



DRPT Monthly Director's Report

April 2026



Growing Transit Ridership & Industry Outreach

The Best State for Commuters & Moving People

- January 2026 Transit Ridership was 10.9 million, up three percent from January 2025 despite significant weather impacts. See Slide 14 for more details.
- Virginia has been named #1 in the Nation for Commuters by the Center for Urban Transportation Research's Best Workplaces for Commuters.

Growing Fuel Costs

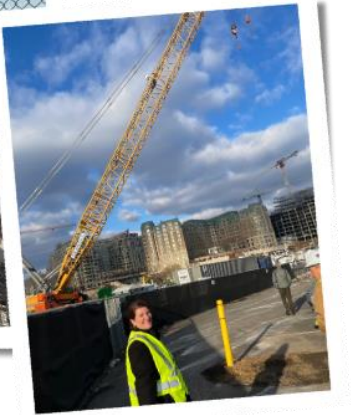
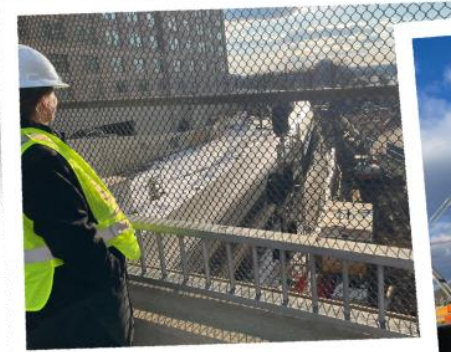
- DRPT sent a survey to the transit agencies operating in Virginia asking what their FY26 and FY27 fuel budgets are and how are/may be impacted by rising fuel costs.
- 35 agencies responded; 7 agencies noted that they expect not having enough funding to cover fuel costs for FY26. The majority agencies had anticipated and previously budgeted for fuel costs to remain flat into FY27 so future impacts may be seen later in the year.

Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee (TSDAC)

- TSDAC met on April 14 to continue discussions regarding proposed policy changes to the MERIT Formula; the next meeting is scheduled for May 12 and DRPT staff will be conducting workshops with transit agencies this month to get additional input on potential changes.

Industry Engagement

- On March 18, DRPT hosted the Virginia Transit Leadership Institute for an all-day learning session.
- DRPT Director Zimmerman conducted several interviews over the last month including with the Virginia Mercury about the Tidewater Current, and WTKR (Hampton Roads) about the Virginia Statewide Rail Plan and the new Virginia Breeze "Tidewater Current" service opening on 4/20/2026.
- Director Zimmerman presented at the Virginians for High-Speed Rail "2026 State of Rail Town Hall" on April 9 along with VPRA Exec Director Stadtler, and VRE CEO Choe. Director Zimmerman last week joined local leaders for the newest Hampton Roads Transit Center groundbreaking.



Building Intercity Bus Service Throughout Virginia

Virginia Breeze Updates

Connecting Virginia with the Tidewater Current

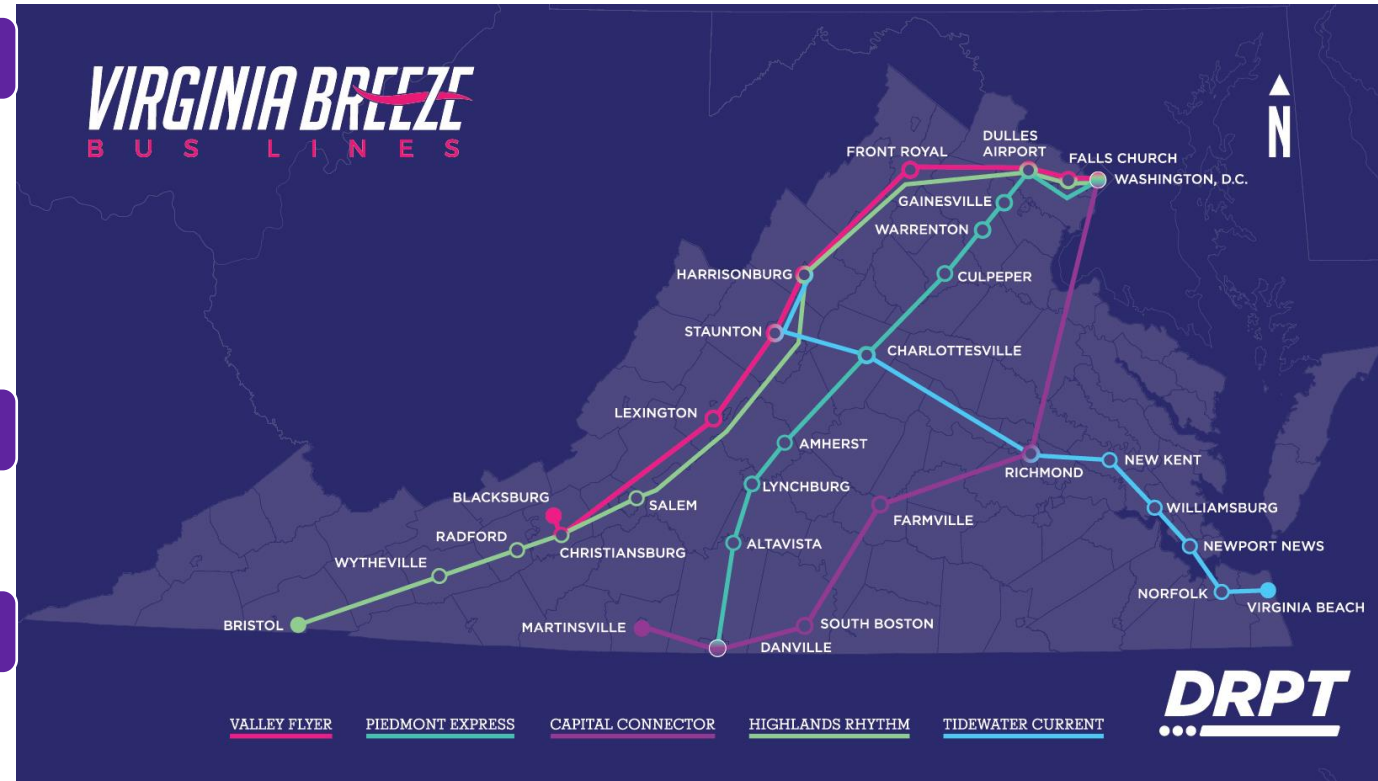
- April 20 is the launch of the “Tidewater Current”, the fifth route of the Virginia Breeze intercity bus service funded by DRPT.
- It is the first east-west route, connecting ten cities and five counties along the I-64 corridor between Virginia Beach and Harrisonburg.
- Ticket prices are on sale at virginiabreeze.org for \$35 or less.
- All buses are equipped with a wheelchair lift; Free WiFi; ample luggage storage and on-board bathroom.

Providing Affordable Service with Capital Connector

- From March 16 to April 30, the Virginia Breeze’s Capital Connector route is offering reduced \$17 one-way fares between Richmond and Washington, D.C.

Providing Positive Impacts across the Commonwealth

- Transported over 68,000 passengers in 2025.
- Reduced single occupant vehicle travel by nearly 61 million miles and cut greenhouse emissions by more than 10,000 tons.



Promoting Transit as the Affordable Option

Your Story Campaign

- In March, DRPT launched the Your Story marketing campaign, highlighting public transportation as the most affordable mobility option for many households.
 - Across the U.S., the typical household spends around **\$12,000 annually** to own, maintain, and operate personal automobiles.
 - In contrast, the typical transit-riding American household spends around **\$800 annually** for public transportation.



Celebrating our Partners

Milestones from Across the Commonwealth

- Petersburg Area Transit received \$23.8M and Hampton Roads Transit received \$10.6M in [federal FY2026 Bus and Bus Facilities](#) funding.
- WMATA celebrated 50 years of Metrorail service in March. Operations began with the Red line in 1976; expanding into Virginia the next year.
- This April, Hampton Roads Transit broke ground on its Evelyn Butts Transfer relocation project in Norfolk.
 - The project is in the final design phase, with construction anticipated to start later this year, including building new bus shelters, bus lanes, and parking.
 - The project is partially funded through a DRPT TRIP grant and is anticipated to be completed in 2028.
- This May, Suffolk Transit will launch two new regional routes bus routes connecting Windsor and Portsmouth with Suffolk.
 - The Peanut Express (Windsor-Suffolk) and Seaport Express (Suffolk-Portsmouth) run five days a week and will connect at Suffolk Transit's Godwin Park and Ride.
 - Both routes received SMART SCALE funding for capital purchases.



Easing Congestion on I-95

Potomac & Rappahannock Transportation Commission

Consent Agenda Item

- **Corridor Improvement Plan:**

- Lack of commuter bus service south of Dale City on I-95 identified as a corridor challenge.
- IOEP funds new commuter routes that serve from as far south as Fredericksburg to the DC core in the north. The 3 routes are part of the 11 OmniRide Express routes that serve points north for commuters.
- The routes serve the following destinations:
 - Stafford to DC
 - Spotsylvania to Pentagon/Navy Yard
 - Falmouth to Pentagon/Rosslyn/Ballston
- The three funded projects were expected to carry more than 150 riders each morning.

- **New Services:**

- OmniRide did not start service until December 2023 because of pandemic ridership impacts and the continuance of remote work.
- As of January 2026, the routes outperformed expected ridership serving over 800 riders per day.
- The services contributed to growth in ridership of over 27% on OmniRide Express routes between FY24 and FY25, from 916,000 to 1.1 million, and have continued to grow ridership into the current fiscal year.

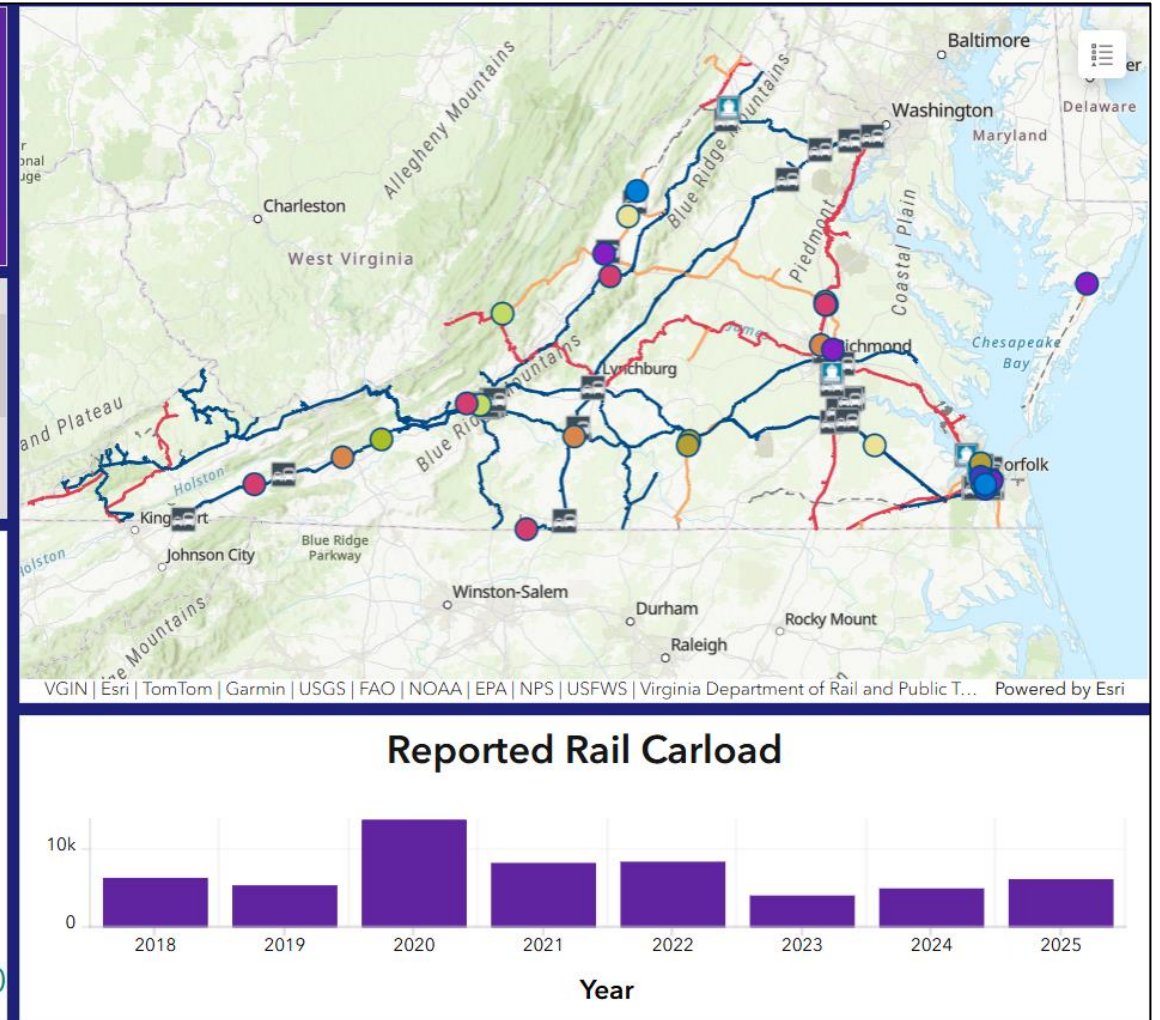
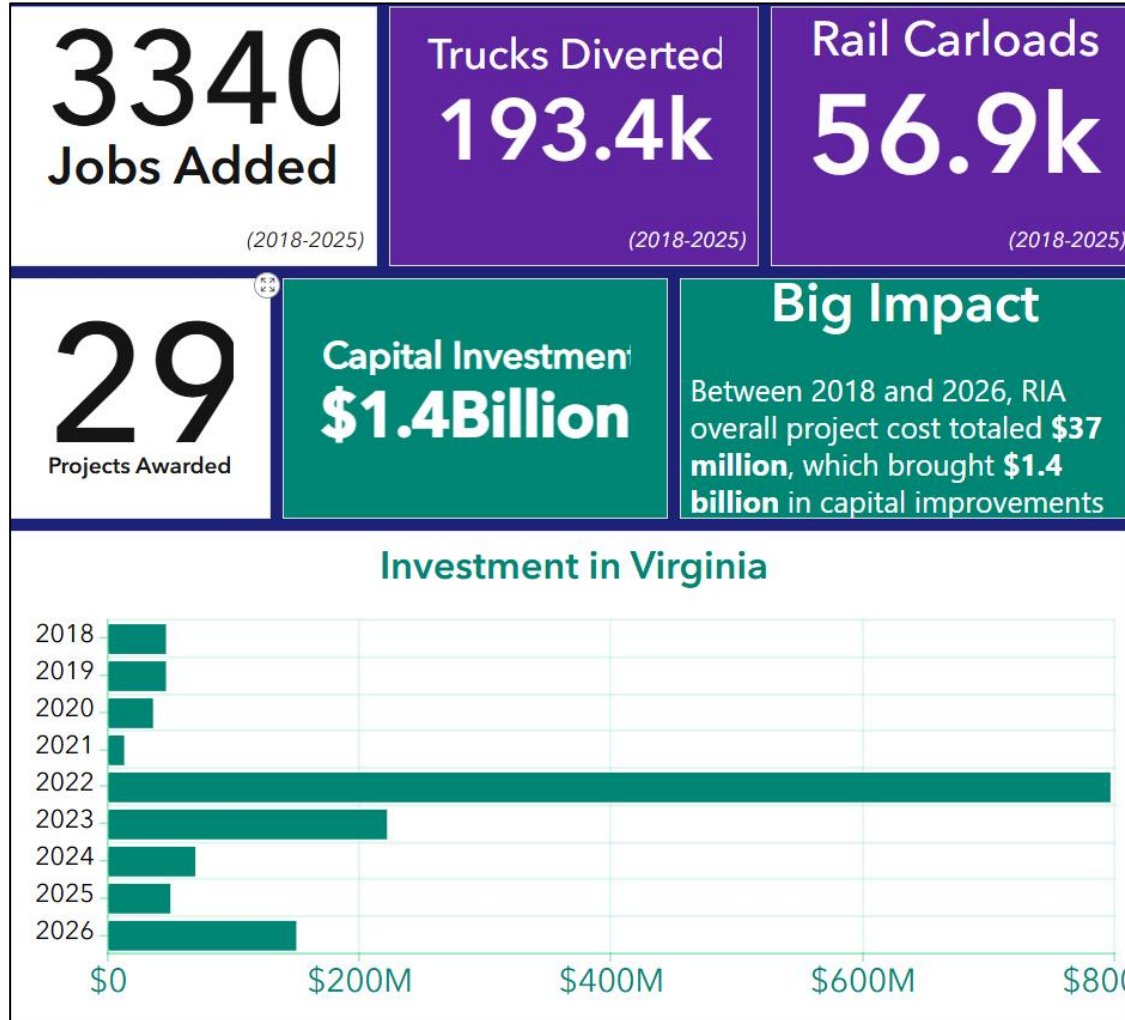
- **Recommendation:**

- DRPT recommends extending the three OmniRide Express routes funded by the I-95 CIP for an additional three years through December 31, 2029.
- No additional funding is being sought as there are funds available in the current awards to continue the service through December 2029.



Bringing Capital Investment and Jobs to Virginia

DRPT's Rail Industrial Access Program



Growing Freight Rail in Hampton Roads

Annandale Millwork & Allied Systems Corporation

- Annandale Millwork is a Winchester-based, family owned and operated business:
 - Has 380 employees.
 - Specializes in the production of structural building components, including roof trusses, wall panels, and other precision-engineered systems for residential and commercial construction.
 - Has requested funding for Newport News facility that will allow the company to expand operation further to the south to provide the Richmond and Tidewater regions.
- Annandale Millwork has applied for Rail Industrial Access (RIA) grant funds in the amount of \$625,100 to construct 800 feet of new track to serve its facility in the City of Newport News, Virginia.



Transform Rail 2.0

Rail Updates

2026 Statewide Rail Plan

- The Statewide Rail Plan's public and stakeholder surveys closed on March 27, receiving over 2,700 responses. DRPT will host workshops over the spring and summer.
- Draft Plan will be shared with CTB later in 2026; with additional opportunity for public comment.

Corridor Identification and Development Program

- On March 9-11, rail planners from DRPT, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA), and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) joined staff from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) on a tour of the Charlotte to DC Rail Corridor.
- The Charlotte to DC corridor is under study by NCDOT as part of the Corridor Identification and Development Program (CID) and supports the Transforming Rail in Virginia initiative.
- DRPT is leading the CID planning for the Commonwealth Corridor and DC to Bristol corridor.

Transforming Rail in Virginia

Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Updates

Long Bridge Project

- North Package:
 - At Maine Ave. SW, a critical location for the project, crews are constructing the foundations for the first bridge pier.
 - The Washington Channel Trestle is being constructed to support bridge construction and project access.
 - Fiber, sewer, and electric utility relocations made progress in March.
- South Package:
 - The contractor has finished constructing a bulkhead on the Virginia shore of the Potomac River.
 - This bulkhead will be used throughout the project to launch construction equipment and materials onto barges, allowing safe and efficient movement on and off the water.

New River Valley Passenger Rail Project

- Work is on track and the service extension to the New River Valley is expected in Fall 2027.
- The parking lot retaining wall and grading were completed in March. The contractor is progressing construction of the high-level boarding platform. The retaining wall along Depot Street is being constructed.

Alexandria Fourth Track

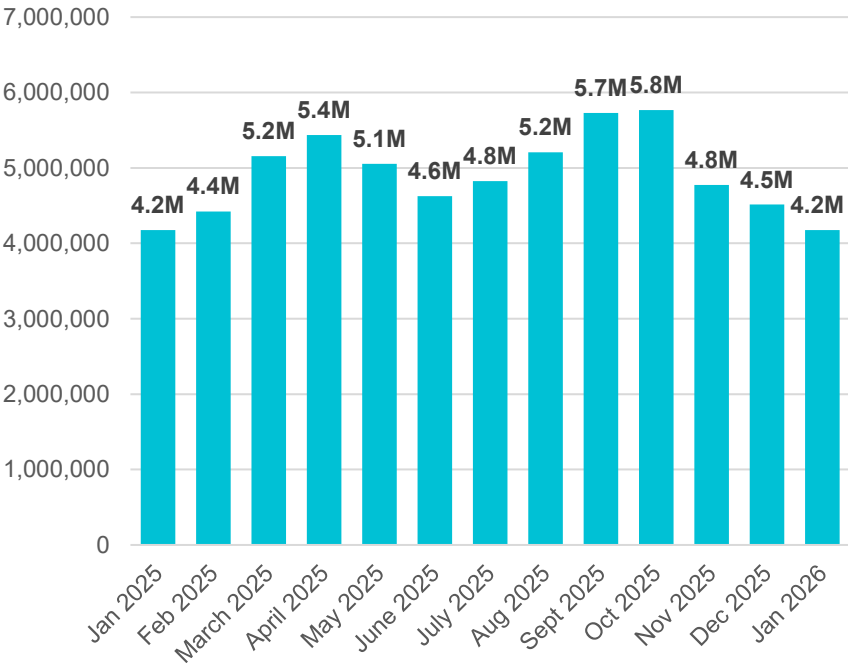
- CSX began early signal relocation activities at the northern interlocking.
- Removal of out-of-service track began in late March.
- CSX's contractor has begun clearing and grubbing & installing erosion and sediment control measures throughout the six-mile corridor.
- Construction is also beginning at the neighboring King & Commonwealth Bridges project led by VRE.
- Three cranes were delivered on site in late March.

DRPT By The Numbers

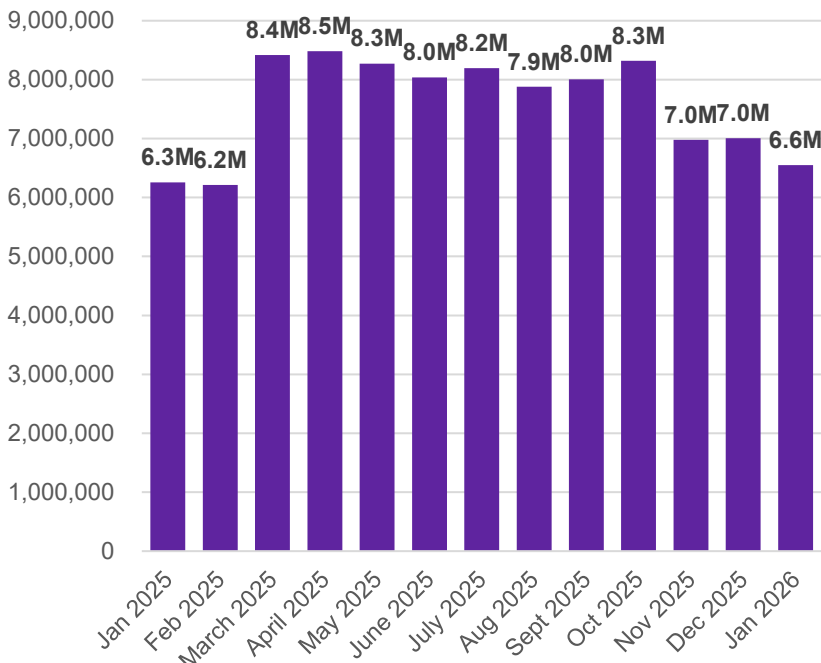
Statewide Transit Ridership

January 2025 to January 2026

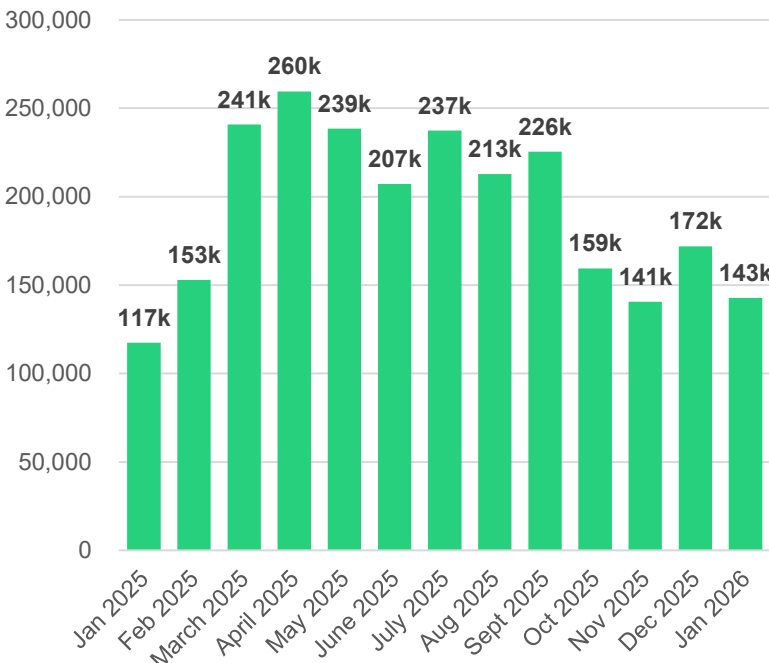
Statewide Transit Ridership – January 2025 to January 2026



Virginia Agencies



WMATA



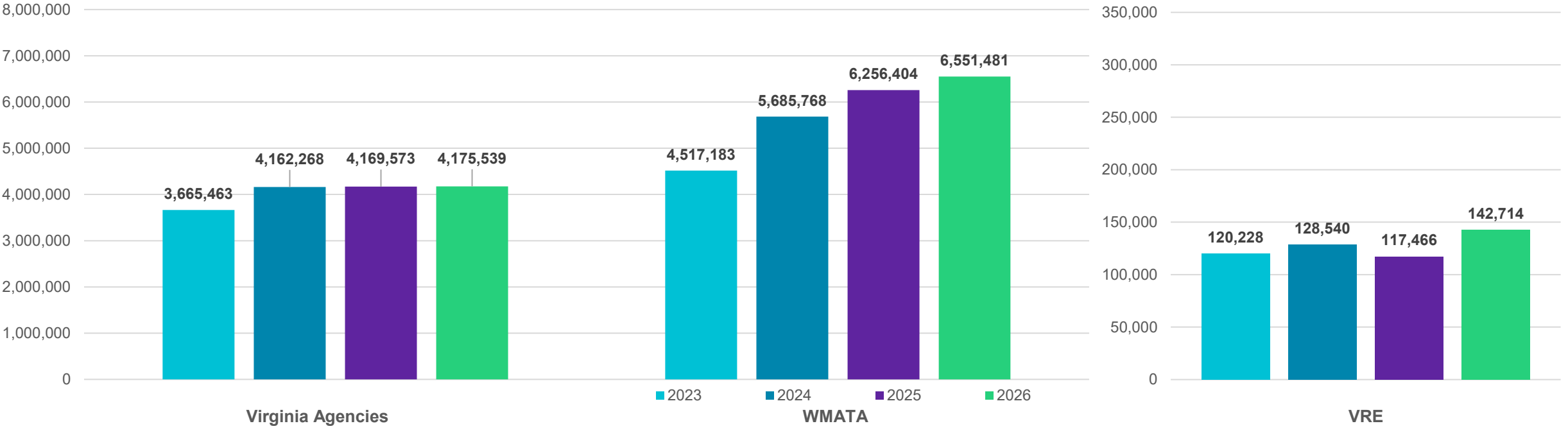
VRE

Agencies	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2026	Total*
Virginia Agencies	4,177,150	4,422,149	5,155,217	5,437,004	5,053,320	4,624,290	4,826,487	5,208,249	5,729,123	5,765,456	4,774,932	4,513,370	4,175,539	59,685,136
VRE	117,466	152,882	240,794	259,585	238,518	207,130	237,363	212,798	225,504	159,390	140,553	171,887	142,714	2,389,118
WMATA	6,256,404	6,213,666	8,418,575	8,483,804	8,272,850	8,038,628	8,197,440	7,877,904	8,005,759	8,320,907	6,977,427	7,005,271	6,551,481	92,363,712
All Agencies + VRE + WMATA	10,551,020	10,788,697	13,814,586	14,180,393	13,564,688	12,870,048	13,261,290	13,298,951	13,960,386	14,245,753	11,892,912	11,690,528	10,869,734	154,437,966

Statewide Ridership Comparison

January 2022 to 2025, Year-to-Year

Ridership Comparison: Year-to-Year
2023 – 2026



Mode	2023	2024	2025	2026	2026 vs 2023	2026 vs 2024	2026 vs 2025
Virginia Agencies	3,665,463	4,162,268	4,169,573	4,175,539	14%	0%	0%
VRE	120,228	128,540	117,466	142,714	19%	11%	21%
WMATA	4,517,183	5,685,768	6,256,404	6,551,481	45%	15%	5%
All Agencies + VRE + WMATA	8,302,874	9,976,576	10,543,443	10,869,734	31%	9%	3%

Virginia Breeze Ridership

January 2025 to January 2026

In January 2026, ridership on VA Breeze routes totaled 4,411 which was:

- 154% higher than original estimates, and
- 5% lower than January 2025

In January 2026, the VA Breeze contributed to a reduction of 185 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent emissions.

Valley Flyer:

- Ridership – 3% lower than January 2025
- Farebox Rev. – 2% lower than January 2025

Piedmont Express:

- Ridership – 1% higher than January 2025
- Farebox Rev. – 3% higher than January 2025

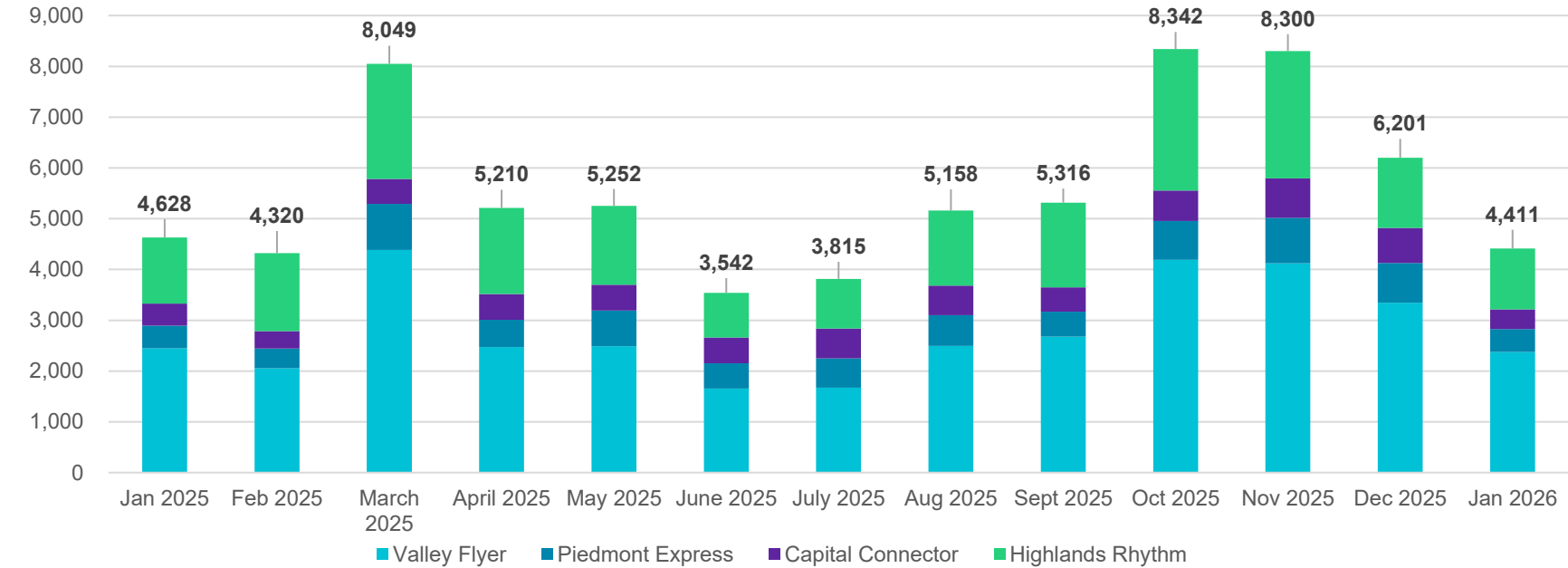
Capital Connector:

- Ridership – 10% lower than January 2025
- Farebox Rev. – 7% lower than January 2025

Highlands Rhythm:

- Ridership – 8% lower than January 2025
- Farebox Rev – 18% lower than January 2025

Virginia Breeze Ridership by Route – January 2025 to January 2026



Route	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2026	Total
Valley Flyer	2,448	2,057	4,385	2,475	2,489	1,655	1,675	2,493	2,676	4,189	4,124	3,344	2,377	33,939
Piedmont Express	448	384	908	531	702	499	577	606	490	767	895	781	451	7,591
Capital Connector	432	345	490	513	508	504	585	581	484	598	778	694	389	6,469
Highlands Rhythm	1,300	1,534	2,266	1,691	1,553	884	978	1,478	1,666	2,788	2,503	1,382	1,194	19,917
All Routes	4,628	4,320	8,049	5,210	5,252	3,542	3,815	5,158	5,316	8,342	8,300	6,201	4,411	67,916

*Last 6 months

DRPT FY26 Budget Q2 Update



Schedule of Budget vs. Actual
As of December 31, 2025
(\$ in Millions)

	Adopted FY 2026	Actual 12/31/2025	Remaining Balance	Percentage Remaining
Public Transportation Programs				
Operating Assistance	\$ 164.3	\$ 65.6	\$ 98.7	60.1%
Capital Assistance	213.2	67.4	145.8	68.4%
Special Programs	9.4	4.0	5.4	57.4%
Ridership Incentive Programs	77.2	11.7	65.5	84.8%
VRE Assistance	17.4	8.7	8.7	50.0%
WMATA Assistance	364.6	212.6	152.0	41.7%
Total	846.1	370.0	476.1	56.3%
Commuter Assistance Programs	7.3	9.3	(2.0)	-27.4%
Human Service Transportation Pgm	6.7	3.6	3.1	46.3%
Planning, Regulation, & Safety Pgm	6.7	2.7	4.0	59.7%
WMATA Dedicated	154.5	77.2	77.3	50.0%
Total Transit Programs	1,021.3	462.8	558.5	54.7%
Rail Assistance Programs				
Rail Preservation Programs	7.7	2.4	5.3	68.8%
Rail Industrial Access	2.7	1.1	1.6	59.3%
Freight Rail and Rail Planning Programs	23.2	6.0	17.2	74.1%
Total Rail Programs	33.6	9.5	24.1	71.7%
Administrative Expenses	19.9	9.5	10.4	52.3%
Agency Total before VPRA	\$ 1,074.8	\$ 481.8	\$ 593.0	55.2%
VPRA Recurring Payments	192.3	88.6	103.7	53.9%
Agency Total	\$ 1,267.1	\$ 570.4	\$ 696.7	55.0%

DRPT Q2 Resources & Commitments

Schedule of Resources and Commitments As of December 31, 2025 (\$ in Millions)

	12/31/2025			12/31/2024
	Rail	Transit	Total	Total
Resources				
Cash	\$ 62.3	\$ 574.3	\$ 636.6	\$ 624.0
Estimated Revenues - FY 2026	8.0	378.3	386.3	337.6
Accounts Receivable	-	7.9	7.9	3.3
Bonds Receivable	-	-	-	0.6
Anticipated Bond Proceeds	9.5	17.6	27.1	31.6
Anticipated Reimbursement - VDOT	-	223.0	223.0	151.1
Anticipated Reimbursement - VPRA	8.6	-	8.6	9.3
Anticipated Reimbursement - DEQ	-	6.5	6.5	7.3
Anticipated Reimbursement - Federal	40.1	99.7	139.8	158.8
Total Resources (A)	128.5	1,307.3	1,435.8	1,323.6
Commitments				
Transit & TDM Commitments	-	1,121.9	1,121.9	1,036.8
Rail Commitments	107.5	-	107.5	123.1
VPRA Commitments	15.5	-	15.5	12.0
Total Commitments (B)	123.0	1,121.9	1,244.9	1,171.9
Funds Available	\$ 5.5	\$ 185.4	\$ 190.9	\$ 151.7



Virginia-Supported Monthly Ridership by Route SFY '26 vs. SFY '25

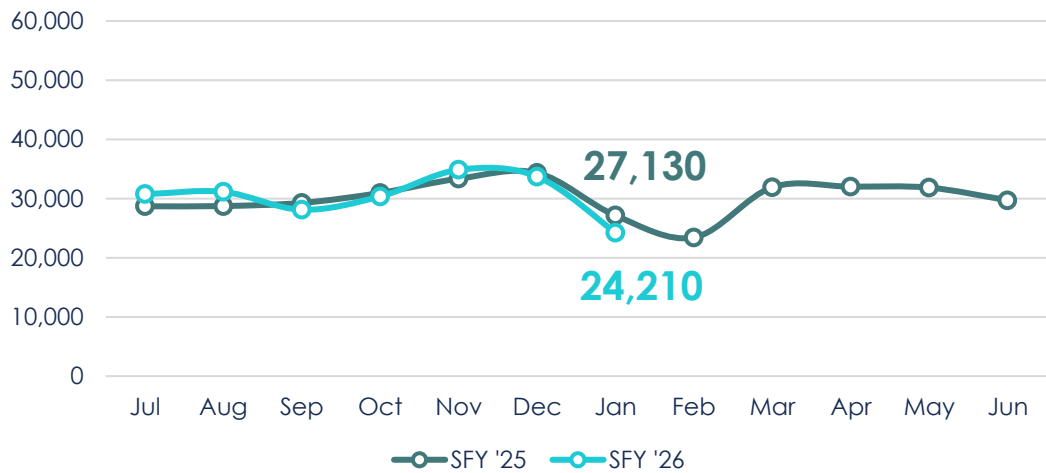
Route 51: WAS-RVM, ceased operations after January 12th due to LB construction.

Winter Storms Fern & Gianna canceled 34 trains (8%). There were several days of no service & reduced operations during storm clean up.

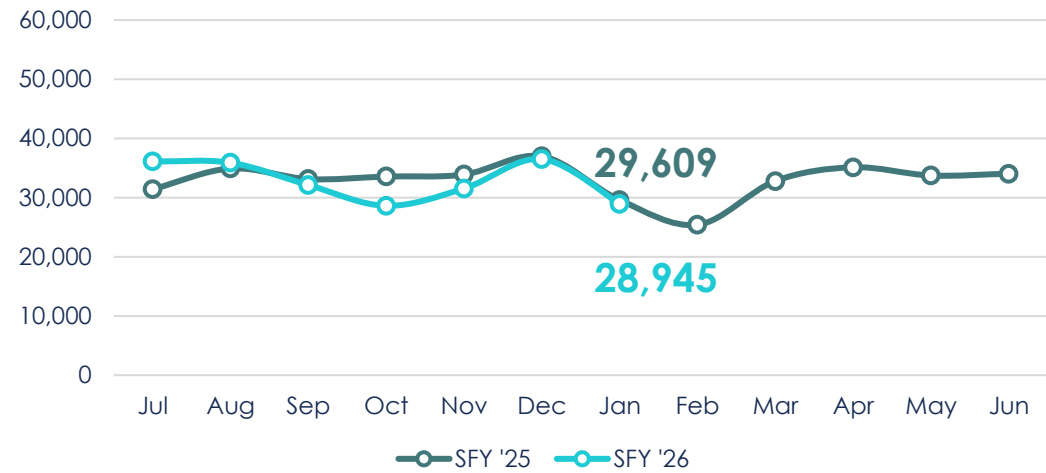
Weekends are higher ridership periods and were impacted by the winter storms.



Route 46: Roanoke (-10.8%)

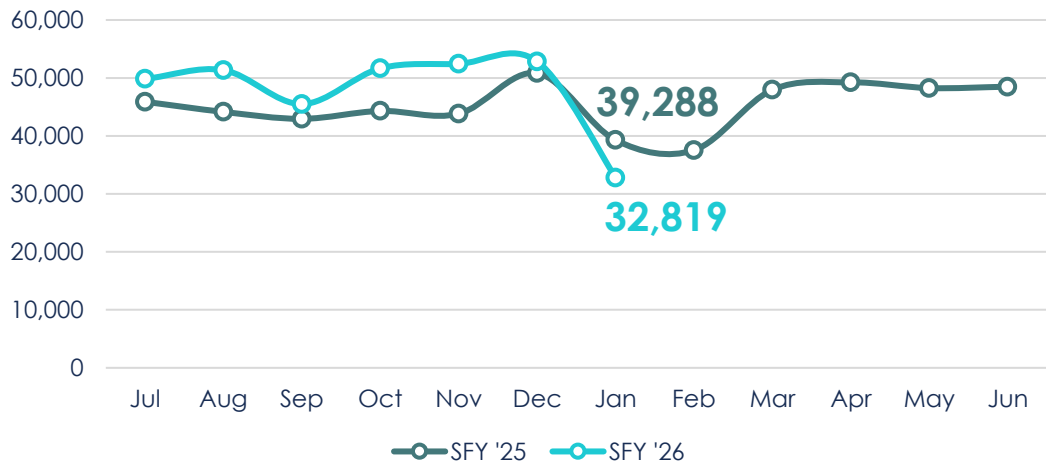


Route 47: Newport News (-2.2%)

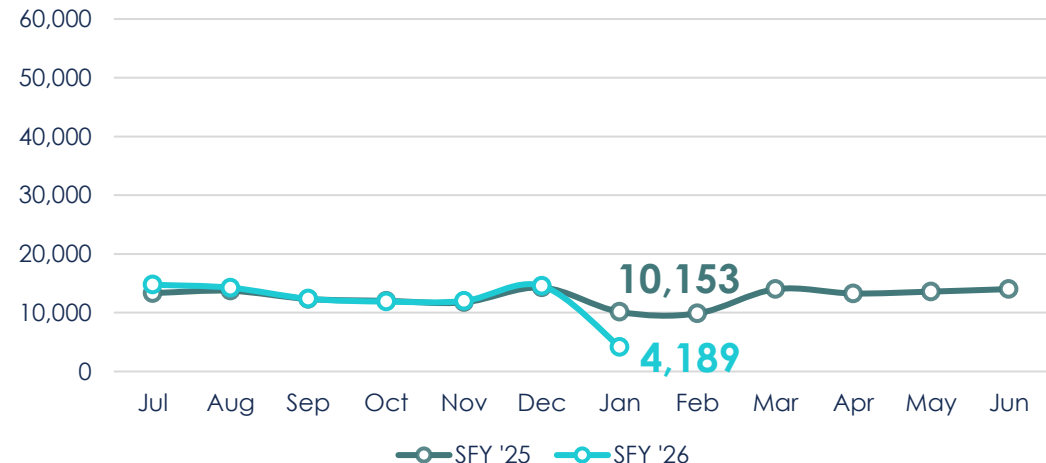


Note: Route ridership subject to Amtrak data finalization. To be reported in a future EDR appendix.

Route 50: Norfolk (-16.5%)



Route 51: Richmond (-58.7%)



Virginia & Comparable State-Supported Service Ridership

Normalized: Monthly Ridership ÷ Daily Trains

