

# Try Transit Week



## NEWS RELEASE

### Sixth Try Transit Week to Take Place September 15 - 19

*Pledge now to win one year of free transit and a pair of round-trip Amtrak tickets*

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**CONTACT:** Lynne McCarthy  
(804) 786-4443

lynne.mccarthy@drpt.virginia.gov

**Richmond, VA**– Starting today, Virginians can go to [trytransitweek.org](http://trytransitweek.org) and pledge to try a form of transit during the sixth statewide Try Transit Week. Participants who pledge to try transit are automatically entered for a chance to win a year of free transit service from the Virginia transit operator of their choice, along with a pair of round-trip tickets aboard Amtrak’s Northeast Regional train.\* Pledges will be accepted through September 19, 2014.

Try Transit Week, which takes place September 15 -19, 2014, is a week-long, educational event designed to encourage Virginians to reduce their use of single-occupancy vehicles and try a form of transit such as bus, rail, or ferry, such as the GRTC in Richmond, the Metro in Northern Virginia, or the Elizabeth River Ferry in Hampton Roads.

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) is working with transit operators across the Commonwealth to spread the word about the benefits of using transit. Passengers who use public transportation not only save time and money, but they can work, read, listen to music and text while traveling, arriving at their destinations stress- and hassle-free.

“The Commonwealth continues to see a tremendous amount of population growth, particularly in the Northern Virginia, Richmond and Hampton Roads regions,” says Jennifer Mitchell, director of Virginia’s Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

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“That increase in population creates a greater need for commuters to explore alternative ways to travel instead of by car. Public transportation plays an even more important role in providing a way for those who live and work in areas of growth to travel in the most efficient and cost-effective way.”

According to the American Public Transportation Association, the average household spends 18 cents of every dollar on transportation, and 94% of that goes to common car expenses. Relying on public transit as opposed to the family car helps reduce these expenses, such as gas and tune ups, saving the average family up to \$10,000 a year.

In addition to the many benefits of using public transit, if you pledge to try transit between September 15 - 19, 2014, you will be automatically entered in the contest to win one year of free transit from the transit operator of your choice and a pair of tickets on Amtrak’s Northeast Regional.\* Visit [trytransitweek.org](http://trytransitweek.org) to learn more about the event and to enter your pledge.

*\*See [trytransitweek.org](http://trytransitweek.org) for contest rules and regulations.*

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