



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Virginia's 9th Annual Try Transit Week Set for September 18th-22nd

~ Virginians encouraged to Try Bus, Train, Ferry, or Vanpool ~

RICHMOND— This year, the [Commonwealth of Virginia](#) and the [Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation](#) are pleased to celebrate the 9th Annual “Try Transit Week” from September 18th-22nd. Virginians are encouraged to try a form of public transportation during a week long, educational event designed to encourage citizens to try the bus, train, ferry, or vanpool.

Participants who pledge to try transit on trytransitweek.org are automatically entered for a chance to win a year of free transit service from a participating Virginia transit operator as well as a pair of round-trip tickets aboard [Amtrak’s Northeast Regional](#) train.* Other prizes include monthly or weekly passes for transit service in areas throughout Virginia. Pledges will be accepted through September 22, 2017.

“Try Transit Week is a great way for citizens to discover the many benefits of taking alternate forms of transportation. The Commonwealth is committed to safe and reliable transportation options for its citizens, and we encourage commuters to try something new not only during Try Transit Week but throughout the year,” **says Jennifer Mitchell, Director of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation.**

DRPT and transit operators across the Commonwealth are spreading the word about public transportation, accessibility, and its numerous benefits. Public transportation riders not only save time and money but can also avoid traffic along highly congested corridors.

A recent DRPT [Statewide Travel Study](#) showed people who use transit found more satisfaction with their commute to work than those who drive alone. The American Public Transportation Association ([APTA](#)) reports people who switch their daily commute from car to public transportation save \$9,634 annually. It also found that increased use of public transportation provides large health benefits including reduced traffic crashes and pollution emissions, increased physical fitness, and improved mental health.

*Please visit trytransitweek.org for contest rules and regulations.

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About the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

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