



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

July 2009

MONTHLY DELAY SUMMARY

	March	April	May	June
System wide				
Total delays	84	45	50	76
Average length of delay (mins.)	21	15	15	21
Number over 30 minutes	14	4	2	18
Days with Heat Restrictions/Total days	0/22	2/22	0/20	3/22
On-Time Performance	86.8%	92.9%	91.4%	88%
Fredericksburg Line				
Total delays	49	21	33	43
Average length of delay (mins.)	21	15	18	22
Number over 30 minutes	10	1	2	11
On-Time Performance	82.9%	92.7%	87.3%	84.9%
Manassas Line				
Total delays	35	24	17	33
Average length of delay (mins.)	21	15	11	19
Number over 30 minutes	4	3	0	7
On-Time Performance	90.1%	93.2%	94.7%	90.6%

SYSTEM RIDERSHIP

The total number of June trips in 2009 was 1.5% higher than in June 2008. There were nearly 200 more passengers this June compared to last June. This growth in ridership is reassuring given last year's high price of gas at this time. We had one day over 17,000 trips and twelve days over 16,000 trips. The final tally on the number of trips for FY 2009 is 3,847,646, which represent a 6.3% year-to-date gain in ridership.

SYSTEM ON TIME PERFORMANCE

System on time performance for June was 88%. OTP on the Manassas Line was 90.6% and the Fredericksburg Line dropped to 84.9%. Two major events occurred on the Fredericksburg Line that significantly reduced the OTP – one on June 8th and another on June 26th. The first was a disabled freight train south of Alexandria that delayed all afternoon trains. The second was two significant mechanical failures on VRE trains which delayed all afternoon trains. Without these two events, OTP would have been 88.8% for the month of June on the Fredericksburg Line

In addition, delays during the morning commute have been almost non-existent on both lines. This has been a major goal for VRE with the two host railroads. Riders have indicated that delays in the morning are much more disruptive than delays in the afternoon as it affects their timely arrival for work.

FARE INCREASE

VRE implemented the FY 2010 6% fare increase on June 28th. We are watching ridership numbers and will report any concerns to the Board at the August meeting.

SPOTSYLVANIA PUBLIC MEETINGS

At this time, the Spotsylvania Board is planning to hold a public hearing on VRE on August 18th followed by a vote on the VRE Master Agreement, VRE Membership agreement, and PRTC founding ordinance. In July, VRE answered over 30 questions resulting from the previous public hearing on June 11th.

BROAD RUN MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Work at the Broad Run maintenance facility is underway and expected to be completed in March 2010. At that time, VRE will have a new Service and Inspection building as well as lengthened tracks to store longer train sets. Plans for a train washer are also currently being developed.

LYNCHBURG SERVICE

On September 30, DRPT will run their Inaugural Train for the new state-funded Lynchburg service. The train is currently scheduled to depart Union Station at 10:00 am and arrive in Lynchburg at 3:10 pm. Along the way, the train will make station stops at Alexandria, Burke Centre, Manassas, Culpeper, and Charlottesville. The train is planning to stop for 15 minutes at each station to accommodate any elected officials wishing to speak. The train will then be in place for its first revenue run on Thursday, October 1.

The round trip train between Lynchburg and Washington, D.C. occupies one of the two train slots that VRE transferred to the Commonwealth earlier this year. The second train, a round trip between Richmond and Washington, is expected to start after the third track between Alexandria and Franconia/Springfield is completed.

HIGH SPEED RAIL

On Tuesday, July 21, I attended Governor Kaine's press conference in Richmond as he announced his intent to seek federal funding for the development of high speed rail in the Interstate 95 corridor. The pre-application seeking \$2.5 billion was filed on July 10th under the ARRA high speed rail program. That program designated \$8 billion in federal funding, although requests of \$102 billion have been received by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) from over 40 states. The Virginia application seeks \$72 million in funding for 11 miles of third track from Powell's Creek (Prince William County) to the Arkendale crossover (Stafford County) as the state's number one project (ready to go projects). To-date, the environmental analysis and preliminary engineering have been completed for the project.

If funding can be secured, the result would be speeds of up to 90 MPH. This would allow for faster Amtrak trains, more intercity trains at faster speeds and the potential for additional VRE service with express trains and reduced trip times.

WEBSITE REDESIGN

On July 20, 2009, VRE launched a fresh new version of its website. The site, while also designed to match new printed collateral, was created with the user in mind by providing a more streamlined format that enhances both the aesthetics and user-friendliness. Some of the features include direct links to our social-networking sites, Facebook and Twitter, as well as a rotating animation that highlights some of our most useful programs.

In addition to the new look, we took the opportunity to enhance the usability of the highly popular Rail Time Interactive Map. Using rider feedback, we removed wording that made it difficult to view the application on handheld electronic devices, thus improving our ability to deliver important operational information.

MEET THE MANAGEMENT

The annual “Meet the Management” events are almost complete. The remaining stations include Backlick on July 29 (am) and Lorton on August 5 (am).

MONTHLY PERFORMANCE MEASURES – JUNE 2009

MONTHLY ON-TIME PERFORMANCE	ON-TIME PERCENTAGE
June Fredericksburg OTP Average	84.9%
June Manassas OTP Average	90.6%
VRE JUNE OVERALL OTP AVERAGE	88%

RIDERSHIP YEAR TO DATE	RIDERSHIP
VRE FY 2009 Passenger Totals	3,857,646
VRE FY 2008 Passenger Totals	3,628,563
PERCENTAGE CHANGE	6.3%

RIDERSHIP MONTH TO MONTH COMPARISON	
DESCRIPTION	MONTHLY RIDERSHIP
JUNE 2009	348,826
JUNE 2008	328,153
PERCENTAGE CHANGE	1.5% NORMALIZED
SERVICE DAYS (CURRENT/PRIOR)	22/21