



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

November 2007

MONTHLY DELAY SUMMARY

	July 07	August 07	September 07	October 07
System wide				
Total delays	53	99	66	63
Average length of delay (mins.)	21	23	25	18
Number over 30 minutes	15	26	20	11
Days with Heat Restrictions/Total days	3/21	3/23	0/19	0/22
On-Time Performance	91.3%	85.1%	88%	90.10%
Fredericksburg Line				
Total delays	33	51	33	29
Average length of delay (mins.)	23	26	22	16
Number over 30 minutes	11	12	8	4
On-Time Performance	87.90%	82.9%	86.6	89.90%
Manassas Line				
Total delays	20	48	33	34
Average length of delay (mins.)	16	20	28	20
Number over 30 minutes	4	14	12	7
On-Time Performance	94	86.9	89.1	90.30%

SYSTEM RIDERSHIP

Ridership has increased 4.6% year-to-date from the previous year. The increase for October 2007 over October 2006 is 7.6%.

The gains can be attributed to the steady on-time performance (OTP) now hovering around 90% for the past three months. We are continuing to watch the equipment closely to prevent any major mechanical problems. Changes in maintenance procedures and processes at both Virginia yards have been instituted to continue to mitigate mechanical failures before they occur.

The cumulative average daily ridership has climbed from 13,907 in July to 14,218 through October – a steady continuous climb. There are now three hundred more passengers-per-day riding VRE today than in July.

On November 7th, senior managers from CSX, Amtrak, and VRE met to review and discuss performance on the CSX line between Washington and Richmond. After a detailed discussion of current practices, as well as areas needing improvement, the group collectively made a commitment to establish an on-time performance goal for 90% for the line. The group established six definitive sub-goals, of which one is VRE's. This goal commits VRE to reducing mechanical delays (any equipment failures to locomotives, cab cars, or train consist) by 15%.

The group will meet again in January to review progress toward the 90% OTP goal, as well as the six sub goals.

I am extremely impressed with this initiative as it is the first time that the three users of the CSX line met collectively to improve performance. The group is resolute in making lasting performance improvements on the line.

FUEL COST INCREASING

The recent record breaking prices for crude oil has had an enormous impact on the price of diesel fuel, although the immediate impact on VRE has been moderated somewhat by the fixed price arrangements we have in place. The average market price for VRE's fuel purchases for the last week in October was \$2.60, a 33% increase from the average price for fiscal year 2007. VRE has locked into fixed prices for three quarters for fuel purchases through December. As a result, the average costs for October were approximately 25 cents lower than market costs, resulting in a savings of \$22,000. Our FY 2008 budget of \$3.8 million for diesel fuel was based on a per gallon cost of \$2.41.

VRE HOSTAGE DRILL

VRE hosted a five hour training exercise at Crossroads Yard on Friday, October 26, 2007. A FBI instructional team from Quantico, consisting of negotiators and rescuers, conducted a drill for SWAT officers from Fredericksburg, Arlington, King George, and Howard counties. Approximately 35 officers participated in the training.

SANTA TRAINS

The 2007 Operation Lifesaver Santa Trains will be held on Saturday, December 8th. As in years past, trains will depart from Fredericksburg, Leeland, Woodbridge, Manassas, and Burke Centre. The train schedule and ticket information was posted on VRE's web site on November 13th. Again this year, Toys for Tots will be collecting toys on the day of the event.

MANASSAS PARKING GARAGE

An official ground breaking ceremony for the Manassas parking garage was held on October 18, 2007, with 75 people attending. Keynote speakers were the honorable Mayor Doug Waldron and the Honorable VRE Operations Board Chairman, Dana Kauffman. The garage is scheduled for completion next fall, at which point both the City of Manassas and VRE will take possession of their portions of the shared garage.

GAINESVILLE – HAYMARKET

VRE was asked to participate in an announcement by the Governor and Secretary of Transportation regarding the acceleration Gainesville-Haymarket interchange construction. VDOT will fast track the project by 3 years, including grade separated rail crossing on the NS “B” line; relocation of utilities; and completion of right-of-way acquisitions. A major investment study (MIS) for the Gainesville-Haymarket rail extension is currently being procured by VRE and negotiations are underway with the top proposer.

NEW RAIL CAR UPDATE

Twenty-five of the new Gallery cars will have arrived in Milwaukee by November 16th. The first five cars are expected in DC on December 14th, at which time they will be transported to Broad Run for pre-service testing.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE DRILL

On Saturday, December 1, 2007, VRE will host emergency responders from the police, fire, and rescue ranks for a training session and drill at the Broad Run yard. The exercise will include a two hour class, immediately followed by a drill simulating a hostage situation on a VRE train.

MONTHLY PERFORMANCE MEASURES – OCTOBER 2007

MONTHLY ON-TIME PERFORMANCE	ON-TIME PERCENTAGE
October Fredericksburg OTP Average	89.9%
October Manassas OTP Average	90.3%
VRE OCTOBER OVERALL OTP AVERAGE	90.1%

RIDERSHIP YEAR TO DATE	RIDERSHIP
VRE FY 2008 Passenger Totals	1,208,548
VRE FY 2007 Passenger Totals	1,155,526
PERCENTAGE CHANGE	4.6%

RIDERSHIP MONTH TO MONTH COMPARISON	
DESCRIPTION	MONTHLY RIDERSHIP
OCTOBER 2007	323,994
OCTOBER 2006 (ADJUSTED)	315,263
PERCENTAGE CHANGE (NORMALIZED)	2.8%
SERVICE DAYS (CURRENT/PRIOR)	22/21