

**AGENDA ITEM 11-A**  
**INFORMATION ITEM**

**TO: CHAIRMAN KAUFFMAN AND THE VRE OPERATIONS BOARD**

**FROM: DALE ZEHNER**

**DATE: JANUARY 19, 2007**

**RE: RIDERSHIP ANALYSIS BY STATION**

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At the December Operations Board meeting, Supervisor Bulova asked for information on which stations were experiencing the largest decline in ridership. The table below, based on a.m. boardings only, shows the largest percentage decline in ridership occurring at Franconia/Springfield and Manassas and the largest percentage increase in ridership occurring at Quantico.

<b>Station</b>	<b>Ridership - October, 2005</b>	<b>Ridership - October, 2006</b>	<b>Change from Previous Year</b>
Broad Run	1031	986	-4.6%
Manassas	624	534	-16.9%
Manassas Park	622	625	0.5%
Burke Centre	648	679	4.6%
Rolling Road	385	411	6.3%
Backlick	123	128	3.9%
Fredericksburg	1274	1295	1.6%
Leeland Road	703	707	0.6%
Brooke	360	375	4.0%
Quantico	269	381	29.4%
Rippon	457	452	-1.1%
Woodbridge	481	452	-6.4%
Lorton	203	213	4.7%
Franconia/Springfield	57	44	-29.5%
	7237	7282	0.6%

While ridership decreased during 2005 and portions of 2006, systemwide ridership has leveled out over the course of the year. Interestingly, ridership at the inner stations on the Manassas line increased while both Manassas and Broad Run declined. While Broad Run ridership is likely to have declined due to the parking shortage, anecdotal evidence also points to changing work dynamics of Manassas line passengers. The Manassas line has historically served older passengers and may be realizing the affects of baby-boomer retirement and reduced work schedules. While not reflected in these numbers, the fall of 2006 also saw parking decrease significantly at Burke Centre when the number of available spaces was reduced to allow for construction of the new Burke Centre parking garage.

The Fredericksburg line, while plagued with on-time performance problems, realized a ridership increase at most stations – even at the end of the line where parking is constrained. One notable exception was Franconia/Springfield where passengers likely used Metro during VRE's delays. Quantico saw a marked increase in ridership, likely because security has eased a bit since 2001 and base activities have increased. Woodbridge, however, saw ridership decrease despite the availability of parking. The good news is that since August, every successive month has seen an increase.

VRE is expecting this positive trend to continue and will report back in several months on the status.