



Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2016

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Virginia's Transit and Transportation Demand Management Communities Reduce the Commonwealth's "Drive Alone" Rate by 6%

Richmond, VA – The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) has released the results of its 2015 Statewide Travel Study, which reports the use and impacts of transit and transportation demand management programs throughout the Commonwealth. The report includes findings on the effectiveness of bus transit and commuter trains, as well as telework, vanpool and rideshare programs. The Study, which was conducted by the Southeastern Institute of Research, is a follow-up to the Department's 2007 Virginia State of the Commute Benchmark Study.

Almost 10,000 Virginia residents in 12 regions across the state were surveyed through phone and internet. A key finding is that since the 2007 Benchmark Study, Virginians have become more multimodal in general, with single-occupancy vehicle commutes decreasing from 81.6% to 76.6% – a 6% drop. This finding carries even more weight as Virginia's population has increased 7.8% in that same time period. Other results from the study show that nearly twice as many Virginians are teleworking since the 2007 study, and use of transit by bus and train has increased by 33%.

"The results of the 2015 Travel Survey demonstrate the strides we've made towards increasing awareness of the many transportation and telework options in the Commonwealth," Virginia Transportation Secretary Aubrey L. Layne stated. "These programs play a crucial role in helping to address the congestion problems that we face in Virginia."

DRPT Director Jennifer Mitchell commented, "I'm very proud of the work our agency has done that has resulted in these great findings. While we are making significant progress, we realize that our work is never complete, and we will continue in our efforts to increase mobility options and provide transportation choices."

The 2015 Statewide Travel Study was presented at the May 25, 2016, Virginia Transit Association's (VTA) annual conference. VTA Executive Director Lisa Guthrie stated, "As a partner in DRPT's efforts to increase the use and awareness of transit options in the Commonwealth, VTA is pleased to see such measureable results from our work."

DRPT's 2015 Virginia Statewide Travel Study can be accessed on the DRPT website – www.drpt.virginia.gov.

About the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

The mission of DRPT is to facilitate and improve mobility of the citizens of Virginia and promote the efficient transport of goods and people in a safe, reliable and cost-effective manner.

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