



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

January 2008

## MONTHLY DELAY SUMMARY

	September 07	October 07	November 07	December 07
<b>System wide</b>				
Total delays	66	63	56	75
Average length of delay (mins.)	25	18	17.8	19.4
Number over 30 minutes	20	11	9	12
Days with Heat Restrictions/Total days	0/19	0/22	0/19	0/20
On-Time Performance	88%	90.10%	89.80%	86.50%
<b>Fredericksburg Line</b>				
Total delays	33	29	28	36
Average length of delay (mins.)	22	16	21.4	17.4
Number over 30 minutes	8	4	6	5
On-Time Performance	86.6%	89.90%	88.70%	85.60%
<b>Manassas Line</b>				
Total delays	33	34	28	39
Average length of delay (mins.)	28	20	13.8	21.2
Number over 30 minutes	12	7	3	7
On-Time Performance	89.1%	90.30%	90.80%	87.20%

## SYSTEM RIDERSHIP

Ridership increased 5.1% when December 2006 ridership is compared to December 2007. This is the sixth consecutive month of growth. During the first six months of FY 2008, the cumulative ridership has climbed 3.0%. There are now 50,711 more passenger trips than there was a year ago.

The on-time performance is hovering in the high 80's on each line. CSX, Amtrak, and VRE are collectively dedicated to achieving at least 90% on both lines. It is proving difficult with minor delays on both sides. In December, we had 17 mechanical delays with an average individual delay length of 21.0 minutes. This is above my targeted goal of 11.3 delays with an average delay length of 17.5 minutes. I'll continue to work diligently at reducing both the number of mechanical delays and their length.

## EQUIPMENT UPDATE

The first five cars from the 50-car Gallery option cars entered revenue service on December 19<sup>th</sup> on trains 330, 327, 337 and 338. The second set of five cars will be shipped on January 16<sup>th</sup> and will be put into revenue service by January 30<sup>th</sup>. I expect the third 5 car shipment to occur in mid-February.

In addition, I expect to receive delivery of the three leased locomotives in February, which will provide us more locomotive flexibility by ensuring that protect locomotives are at all yards and permit more time for locomotive maintenance. Lastly, the last Sounder consist of six coaches and one locomotive will be returned to Seattle in March. The consist will be replaced with a consist of six new Gallery coaches.

## **UPDATE ON AMTRAK STRIKE POTENTIAL**

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The five-member Presidential Emergency Board (PEB) made its recommendations to settle a labor dispute between Amtrak and eight of its labor unions. The report was delivered on December 30<sup>th</sup> to the White House, which publically released that report on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

As provided in the Railway Labor Act, the two sides must now preserve the status quo until January 30<sup>th</sup> while each side studies the recommendations for settlement, which are not binding. If no resolution and no extension of the cooling off period is agreed to or imposed, unions may strike or Amtrak may unilaterally impose a lock out or rule and working condition changes. Therefore, the deadline for action by either group will be the end of January.

Amtrak is carefully reviewing the recommendations of the PEB regarding the issues brought before the PEB by Amtrak and the eight unions representing a portion of Amtrak's employees. Amtrak's concern has always been the railroad's ability to make pay increases retroactive and to achieve efficiencies through work rule reform, and they will be looking closely at the recommendations particularly as they relate to these issues.

I will brief you on VRE contingency plans at the January 18<sup>th</sup> Operations Board meeting. I will participate in an Amtrak conference call on January 15<sup>th</sup> and continue to keep you apprised of any developments that occur on this matter.

## **MANASSAS PARKING GARAGE STATUS**

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The site work has been completed and foundations are about 50% complete. Precast concrete delivery is expected in early March, at which time the structure will begin to take shape. It is expected that the garage will be opened in the summer of 2008.

## **BURKE STATION PARKING GARAGE STATUS**

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Fairfax County reports that the garage structure is nearing completion. The platform extension has been completed and the new canopy is expected to be complete by the end of January. At that time an additional 80 feet of platform will be opened for use. The garage is expected to be opened early this summer, while the remaining work on the access road and new kiss and ride is being completed.

## **BROOKE STATION PARKING EXPANSION**

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At the request of Stafford County, VRE will be conducting an environmental assessment and preliminary design of a parking expansion project at the Brooke VRE station. This additional parking will provide much needed capacity. The current parking facility has 431 parking

spaces, and is at/or near capacity each work day. VRE received notification on December 20<sup>th</sup> that CMAQ (Congestion and Mitigation Air Quality) funding would be made available to VRE for the environmental and initial design work. This work is estimated to cost \$275,000. Though it will take some time for the environmental work at Brooke to be completed, VRE is committed to bringing more parking to the riders of VRE.

### **INCREASED COST FOR TLC PASS**

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Due to a recent increase in Metrorail's fares, the cost of the Transit Link Card (TLC) passes will be increased by \$25.00. This change in fare will be effective starting for the month of February. February TLC's went on sale January 10, 2008.

### **EMERGENCY RESPONSE VIDEO**

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A seventeen minute Emergency Response Video has been produced to train emergency responders on critical details of VRE equipment. Professional fire fighters and police officers from various jurisdictions volunteered to reenact events to demonstrate what procedures to follow in the event of a derailment, fire, terrorist attack or other potential emergency. This educational DVD will be widely distributed to all fire and rescue and police departments in participating VRE jurisdictions. Copies will be provided to the Operations Board members.

**MONTHLY PERFORMANCE MEASURES – DECEMBER 2007**

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<b>MONTHLY ON-TIME PERFORMANCE</b>	<b>ON-TIME PERCENTAGE</b>
December Fredericksburg OTP Average	85.6%
December Manassas OTP Average	87.2%
<b>VRE DECEMBER OVERALL OTP AVERAGE</b>	<b>86.5%</b>

<b>RIDERSHIP YEAR TO DATE</b>	<b>RIDERSHIP</b>
VRE FY 2008 Passenger Totals	1,731,041
VRE FY 2007 Passenger Totals	1,680,330
<b>PERCENTAGE CHANGE</b>	<b>3.0%</b>

<b>RIDERSHIP MONTH TO MONTH COMPARISON</b>	
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>MONTHLY RIDERSHIP</b>
DECEMBER 2007	245,720
DECEMBER 2006	233,766 (Adjusted)
<b>PERCENTAGE CHANGE</b>	<b>5.1%</b>
<b>SERVICE DAYS (CURRENT/PRIOR)</b>	<b>18.5/20</b>