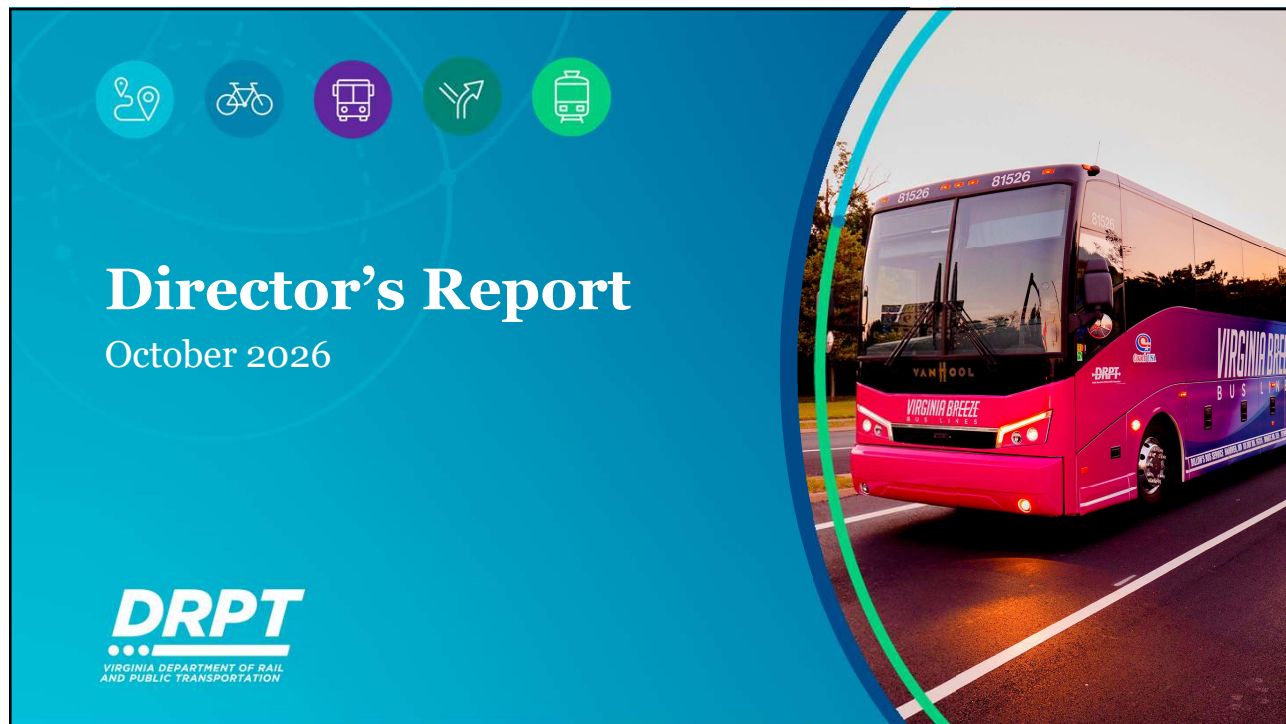




1

Growing Ridership and Relationships

Statewide Transit Ridership

- July 2026 statewide transit ridership was 14.3 million, nearly 11% higher than July 2025. See slide 10 for more details.

Virginia Breeze Ridership

- July 2026 Virginia Breeze ridership was 4,520, an 18% increase from July 2025. See slide 12 for more information.

Industry Engagement

- On September 23, Director Zimmerman and other DRPT staff spoke at the VDOT Local Programs workshop meeting in Roanoke.
- On September 30, Director Zimmerman spoke at the Virginia Railroad Association's annual meeting.
- Through September, DRPT staff participated at the Mpart Transit + Community Conference, focusing on Transit-Oriented Development. DRPT staff also attended the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Council on Public Transportation Meeting, focusing on State Partnerships.

2

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

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ZM4

Celebrating our Partners

Milestones from Across the Commonwealth

Hampton Roads Transit Announced Dr. Brian Smith as new CEO, starting in October.

FXBGo! Celebrated 30 years of Connecting the Fredericksburg Region in September.

Jaunt Celebrated 50 years of Serving the Greater Charlottesville-Albemarle region in September.

New fare-free Mountain Empire Transit Route to Connect "Lenowisco" Area with Kingsport, TN.

NVTC and PRTC are celebrating 10 years of the *Commuter Choice* supporting program supporting transit in Northern Virginia.



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DRPT-Supported Human Service Transportation

Performance Data

 **41,050**

Unique clients served
from July 2024 – June 2025

 **1,012,676**

Total number of trips
from July 2024 – June 2025



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Slide 3

EP1 Language taken directly from the MET newsletter

Price, Evan (DRPT), 2026-09-24T15:16:02.666

AW1 0 Let's add Jaunt which celebrated its 50th anniversary yesterday.

Wright, Andrew (DRPT), 2026-10-01T19:00:28.646

ZM2 As noted, move to the TPs. I feel like we highlight HRT every month. If you want to say something about them, i'd note that Brian Smith is starting as new CEO.

Zimmerman, Mariia (DRPT), 2026-10-01T19:40:15.352

ZM3 Consider less text on this slide, and more photos. I think there are some from each of the anniversaries. I think you could delete the sub-bullets under FxBGo and Jaunt to make room for pix.

Zimmerman, Mariia (DRPT), 2026-10-01T19:42:14.774

ZM4 This info should go in TPs, not on the slide.

Zimmerman, Mariia (DRPT), 2026-10-01T19:42:35.134

Updates from the Yard

DRPT Rail Updates

Statewide Rail Plan Public Survey.

- On October 5, DRPT launched a second phase of 2026 Statewide Rail Plan survey. The survey seeks to hear from residents, businesses owners, community members and other travelers about what the future of rail in Virginia should look like. The survey is open until November 5.

Proposed Union Pacific - Norfolk Southern Merger.

- The Surface Transportation Board is proceeding with a required NEPA Environmental Impact Statement to thoroughly assess the potential environmental impacts that may result from the proposed UP-NS merger.



Rail Plan Survey QR Code

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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

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Transforming Rail in Virginia

Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Project Updates

Long Bridge Project

- VPRA received a bridge construction permit for the new rail bridge from the U.S. Coast Guard on September 8 and completed permitting for all in-water work.
- Bridge abutment work on both sides of the river is on schedule as part of the South Package.
- The North Package contractor is continuing construction on retaining walls.

Franconia-Springfield Bypass

- The contractor began installing drilled shafts for the Bypass bridge in September to support the flyover bridge that will carry passenger trains over the freight tracks.
- Construction of retaining walls and fabrication of the bridge structural steel is progressing.

New River Valley Passenger Rail Project

- Significant progress is happening to construct the 960-foot-long high-level passenger platform.
- VPRA anticipates New River Valley service to occur in the second half of 2027.

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Ongoing Transit Studies

Monthly Study Update

- **Statewide Transit Oriented Development Study**
 - DRPT's Statewide TOD Survey closed on September 25 and regional stakeholder meetings held in September and October.
- **Equivalent Compensation Labor Study**
 - The third work group meeting was held on September 28 to discuss emerging themes, considerations and options for implementation of HB 547 and SB 731.
- **WMATA Efficiency Reporting (due October 2026)**
 - Report is in final review, ahead of an October submission deadline.
- **HJ28 Hampton Roads Transit Regional Needs Study (due 2027)**
 - The first Joint Subcommittee Meeting was held on September 23 with presentations from DRPT, Hampton Roads Transit, Williamsburg Area Transit Authority, and Suffolk Transit.
- **Northern Virginia Bus Transit Consolidation Study**
 - On October 21, DRPT will host a leadership roundtable at NVTC for elected officials, transit leaders, and regional partners to review draft findings.
- **Virginia Breeze Study***
 - The study is preparing to begin financial and fare analysis components to evaluate long-term financial sustainability and future service scenarios.
- **Transit Transformation***
 - Kimley Horn has been selected to support DRPT's efforts in the study.

*DRPT initiated study that will conclude in 2027; all others requested by General Assembly are due in December 2026 unless otherwise noted.

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DRPT/OIPI Transit-Primary Pipeline Studies

- **Goal:** Develop a pipeline study framework for transit projects to successfully navigate the SMART SCALE pre-application process.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Continue discussions with DRPT, VDOT, and OIPI to develop the framework, guidelines, and expectations
 - Identify funding for pipeline studies
 - Identify 4 to 5 transit projects of varying sizes and geographically spread across the Commonwealth
 - Coordinate with transit agencies and VDOT Districts

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Appendix

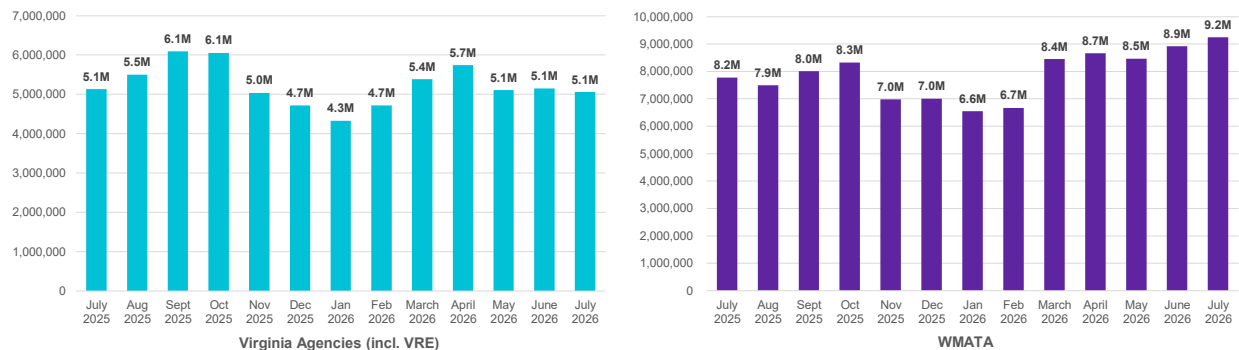
9



9

Statewide Transit Ridership

Statewide Transit Ridership – July 2025 to July 2026



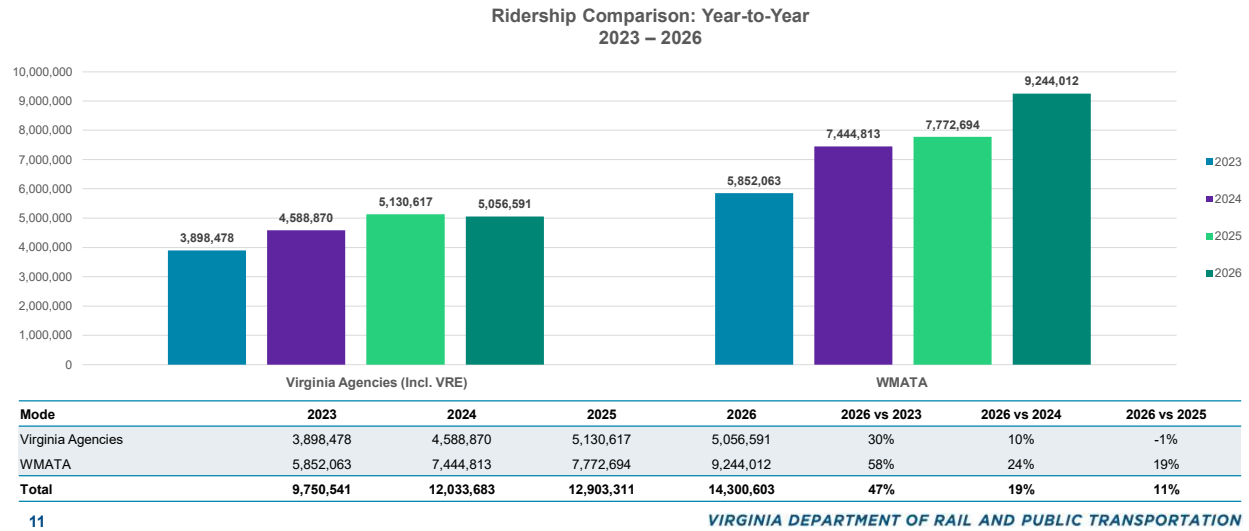
Agencies	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	March 2026	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026	Total*
Virginia Agencies	5,130,617	5,501,192	6,092,184	6,054,733	5,035,161	4,718,126	4,327,420	4,713,290	5,387,549	5,739,431	5,104,481	5,144,741	5,056,591	62,874,899
WMATA	7,772,694	7,491,352	8,005,759	8,320,907	6,977,427	7,005,271	6,551,481	6,668,660	8,449,361	8,661,623	8,463,248	8,913,639	9,244,012	94,752,740
Total	12,903,311	12,992,544	14,097,943	14,375,640	12,012,588	11,723,397	10,878,901	11,381,950	13,836,910	14,401,054	13,567,729	14,058,380	14,300,603	157,627,639

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Statewide Ridership Comparison: July Year-to-Year



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Virginia Breeze Ridership – July

In July 2026, ridership on VA Breeze routes totaled 4,520 which was:

- 104% higher than original estimates, and
- 18% higher than July 2025

In July 2026, the VA Breeze contributed to a reduction of 121 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent emissions.

Valley Flyer:

- Ridership – equal to July 2025
- Farebox Rev. – 1% lower than July 2025

Piedmont Express:

- Ridership – 2% higher than July 2025
- Farebox Rev. – 5% lower than July 2025

Capital Connector:

- Ridership – 38% higher than July 2025
- Farebox Rev. – 33% higher than July 2025

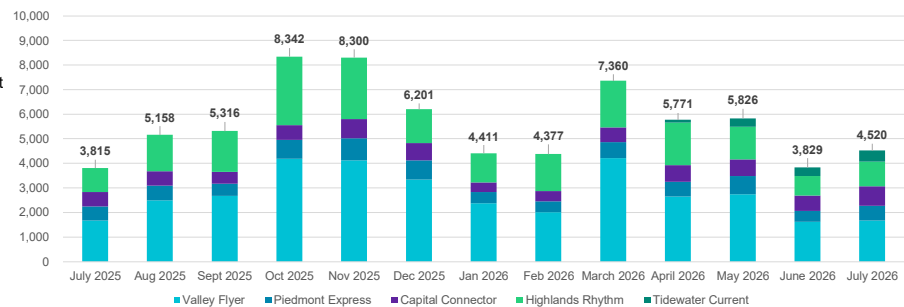
Highlands Rhythm:

- Ridership – 2% higher than July 2025
- Farebox Rev – 2% higher than July 2025

Tidewater Current:

- Ridership – N/A
- Farebox Rev – N/A

Virginia Breeze Ridership by Route – July 2025 to July 2026



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Virginia-Supported Monthly Amtrak Ridership SFY '26 vs. SFY '25

Due to the Long Bridge work window, the NFK route serves 33% less trains or 1 less daily roundtrip YoY.

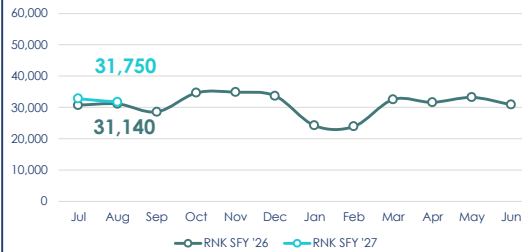
Ridership on the NFK route is down -11.4% YoY.

Hampton Roads is also served by several supplemental [express buses to/from D.C.](#)

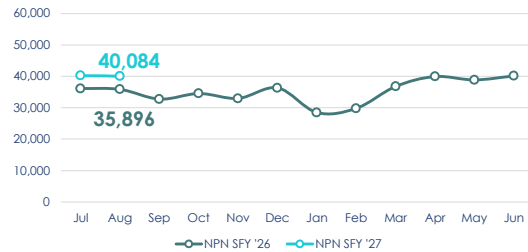
Express bus ridership breakout on Slide 12.



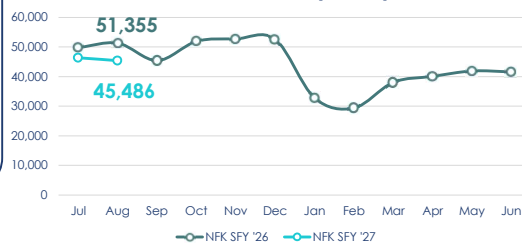
Route 46: Roanoke (+2.3%)



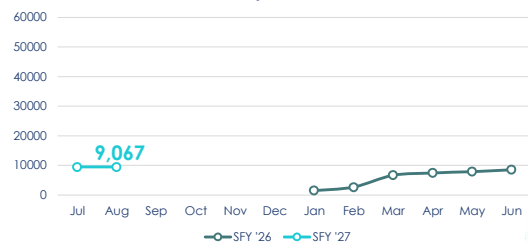
Route 47: Newport News (+11.7%)



Route 50: Norfolk (-11.4%)

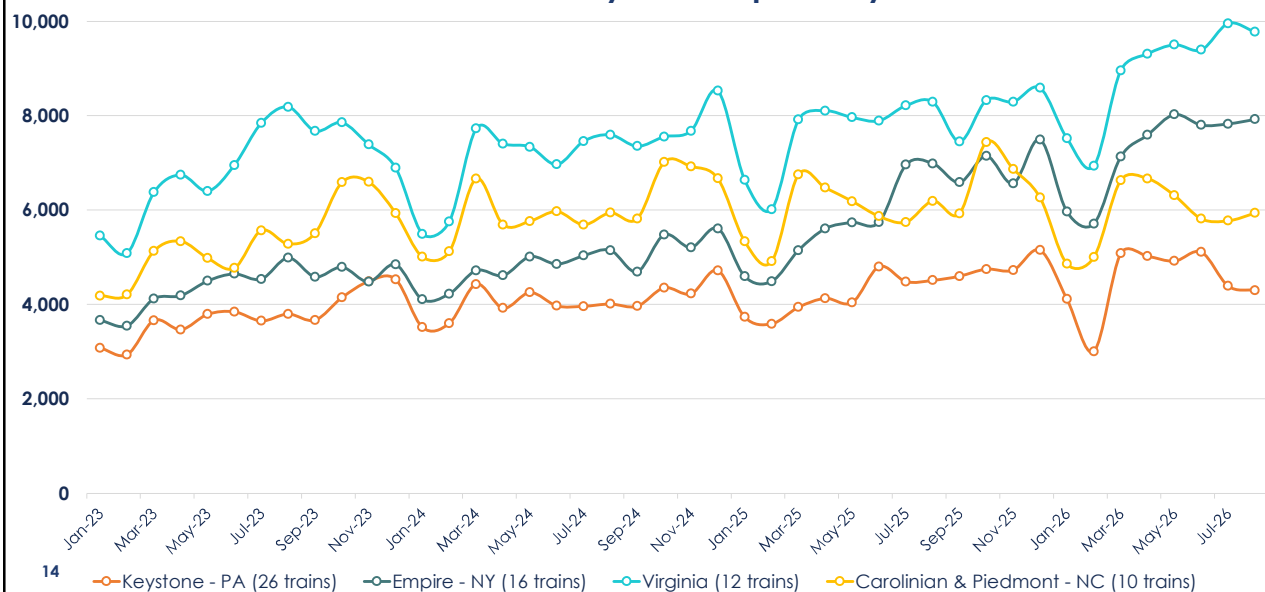


D.C. Express Buses



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Virginia & Comparable State-Supported Amtrak Service Ridership Normalized: Monthly Ridership ÷ Daily Trains



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DRPT.Virginia.gov

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