



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Commonwealth Transportation Board

**THROUGH:** Chip Badger  
Acting Director

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

**DATE:** December 18, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Monthly Transit Ridership Report

DRPT is pleased to present the monthly transit ridership report, summarizing October 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.

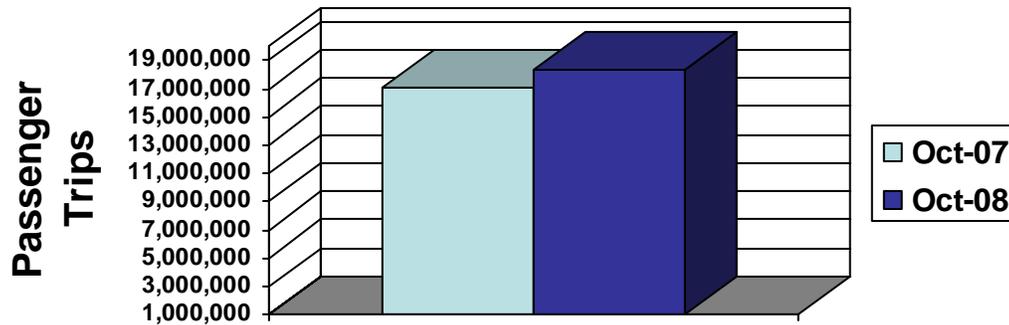
The following key facts are based on a year-over-year comparison of monthly results reported by transit operators for October 2007 and October 2008.

### Key Facts

- Virginia transit ridership for the month of October increased by 7 percent, or 1,261,307 trips in October 2008 as compared to October 2007, based on reports from all 57 transit operators, 48 (of 49) human service operators, and both passenger rail operators. The number of human service operators reporting monthly continues to increase.
- Fiscal year 2009-to-date, Virginia transit ridership increased by 10 percent, or 6,225,514 trips, over the same period in fiscal year 2008.
- All nine transportation districts recorded increases in transit trips between October 2007 and October 2008.
- The Fredericksburg District achieved the highest growth rate in transit trips between October 2007 and October 2008, at 32 percent, or 18,761 trips.
- The Northern Virginia District accounts for 72.4 percent of statewide transit ridership for October 2008. The Hampton Roads and Richmond Districts account for 9.9 percent and 6 percent, respectively.

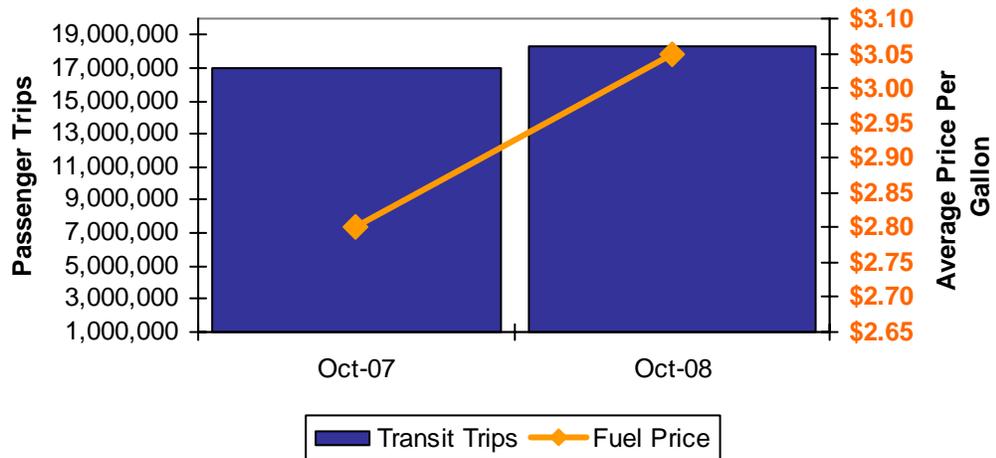
## Statewide Transit Ridership October 2007 and October 2008

*7% Ridership Increase*

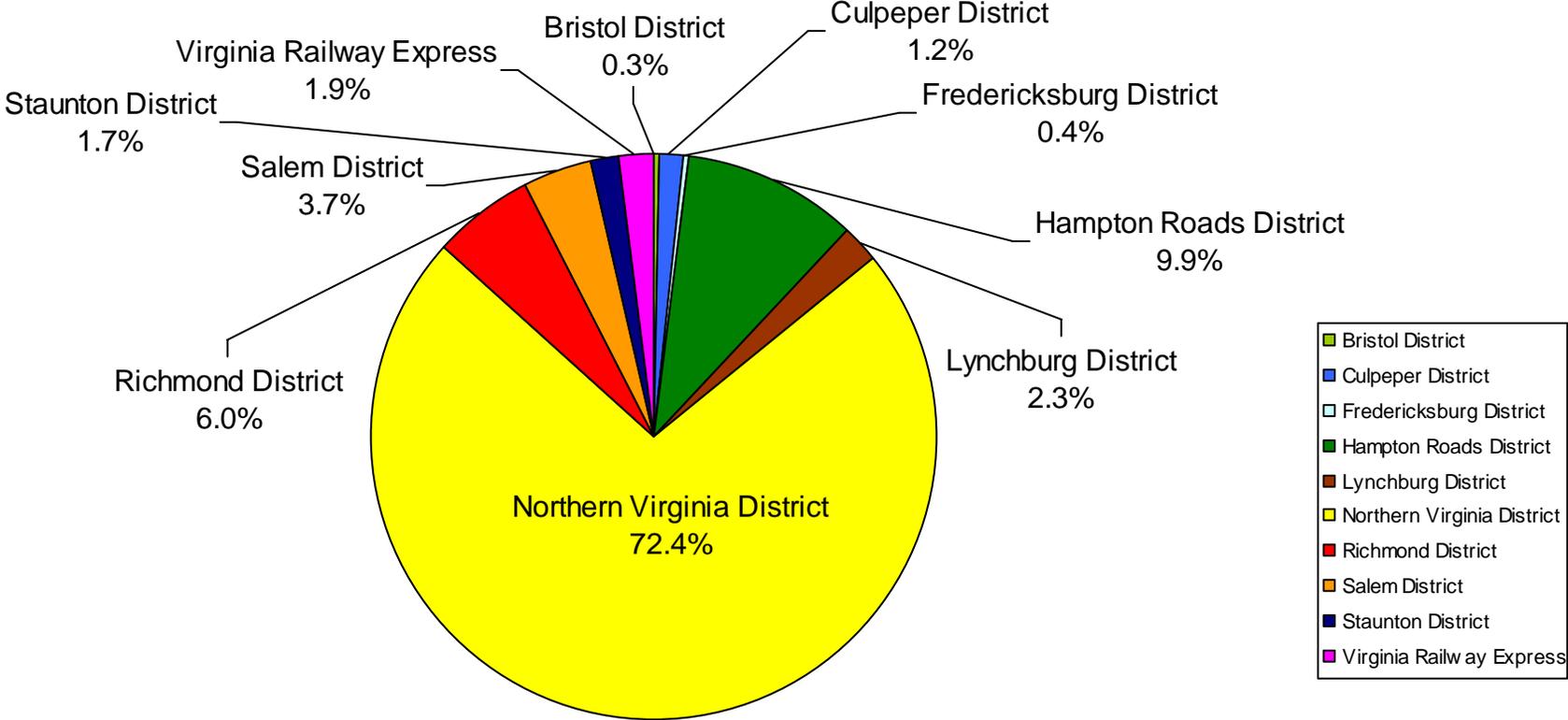


## Average Fuel Price vs. Transit Ridership October 2007 and October 2008

*9% Fuel Price Increase*



# October 2008 Ridership



Virginia Railway Express (VRE) ridership is not depicted within district totals because VRE provides cross-district service.

## October 2008 Ridership Report - Virginia Transit Operators

| Operator                                       | Total Ridership<br>October 2008                | Total Ridership<br>October 2007                | Percent<br>Change | Fiscal Year-to-<br>Date 2009 (July-<br>Oct. 2008) | Fiscal Year-to-<br>Date 2008<br>(July-Oct. 2007) | Percent<br>Change |
|--|--|--|-------------------|---|--|-------------------|
| <b>PASSENGER RAIL</b>                          |  |  |                   |   |  |                   |
| Virginia Railway Express                       | 352,652  | 323,994  | 9%                | 1,187,732   | 1,208,548  | -2%               |
| Amtrak (Virginia only)                         | 88,517   | 79,990   | 11%               | 372,131   | 331,053  | 12%               |
| <b>Total Passenger Rail Ridership</b>          | <b>441,169</b>                                 | <b>403,984</b>                                 | <b>9%</b>         | <b>1,559,863</b>                                  | <b>1,539,601</b>                                 | <b>1%</b>         |
| <b>PASSENGER RAIL ON-TIME PERFORMANCE</b>      |  |  |                   |   |  |                   |
|  | Percent On-Time<br>Performance<br>October 2008 | Percent On-Time<br>Performance<br>October 2007 | Percent<br>Change | FYTD 2009<br>(July-Oct. 2008)                     | FYTD 2008<br>(July-Oct. 2007)                    | Percent<br>Change |
| Virginia Railway Express                       | 85.4%  | 90.1%  | -5%               | 87.3%   | 88.6%  | -1%               |
| Amtrak*  | TBD  | TBD  | TBD               | TBD   | TBD  | TBD               |
| <b>BRISTOL DISTRICT</b>                        |  |  |                   |   |  |                   |
| AASC / Four County Transit                     | 16,674   | 18,354   | -9%               | 64,815  | 66,128   | -2%               |
| City of Bristol Virginia                       | 6,464  | 5,905  | 9%                | 26,629  | 20,603   | 29%               |
| District Three Public Transit                  | 21,402   | 18,236   | 17%               | 82,697  | 79,176   | 4%                |
| Junction Center for Independent Living         | 241  | 245  | -2%               | 933   | 978  | -5%               |
| Mount Rogers Community Services Board          | 2,613  | 1,489  | 75%               | 7,779   | 5,517  | 41%               |
| Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Inc.           | 9,442  | 4,325  | 118%              | 27,410  | 16,971   | 62%               |
| Town of Bluefield-Graham Transit               | 3,906  | 3,036  | 29%               | 14,477  | 12,874   | 12%               |
| <b>Total Bristol District Ridership</b>        | <b>60,742</b>                                  | <b>51,590</b>                                  | <b>18%</b>        | <b>224,740</b>                                    | <b>202,247</b>                                   | <b>11%</b>        |
| <b>CULPEPER DISTRICT</b>                       |  |  |                   |   |  |                   |
| Charlottesville Transit Service                | 178,801  | 177,771  | 1%                | 658,040   | 577,322  | 14%               |
| Greene County Transit, Inc.                    | 5,428  | 5,198  | 4%                | 17,740  | 17,815   | 0%                |
| JAUNT, Inc.                                    | 26,377   | 25,215   | 5%                | 95,681  | 89,742   | 7%                |
| Rappahannock-Rapidan CSB-AAA                   | 3,187  | 2,331  | 37%               | 11,725  | 9,324  | 26%               |
| Virginia Regional Transit - Culpeper County    | 537  | 479  | 12%               | 1,709   | 1,487  | 15%               |
| Virginia Regional Transit - Fauquier/Warrenton | 168  | 1,302  | -87%              | 7,362   | 8,168  | -10%              |
| Virginia Regional Transit - Town of Culpeper   | 6,159  | 5,743  | 7%                | 24,230  | 21,670   | 12%               |
| Virginia Regional Transit - Town of Orange     | 2,255  | 2,337  | -4%               | 9,947   | 10,202   | -2%               |
| <b>Total Culpeper District Ridership</b>       | <b>222,912</b>                                 | <b>220,376</b>                                 | <b>1%</b>         | <b>826,434</b>                                    | <b>735,730</b>                                   | <b>12%</b>        |

## October 2008 Ridership Report - Virginia Transit Operators

| Operator   | Total Ridership<br>October 2008 | Total Ridership<br>October 2007 | Percent<br>Change | Fiscal Year-to-<br>Date 2009 (July-<br>Oct. 2008) | Fiscal Year-to-<br>Date 2008<br>(July-Oct. 2007) | Percent<br>Change |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---|--|-------------------|
| <b>FREDERICKSBURG DISTRICT</b>                         |                                 |                                 |                   |   |  |                   |
| Bay Aging  | 12,784                          | 11,409                          | 12%               | 51,661  | 48,954   | 6%                |
| Bay Aging/Colonial Beach Transit                       | 921                             | 521                             | 77%               | 4,133   | 3,707  | 11%               |
| FRED - Caroline County                                 | 731                             | 596                             | 23%               | 2,941   | 2,130  | 38%               |
| FRED - King George                                     | 2,176                           | 1,071                           | 103%              | 7,858   | 4,524  | 74%               |
| Fredericksburg Regional Transit                        | 49,487                          | 35,878                          | 38%               | 182,451   | 124,966  | 46%               |
| Rappahannock Area Community Services Board             | 10,741                          | 8,604                           | 25%               | 37,941  | 33,655   | 13%               |
| <b>Total Fredericksburg District Ridership</b>         | <b>76,840</b>                   | <b>58,079</b>                   | <b>32%</b>        | <b>286,985</b>                                    | <b>217,936</b>                                   | <b>32%</b>        |
| <b>HAMPTON ROADS DISTRICT</b>                          |                                 |                                 |                   |   |  |                   |
| Arc of the Virginia Peninsula                          | 52                              | n/a                             | n/a               | 205   | n/a  | n/a               |
| Chesapeake Service Systems                             | 378                             | 398                             | -5%               | 1,468   | 1,433  | 2%                |
| Eastern Shore Community Services Board                 | 3,206                           | 2,120                           | 51%               | 11,586  | 10,444   | 11%               |
| Endeppence Center, Inc                                 | n/a                             | 12                              | n/a               | n/a   | 74   | n/a               |
| ESAAA/CAA  | 888                             | 1,283                           | -31%              | 3,726   | 4,112  | -9%               |
| Hampton Roads Transit                                  | 1,517,772                       | 1,384,445                       | 10%               | 6,941,808   | 5,448,464  | 27%               |
| Historic Triangle Senior Center                        | 639                             | 505                             | 27%               | 2,419   | 1,975  | 22%               |
| Hope House Foundation                                  | 36                              | n/a                             | n/a               | 252   | n/a  | n/a               |
| Peninsula Agency on Aging                              | 2,152                           | 1,878                           | 15%               | 7,676   | 7,806  | -2%               |
| Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia               | 4,380                           | 3,401                           | 29%               | 11,521  | 9,514  | 21%               |
| STAR Transit   | 3,873                           | 4,134                           | -6%               | 13,105  | 14,379   | -9%               |
| Sussex-Greenville-Emporia Adult Activity Services, Inc | 2,071                           | 2,006                           | 3%                | 7,701   | 7,372  | 4%                |
| Town of Chincoteague                                   | 624                             | 593                             | 5%                | 11,712  | 12,468   | -6%               |
| Western Tidewater Community Service Board              | 682                             | 661                             | 3%                | 2,606   | 2,552  | 2%                |
| Williamsburg Area Transport                            | 276,551                         | 303,691                         | -9%               | 1,366,808   | 1,395,134  | -2%               |
| <b>Total Hampton Roads District Ridership</b>          | <b>1,813,304</b>                | <b>1,705,127</b>                | <b>6%</b>         | <b>8,382,593</b>                                  | <b>6,915,727</b>                                 | <b>21%</b>        |

## October 2008 Ridership Report - Virginia Transit Operators

| Operator   | Total Ridership<br>October 2008 | Total Ridership<br>October 2007 | Percent<br>Change | Fiscal Year-to-<br>Date 2009 (July-<br>Oct. 2008) | Fiscal Year-to-<br>Date 2008<br>(July-Oct. 2007) | Percent<br>Change |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---|--|-------------------|
| <b>LYNCHBURG DISTRICT</b>  |                                 |                                 |                   |   |  |                   |
| Blackstone Area Bus / Piedmont Area Transit  | 770                             | 596                             | 29%               | 3,077   | 2,303  | 34%               |
| Central Virginia Area Agency on Aging  | 3,312                           | 2,618                           | 27%               | 12,332  | 10,081   | 22%               |
| Crossroads Community Services Board  | 122                             | n/a                             | n/a               | 177   | n/a  | n/a               |
| Danville City's Parks, Recreation, And Tourism;<br>Stonewall Therapeutic Recreation Center | 64                              | 78                              | -18%              | 299   | 327  | -9%               |
| Danville Transit System  | 29,153                          | 19,698                          | 48%               | 125,594   | 75,306   | 67%               |
| Farmville Area Bus   | 15,331                          | 11,969                          | 28%               | 42,865  | 34,381   | 25%               |
| Greater Lynchburg Transit Company  | 375,150                         | 313,825                         | 20%               | 1,142,079   | 895,442  | 28%               |
| JAUNT Buckingham   | 971                             | 776                             | 25%               | 3,096   | 2,903  | 7%                |
| Lake Area Bus / Halifax Area Rural Transit   | 589                             | 476                             | 24%               | 2,527   | 1,975  | 28%               |
| Southside Community Services Board   | 1,456                           | 1,744                           | -17%              | 7,078   | 6,172  | 15%               |
| STEPS, Inc   | 1,382                           | 1,200                           | 15%               | 5,120   | 4,228  | 21%               |
| <b>Total Lynchburg District Ridership</b>  | <b>428,300</b>                  | <b>352,980</b>                  | <b>21%</b>        | <b>1,344,244</b>                                  | <b>1,033,118</b>                                 | <b>30%</b>        |
| <b>NORTHERN VIRGINIA DISTRICT</b>  |                                 |                                 |                   |   |  |                   |
| Alexandria Transit Company   | 370,349                         | 354,126                         | 5%                | 1,455,279   | 1,398,204  | 4%                |
| Arlington County   | 129,220                         | 100,810                         | 28%               | 507,338   | 388,315  | 31%               |
| City of Alexandria-King Street Trolley   | 66,349                          | n/a                             | n/a               | 271,737   | n/a  | n/a               |
| City of Fairfax  | 108,233                         | 102,144                         | 6%                | 392,970   | 369,811  | 6%                |
| ECHO, Inc  | 4,157                           | 3,535                           | 18%               | 15,736  | 13,383   | 18%               |
| Fairfax County   | 906,461                         | 858,055                         | 6%                | 3,547,610   | 3,344,623  | 6%                |
| Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia   | 102                             | 39                              | 162%              | 404   | 117  | 245%              |
| Loudoun County Office of Transportation Services   | 83,591                          | 66,973                          | 25%               | 320,092   | 254,000  | 26%               |
| WMATA Metrorail (Virginia only)**  | 9,100,127                       | 8,749,351                       | 4%                | 35,465,989  | 33,785,842                                       | 5%                |
| WMATA Metrobus & Falls Church GEORGE (Virginia only)                                       | 2,107,627                       | 1,920,573                       | 10%               | 8,139,753   | 7,037,016  | 16%               |
| PRTC-OmniRide  | 302,401                         | 248,846                         | 22%               | 1,042,556   | 951,592  | 10%               |
| The Arc of Greater Prince William  | 5,982                           | 5,953                           | 0%                | 20,357  | 21,611   | -6%               |
| Virginia Regional Transit - Loudoun  | 54,272                          | 40,217                          | 35%               | 198,400   | 151,765  | 31%               |
| Virginia Regional Transit - Town of Purcellville   | 1,700                           | 1,355                           | 25%               | 7,428   | 7,468  | -1%               |
| <b>Total Northern Virginia District Ridership</b>  | <b>13,240,571</b>               | <b>12,451,977</b>               | <b>6%</b>         | <b>51,385,649</b>                                 | <b>47,723,747</b>                                | <b>8%</b>         |

## October 2008 Ridership Report - Virginia Transit Operators

| Operator                                      | Total Ridership<br>October 2008 | Total Ridership<br>October 2007 | Percent<br>Change | Fiscal Year-to-<br>Date 2009 (July-<br>Oct. 2008) | Fiscal Year-to-<br>Date 2008<br>(July-Oct. 2007) | Percent<br>Change |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---|--|-------------------|
| <b>RICHMOND DISTRICT</b>                      |                                 |                                 |                   |   |  |                   |
| A Grace Place Adult Care Center               | 410                             | 524                             | -22%              | 1,941   | 2,007  | -3%               |
| American Red Cross                            | 879                             | 917                             | -4%               | 3,294   | 3,527  | -7%               |
| Bay Aging/NewKent/Charles City                | 1,359                           | 966                             | 41%               | 4,322   | 4,248  | 2%                |
| Beth Shalom Home                              | 279                             | 290                             | -4%               | 1,209   | 1,190  | 2%                |
| Blackstone Area Bus                           | 1,851                           | 1,384                           | 34%               | 7,384   | 5,247  | 41%               |
| Blackstone Area Bus / Town and County Transit | 363                             | 268                             | 35%               | 1,218   | 1,011  | 20%               |
| Blackstone Area Bus - Brunswick Express       | 490                             | 351                             | 40%               | 1,393   | 1,128  | 23%               |
| Chesterfield Community Service Board          | 2,013                           | 1,545                           | 30%               | 6,764   | 6,666  | 1%                |
| City of Petersburg                            | 58,329                          | 53,063                          | 10%               | 213,034   | 193,340  | 10%               |
| Crater District Area Agency On Aging          | 4,421                           | 5,495                           | -20%              | 15,065  | 17,216   | -12%              |
| Daily Planet                                  | 26                              | n/a                             | n/a               | 74  | n/a  | n/a               |
| ElderHomes Corporation                        | 184                             | 200                             | -8%               | 636   | 712  | -11%              |
| Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services     | 96                              | 93                              | 3%                | 342   | 279  | 23%               |
| Greater Richmond Transit Company              | 1,026,490                       | 967,076                         | 6%                | 3,744,885   | 3,469,013  | 8%                |
| Lake Area Bus                                 | 2,046                           | 2,037                           | 0%                | 7,251   | 7,525  | -4%               |
| St. Joeseph's Villa                           | 244                             | n/a                             | n/a               | 658   | n/a  | n/a               |
| Weinstein Jewish Community Center             | 111                             | 152                             | -27%              | 446   | 504  | -12%              |
| <b>Total Richmond District Ridership</b>      | <b>1,099,591</b>                | <b>1,034,361</b>                | <b>6%</b>         | <b>4,009,916</b>                                  | <b>3,713,613</b>                                 | <b>8%</b>         |
| <b>SALEM DISTRICT</b>                         |                                 |                                 |                   |   |  |                   |
| Blacksburg Transit                            | 417,304                         | 348,331                         | 20%               | 1,088,698   | 1,022,818  | 6%                |
| Goodwill Industries of the Valleys            | 235                             | n/a                             | n/a               | 461   | n/a  | n/a               |
| Greater Roanoke Transit Company               | 243,804                         | 207,701                         | 17%               | 916,265   | 789,217  | 16%               |
| New River Valley Community Services           | 2,341                           | 2,009                           | 17%               | 8,094   | 8,194  | -1%               |
| Piedmont Community Services                   | 549                             | 588                             | -7%               | 2,190   | 2,226  | -2%               |
| Pulaski Area Transit                          | 7,512                           | 8,823                           | -15%              | 29,005  | 31,822   | -9%               |
| RADAR/Roanoke                                 | 2,627                           | 1,029                           | 155%              | 4,538   | 2686   | 69%               |
| Southern Area Agency On Aging                 | 4,306                           | 3,894                           | 11%               | 18,142  | 16,627   | 9%                |
| Stepping Stones, Inc                          | 44                              | 40                              | 10%               | 152   | 142  | 7%                |
| <b>Total Salem District Ridership</b>         | <b>678,722</b>                  | <b>572,415</b>                  | <b>19%</b>        | <b>2,067,545</b>                                  | <b>1,873,732</b>                                 | <b>10%</b>        |

## October 2008 Ridership Report - Virginia Transit Operators

| Operator   | Total Ridership<br>October 2008                       | Total Ridership<br>October 2007                       | Percent<br>Change         | Fiscal Year-to-<br>Date 2009 (July-<br>Oct. 2008)        | Fiscal Year-to-<br>Date 2008<br>(July-Oct. 2007)         | Percent<br>Change         |
|--|---|---|---------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|
| <b>STAUNTON DISTRICT</b>   |   |   |                           |  |  |                           |
| City of Harrisonburg Dept. of Public Transportation              | 259,097   | 213,816   | 21%                       | 610,945  | 517,194  | 18%                       |
| City of Winchester   | 13,402  | 12,671  | 6%                        | 52,748   | 47,037   | 12%                       |
| Friendship Industries  | 981   | 1,179   | -17%                      | 3,414  | 4,768  | -28%                      |
| Grafton, Inc   | 1,949   | 1,894   | 3%                        | 6,914  | 7,576  | -9%                       |
| Northwestern Community Services                                  | 1,265   | 1,400   | -10%                      | 5,420  | 5,840  | -7%                       |
| Pleasant View, Inc   | 6,124   | n/a   | n/a                       | 18,844   | n/a  | n/a                       |
| RADAR/Covington & Clifton Forge                                  | 1,244   | 1,060   | 17%                       | 5,120  | 4571   | 12%                       |
| Rockbridge Area CSB  | 1,058   | 880   | 20%                       | 3,958  | 3,640  | 9%                        |
| Rockbridge Area Occupational Center                              | 626   | 642   | -2%                       | 2,694  | 2,369  | 14%                       |
| Rockbridge Area Transportation System                            | 1,031   | 471   | 119%                      | 3,221  | 1,884  | 71%                       |
| Shen-Paco Industries   | 444   | 100   | 344%                      | 2,136  | 1,120  | 91%                       |
| Shenandoah Area Agency on Aging                                  | 2,610   | 2,662   | -2%                       | 9,947  | 9,854  | 1%                        |
| The Arc of Harrisonburg/Rockingham                               | 615   | 579   | 6%                        | 2,395  | 2,317  | 3%                        |
| Valley Program for Aging Services                                | 2,785   | 2,421   | 15%                       | 9,879  | 9098   | 9%                        |
| Virginia Regional Transit - CATS Coordinated Area Transportation | 4,458   | 3,501   | 27%                       | 15,491   | 12,916   | 20%                       |
| Virginia Regional Transit - City of Staunton                     | 9,810   | 8,173   | 20%                       | 39,903   | 37,672   | 6%                        |
| Virginia Regional Transit - Clarke County                        | 202   | 178   | 13%                       | 638  | 673  | -5%                       |
| Virginia Regional Transit - Page County                          | 748   | 683   | 10%                       | 2,912  | 2,494  | 17%                       |
| Virginia Regional Transit - Shenandoah Blue Ridge Service        | 5,411   | 2,935   | 84%                       | 16,661   | 8,588  | 94%                       |
| Virginia Regional Transit - Town of Front Royal                  | 1,243   | 1,286   | -3%                       | 4,392  | 3,947  | 11%                       |
| <b>Total Staunton District Ridership</b>                         | <b>315,103</b>  | <b>256,531</b>  | <b>23%</b>                | <b>817,632</b>   | <b>683,558</b>   | <b>20%</b>                |
| <b>TOTAL STATEWIDE RIDERSHIP</b>                                 | <b>Total Statewide<br/>Ridership October<br/>2008</b> | <b>Total Statewide<br/>Ridership October<br/>2007</b> | <b>Percent<br/>Change</b> | <b>Fiscal Year-to-Date<br/>2009 (July-Oct.<br/>2008)</b> | <b>Fiscal Year-to-Date<br/>2008 (July-Oct.<br/>2007)</b> | <b>Percent<br/>Change</b> |
|  | <b>18,288,737</b>                                     | <b>17,027,430</b>                                     | <b>7%</b>                 | <b>70,533,470</b>  | <b>64,307,956</b>  | <b>10%</b>                |

## October 2008 Ridership Report - Virginia Transit Operators

| CALENDAR COMPARISON             | October 2008 | October 2007 | Percent Change | Fiscal Year-to-Date 2009<br>(July-Oct. 2008) | Fiscal Year-to-Date 2008<br>(July-Oct. 2007) | Percent Change |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--|--|----------------|
| Number of Weekdays              | 22           | 22           | 0%             | 86   | 85   | 1%             |
| Number of Saturdays and Sundays | 8            | 8            | 0%             | 34   | 35   | -3%            |
| Number of State Holidays        | 1            | 1            | 0%             | 3  | 3  | 0%             |

\*Amtrak provides OTP data on a quarterly basis. Second quarter Amtrak OTP will be provided in the January 2009 Ridership Report.

\*\*WMATA Metrorail has implemented a more accurate methodology for capturing Virginia-only unlinked passenger trips.

### 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 performance reports.
- The total statewide ridership figure excludes Amtrak ridership.