	39,166	11%
Mount Rogers Community Services Board	1,585	1,184	34%	3,145	n/a	n/a
Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Inc.	4,099	3,870	6%	8,193	8,321	-2%
Town of Bluefield-Graham Transit	3,471	3,972	-13%	6,866	7,084	-3%
<b>Total Bristol District Ridership</b>	<b>53,279</b>	<b>50,026</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>105,791</b>	<b>94,591</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>CULPEPER DISTRICT</b>						
Charlottesville Transit Service	158,528	127,881	24%	305,551	248,397	23%
Greene County Transit, Inc.	3,774	3,910	-3%	7,684	7,720	0%
JAUNT, Inc.	21,774	22,775	-4%	43,839	43,452	1%
Rappahannock-Rapidan CSB-AAA	2,978	2,331	28%	6,261	4,662	34%
Virginia Regional Transit - Culpeper County	387	354	9%	747	725	3%
Virginia Regional Transit - Fauquier/Warrenton	2,108	2,030	4%	3,769	3,801	-1%
Virginia Regional Transit - Town of Culpeper	6,078	5,890	3%	12,470	11,244	11%
Virginia Regional Transit - Town of Orange	2,843	2,227	28%	5,408	4,751	14%
<b>Total Culpeper District Ridership</b>	<b>198,470</b>	<b>167,398</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>385,729</b>	<b>324,752</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>FREDERICKSBURG DISTRICT</b>						
Bay Aging	13,132	14,241	-8%	27,438	27,370	0%
Bay Aging/Colonial Beach Transit	1,174	1,118	5%	2,355	2,259	4%
FRED - Caroline County	727	544	34%	1,495	1,086	38%
FRED - King George	1,848	1,371	35%	3,835	2,492	54%
Fredericksburg Regional Transit	43,942	32,174	37%	87,081	59,893	45%
<b>Total Fredericksburg District Ridership</b>	<b>60,823</b>	<b>49,448</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>122,204</b>	<b>93,100</b>	<b>31%</b>

Operator	Total Ridership August 2008	Total Ridership August 2007	Percent Change	Fiscal Year-to- Date 2009 (July- August 2008)	Fiscal Year-to- Date 2008 (July-August 2007)	Percent Change
<b>HAMPTON ROADS DISTRICT</b>						
ESAAA/CAA	901	900	0%	1,791	1,775	1%
Hampton Roads Transit	1,294,016	1,371,012	-6%	2,640,124	2,770,205	-5%
Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia	1,732	2,075	-17%	3,488	4,087	-15%
STAR Transit	2,833	3,534	-20%	5,872	6,768	-13%
Sussex-Greenville-Emporia Adult Activity Services, Inc	1,956	1,898	3%	3,777	3,736	1%
Town of Chincoteague	4,096	3,761	9%	10,944	11,321	-3%
Western Tidewater Community Service Board	614	703	-13%	1,271	1,298	-2%
Williamsburg Area Transport	390,059	398,042	-2%	831,839	810,105	3%
<b>Total Hampton Roads District Ridership</b>	<b>1,696,207</b>	<b>1,781,925</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>3,499,106</b>	<b>3,609,295</b>	<b>-3%</b>
<b>LYNCHBURG DISTRICT</b>						
Blackstone Area Bus / Piedmont Area Transit	743	615	21%	1,505	1,163	29%
Danville Transit System	22,576	19,309	17%	44,500	37,256	19%
Farmville Area Bus	7,245	6,169	17%	11,211	10,638	5%
Greater Lynchburg Transit Company	271,941	205,155	33%	349,881	271,077	29%
JAUNT Buckingham	674	769	-12%	1,458	1,467	-1%
Lake Area Bus / Halifax Area Rural Transit	697	514	36%	1,354	1,026	32%
Southside Community Services Board	1,684	1,488	13%	4,358	2,676	63%
STEPS, Inc	1,116	1,022	9%	2,344	1,958	20%
<b>Total Lynchburg District Ridership</b>	<b>306,676</b>	<b>235,041</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>416,611</b>	<b>327,261</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>NORTHERN VIRGINIA DISTRICT</b>						
Alexandria Transit Company	354,275	368,212	-4%	732,545	717,280	2%
Arlington County	125,813	100,017	26%	251,298	193,949	30%
City of Alexandria-King Street Trolley	71,081	n/a	n/a	144,265	n/a	n/a
City of Fairfax	95,762	92,597	3%	178,535	171,459	4%
Fairfax County	912,103	911,062	0%	1,860,924	1,718,925	8%
Loudoun County Office of Transportation Services	75,415	67,453	12%	155,912	127,862	22%
WMATA Metrorail (Virginia only)	5,803,506	5,648,328	3%	12,341,101	11,672,263	6%
WMATA Metrobus (Virginia only)	1,997,314	1,919,441	4%	3,998,846	3,582,170	12%
PRTC-OmniRide	273,974	255,617	7%	502,414	484,426	4%
The Arc of Greater Prince William	4,523	5,659	-20%	8,807	11,011	-20%
Virginia Railway Express	319,222	317,035	1%	657,813	609,078	8%
Virginia Regional Transit - Loudoun	48,208	39,491	22%	95,586	74,561	28%
Virginia Regional Transit - Town of Purcellville	1,765	2,312	-24%	4,220	4,695	-10%
<b>Total Northern Virginia District Ridership</b>	<b>10,082,961</b>	<b>9,727,224</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>20,932,266</b>	<b>19,367,679</b>	<b>8%</b>

Operator	Total Ridership August 2008	Total Ridership August 2007	Percent Change	Fiscal Year-to- Date 2009 (July- August 2008)	Fiscal Year-to- Date 2008 (July-August 2007)	Percent Change
<b>RICHMOND DISTRICT</b>						
Bay Aging/NewKent/Charles City	992	1,246	-20%	1,967	2,411	-18%
Blackstone Area Bus	1,969	1,341	47%	3,819	2,597	47%
Blackstone Area Bus / Town and County Transit	276	246	12%	555	455	22%
Blackstone Area Bus - Brunswick Express	228	239	-5%	439	469	-6%
City of Petersburg	52,974	51,274	3%	102,812	93,881	10%
Crater District Area Agency On Aging	3,136	4,356	-28%	6,902	7,912	-13%
Daily Planet	21	0	n/a	21	n/a	n/a
ElderHomes Corporation	72	96	-25%	159	181	-14%
Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services	50	43	16%	156	119	31%
Greater Richmond Transit Company	886,414	866,693	2%	1,752,077	1,661,104	5%
Lake Area Bus	1,690	1,970	-14%	3,443	3,737	-8%
<b>Total Richmond District Ridership</b>	<b>947,822</b>	<b>927,504</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>1,872,350</b>	<b>1,772,866</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>SALEM DISTRICT</b>						
Blacksburg Transit	153,790	217,657	-29%	221,454	274,275	-19%
Greater Roanoke Transit Company	222,410	204,926	9%	448,525	393,007	14%
Piedmont Community Services	537	589	-9%	1,100	1,126	-2%
Pulaski Area Transit	6,993	8,074	-13%	14,035	15,262	-8%
RADAR/Roanoke	213	145	47%	498	320	56%
Southern Area Agency On Aging	4,081	4,198	-3%	8,258	8,108	2%
<b>Total Salem District Ridership</b>	<b>388,024</b>	<b>435,589</b>	<b>-11%</b>	<b>693,870</b>	<b>692,098</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>STAUNTON DISTRICT</b>						
City of Harrisonburg Dept. of Public Transportation	82,357	70,315	17%	99,331	87,162	14%
City of Winchester	13,676	12,198	12%	26,626	23,129	15%
Pleasant View, Inc	6,500	n/a	n/a	6,500	n/a	n/a
RADAR/Covington & Clifton Forge	1,253	1,269	-1%	2,590	2391	8%
Rockbridge Area CSB	940	920	2%	1,880	1,840	2%
Valley Program for Aging Services	2,141	2,423	-12%	4,573	4640	-1%
Virginia Regional Transit - CATS Coordinated Area Transportation	3,576	3,409	5%	7,186	6,547	10%
Virginia Regional Transit - City of Staunton	10,119	10,321	-2%	21,080	20,621	2%
Virginia Regional Transit - Clarke County	162	129	26%	272	342	-20%
Virginia Regional Transit - Page County	751	717	5%	1,473	1,262	17%
Virginia Regional Transit - Shenandoah Blue Ridge Service	3,257	2,011	62%	4,914	2,846	73%
Virginia Regional Transit - Town of Front Royal	662	758	-13%	1,962	1,334	47%
<b>Total Staunton District Ridership</b>	<b>125,394</b>	<b>104,470</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>178,387</b>	<b>152,114</b>	<b>17%</b>

Operator	Total Ridership August 2008	Total Ridership August 2007	Percent Change	Fiscal Year-to-Date 2009 (July-August 2008)	Fiscal Year-to-Date 2008 (July-August 2007)	Percent Change
<b>TOTAL STATEWIDE RIDERSHIP</b>	<b>Total Statewide Ridership August 2008</b>	<b>Total Statewide Ridership August 2007</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>	<b>FYTD 2009</b>	<b>FYTD 2008</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
	13,859,656	13,478,625	3%	28,206,314	26,433,756	7%
<b>CALENDAR COMPARISON</b>	<b>August 2008</b>	<b>August 2007</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>	<b>FYTD 2009 (July-August 2008)</b>	<b>FYTD 2008 (July-August 2007)</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Number of Weekdays	21	23	-9%	43	44	-2%
Number of Saturdays	5	4	25%	9	8	13%
Number of Sundays/Holidays	5	4	25%	10	10	0%

\*Amtrak on-time performance will be available monthly beginning in November 2008

**NOTES:**

- Transit ridership is impacted by a number of factors to include: land use, population density, seasonal changes, service changes, number of days in a particular month, weather, fuel price, economic conditions and fare adjustments. The best method for comparison is current month's performance compared to the previous year's performance for that month.
- Over time, this report will become more detailed as DRPT collects and analyzes, in a more comprehensive manner, factors that impact ridership such as economic conditions and fare policy.
- Comparisons between regions or transit operators should be avoided without detailed analysis and understanding of local goals that support investment in public transportation.
- The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) is the nation's second largest rail operator and fifth largest bus operator. WMATA reports only Virginia ridership (trips that begin and/or end in the Commonwealth) for DRPT's Dashboard.