



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

September 2007

MONTHLY DELAY SUMMARY

	May-07	June-07	July 07	August 07
System wide				
Total delays	56	65	53	99
Average length of delay (mins.)	22	18	21	23
Number over 30 minutes	11	10	15	26
Days with Heat Restrictions/Total days	3/22	5/21	3/21	3/23
On-Time Performance	91.20%	89.30%	91.3%	85.1%
Fredericksburg Line				
Total delays	32	38	33	51
Average length of delay (mins.)	26	20	23	26
Number over 30 minutes	7	7	11	12
On-Time Performance	88.8%	86%	87.90%	82.9%
Manassas Line				
Total delays	24	27	20	48
Average length of delay (mins.)	16	16	16	20
Number over 30 minutes	4	3	4	14
On-Time Performance	93.2%	91.90%	94%	86.9%

LAST YEAR COMPARED TO THIS YEAR – MONTH TO MONTH

Month	July-06	July-07	Aug-06	Aug-07
System wide				
Total delays	266	53	176	99
Average length of delay (mins.)	26	21	16	23
Number over 30 minutes	73	15	17	26
Days with heat restrictions/Total days	18/20	3/21	18/23	3/23
On-Time Performance	53.90%	91.30%	73.6%	85.1%
Fredericksburg Line				
Total delays	136	33	130	51
Average length of delay (mins.)	29	23	16.4	26
Number over 30 minutes	42	11	12	12
On-Time Performance	47.70%	87.90%	56.50%	82.9%
Manassas Line				
Total delays	130	20	46	48
Average length of delay (mins.)	22	16	15	20
Number over 30 minutes	31	4	5	14
On-Time Performance	59.40%	94.00%	87.5%	86.9%

SYSTEM RIDERSHIP

Ridership has increased 4.9% year-to-date from the previous year. In addition, we are experiencing a significant up tick in the first seven days of September with a 5% increase over the same period last year.

The gains can be attributed to the steady on-time performance (OTP) over the summer months. We are watching the locomotives closely to prevent any major mechanical problems. Changes in maintenance procedures and processes at both Virginia yards have reduced the number of mechanical failures. In addition, railroad switch, signal, and dispatching problems have been minor.

The OTP for August was down from July due to two major non-railroad incidents. First, the cutting of a control line by a gas company in the Alexandria area stopped all rail traffic for one hour. Second, a person committed suicide causing the shut down of the railroad for one hour and slowing service for an additional hour until the police investigation was complete.

We hope to continue to attract riders to VRE with a drive-time radio campaign starting September 17th. The campaign will run for six weeks. I anticipate further gains in ridership as a result of the campaign.

LOCOMOTIVE PROCUREMENT

The specification for procurement of new locomotives has been completed and a Request for Proposals (RFP) was posted on VRE's web site on August 20, 2007. Proposals are due October 22, 2007 and a recommendation for award is anticipated at the November Operations Board meeting.

GAINESVILLE/HAYMARKET

As part of a competitive procurement, VRE received proposals to conduct a Major Investment Study (MIS) for service to Gainesville and Haymarket. The study will focus on developing alternatives to improve the existing Norfolk Southern "B" line, starting just west of Manassas to Haymarket. The study will include site survey work as well as identify potential station locations and possibly a layover yard. The study will also identify issues associated with the expansion such as: environmental concerns, real estate, grade and water crossings. Once a contract is awarded, work is expected to take approximately 12 months to complete.

NEW RAIL CAR UPDATE

Ten more cars are floating towards Savannah. That makes a total of 20 cars that have left Japan and are on their way to Chicago where the interior work will be completed. We expect to start receiving five new gallery coaches per month starting in December 2007 and ending in October 2008. By November 2008, all 61 new gallery coaches will be in service on peak period trains.

MASTER AGREEMENT SURVEY

This year, the Master Agreement Survey will be held on October 3rd. Staff from PRTC and VRE along with jurisdictional staff members will assist in the station counts, the distribution and the collection of the annual survey. The survey results will be available by the December 21st VRE Operations Board meeting.

SMARTBENEFITS PROGRAM NOW STARTING

SmartBenefits is now available to VRE riders. This new program allows riders to use their transit benefits through a SmartBenefits personalized account. After they set up their SmartBenefits account with their employer and WMATA, riders can purchase VRE tickets through either an Arlington-based Commuter Store or a reoccurring mail-order account with CommuterDirect. If signed up through these agencies by the 15th of the month, VRE riders will be able to use their SmartBenefits personalized account to purchase their tickets for the following month.

Riders will still need to use VRE tickets to board our trains. And, while the value of the SmartBenefits will not be available on a SmarTrip card, this program allows riders to use electronic benefits while the regional SmarTrip system is planned and implemented. At that time, riders should be able to use their SmarTrip card as a form of purchase at our TVMs.

CROSSROADS MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Work to construct a new engine house, car wash and track in the Crossroads yard began on July 31. Currently, the site is being prepared to grade the area for a new track followed by foundation work for the buildings. Construction phasing and the overall design takes into account the ability to maintain ongoing maintenance efforts at the yard while constructing these major facilities. The project is expected to take 12 months to complete.

MANASSAS PARKING GARAGE

VRE received four bids to construct a 520 parking space garage on 7/20/2007. Costello Construction of Maryland was the lowest bidder and a contract has been awarded to perform the work. The project will take 12 months to complete. The first phase of the project will be to demolish existing buildings on the site. Once the site is cleared, excavation will begin to build the foundation for the new five level pre-cast concrete parking garage. Located along the tracks between Main and Battle Street, the new facility promotes safety and convenience to commuters at the Manassas station.

On October 18, VRE and the City of Manassas will hold a ground-breaking ceremony to commemorate the initiation of the project. All Board members are invited to attend.

CLIFTON DAY

The Clifton Betterment Association has contracted with VRE again this year to run excursion trains to and from the Clifton Day Antique, Arts & Crafts Festival on Sunday, October 7, 2007. Trains will run from Manassas and Rolling Road to Clifton, stopping at Manassas Park and Burke Centre along the way. Tickets for the return trip will be sold during the event at the caboose. The train ride to the event is free. The train schedule will be posted on the web site.

The excursion ride expenses have been paid for in advance, and all proceeds from ticket sales will go to the Clifton Betterment Association.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT QUANTICO STATION

While numerous attempts to keep VRE passengers from darting out from behind VRE trains to cross the tracks at the Quantico station have been made, the situation continues. Effective August 8, 2007, VRE requested that Amtrak (VRE trains) completely block the highway and pedestrian crossings at Quantico when stopping to receive or discharge passengers. To date, this approach has worked. We have seen the number of violators reduced from 8-10 per train to zero.

OCTOBER SCHEDULE CHANGE

On October 29, 2007, VRE will have a slight schedule change. While the overall schedule will not be affected, the trains that are designated as "S" trains will change. As it stands, to maintain our current "S" schedule, we must operate one turn train on each line. When there is inclement weather, this type of schedule can be difficult to maintain. With this change, we will be able to eliminate the turns, keep the mid-day trains, and have more service in the latter part of the morning rush hour, which are more heavily used during periods of bad weather. The evening trains on the Fredericksburg line will change in an effort to be consistent with the rest of the "S" schedule and to alleviate to crew management issues.

NEW VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGNS

VRE started installing new Variable Message Signs (VMS) in April of this year. Currently we have installed the new VMS at Manassas Park, Alexandria, Quantico, Fredericksburg, L'Enfant, and Crystal City. The remaining VRE stations are scheduled to be completed by December 2007.

MONNTHLY PERFORMANCE MEASURES – AUGUST 2007

MONTHLY ON-TIME PERFORMANCE	ON-TIME PERCENTAGE
August Fredericksburg OTP Average	82.9%
August Manassas OTP Average	86.9%
VRE AUGUST OVERALL OTP AVERAGE	85.1%

RIDERSHIP YEAR TO DATE	RIDERSHIP
VRE FY 2008 Passenger Totals	609,078
VRE FY 2007 Passenger Totals	580,875
PERCENTAGE CHANGE	4.9%

RIDERSHIP MONTH TO MONTH COMPARISON	
DESCRIPTION	MONTHLY RIDERSHIP
AUGUST 2007	317,035
AUGUST 2006	307,941
PERCENTAGE CHANGE	3%
SERVICE DAYS (CURRENT/PRIOR)	23/23

Due to year end, financials will be provided next month.