



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

July 2008

MONTHLY DELAY SUMMARY

	March 08	April 08	May	June
System wide				
Total delays	75	126	123	163
Average length of delay (mins.)	16	14	17	20
Number over 30 minutes	6	11	20	35
Days with Heat Restrictions/Total days	0/21	0/22	0/21	5/21
On-Time Performance	87.7%	80.3%	80.9%	73.2
Fredericksburg Line				
Total delays	31	70	67	84
Average length of delay (mins.)	18	12	18	17
Number over 30 minutes	4	0	9	13
On-Time Performance	88.6%	75.5%	76.8%	69.2%
Manassas Line				
Total delays	44	56	56	79
Average length of delay (mins.)	15	17	17	23
Number over 30 minutes	2	11	11	22
On-Time Performance	86.9%	84.1%	84.4%	76.5%

SYSTEM RIDERSHIP

Ridership has increased for twelve consecutive months. Seven of VRE's Top Ten Ridership Days (over 16,240) have been in June, 2008. Ridership in June 2008 was 10.0% higher than in June 2007. In fact, the average daily ridership for June 2008 was the highest it has ever been at 15,626. Looking at the year as a whole, the cumulative ridership for this fiscal year has climbed to 3,628,563; a 5.1% increase over last fiscal year. In addition, VRE continues to receive an increasing amount of phone calls from new riders.

SYSTEM ON TIME PERFORMANCE

System wide on-time performance (OTP) dipped to 73.2% in June, with an OTP of 69.2% on the Fredericksburg Line and 76.5% on the Manassas Line. The major cause of delays was train interference and signal failures. We also had some weather related incidents with fallen trees on the tracks due to severe thunder storms. Only 2 delays out of the total 163 delays for June were due to mechanical issues. Although OTP is not where I want it to be, we continue to work on improving it. CSX dispatchers for our territory have relocated to Baltimore as of June 21, and I anticipate the dispatchers will gain a more intimate knowledge of the territory and VRE crews. Both will ensure more direct and personal dispatching – a direct benefit to CSX, VRE and Amtrak.

Since the beginning of July the OTP on both lines has been over 85%. I anticipate we should be able to sustain this level of higher as we proceed into August.

GAINESVILLE-HAYMARKET EXTENSION STUDY

The Gainesville-Haymarket Extension Feasibility Study and Alternatives Analysis began in April 2008 and will last 12 months. The study will evaluate the feasibility and desirability of adding this new branch of service, as well as address the requirements of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for potential project funding. Currently, the idea is to extend service from the existing VRE Manassas station in the City of Manassas to the Town of Haymarket, located in Prince William County, along the Norfolk Southern's "B" Line and may include up to three new stations/stops. The study will include:

- An alternatives analysis,
- An engineering feasibility analysis
- A preliminary environmental review
- An order of magnitude capital cost summary, and
- Potential locations for:
 - Stations/stops
 - Layover/maintenance facility
 - Supporting infrastructure improvements and/or expansion.

A public workshop is scheduled for July 30, 2008 from 6:30-9:00 pm at Stonewall Jackson High School in Manassas and will be the first opportunity for the general public to hear more about the study, ask questions, and provide input on their ideas for improving transportation in the Gainesville-Haymarket corridor.

BROOKE LOT TO GAIN MORE SPACES

The Brooke station parking lot is currently at capacity, and although expansion plans may come to fruition in the future, an immediate, short-term solution for adding 70 spaces is underway. Beginning on Friday, July 25 after evening service ends and continuing through Sunday, July 27, the entire lot will be re-striped. The re-striping will increase the number of parking spaces while also improving traffic flow and pedestrian circulation. There will be a center aisle for cars and pedestrians and the spaces will change from angled parking to perpendicular parking – causing each aisle to be two-way instead of one-way. Two spaces will also be added for motorcycle parking, and the number of ADA-accessible spaces near the station entrance will increase.

MEET THE MANAGEMENT

For the month of July, Meet the Management events will take place at Burke Centre, Rippon, Rolling Road, Woodbridge and Backlick Road. We will meet all morning trains with refreshments and answer any questions.

NEXT DELIVERY OF NEW RAIL CARS

The next five new Gallery cars (cars 35 through 40) are scheduled to arrive on Thursday, July 17th. The cars will be tested over the weekend and are scheduled to be in service the week of July 21st.

VRE FARE INCREASE

The approved 3% fare increase went into effect on June 30, 2008. Fare collection machines were reprogrammed and Fare and Schedule posters, Rider's Guides, and the web site were all updated with the new rates.

MONTHLY PERFORMANCE MEASURES – JUNE 2008

MONTHLY ON-TIME PERFORMANCE	ON-TIME PERCENTAGE
June Fredericksburg OTP Average	69.2%
June Manassas OTP Average	76.5%
VRE JUNE OVERALL OTP AVERAGE	73.2%

RIDERSHIP YEAR TO DATE	RIDERSHIP
VRE FY 2008 Passenger Totals	3,628,563
VRE FY 2007 Passenger Totals	3,453,561
PERCENTAGE CHANGE	5.1%

RIDERSHIP MONTH TO MONTH COMPARISON	
DESCRIPTION	MONTHLY RIDERSHIP
JUNE 2008	328,153
JUNE 2007	298,345
PERCENTAGE CHANGE	10.0%
SERVICE DAYS (CURRENT/PRIOR)	21/21