



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

Update



703-684-1001

www.vre.org

July 23, 2008

Editor's Note:

With cost of gas these days, it's no wonder that our ridership is increasing. We have heard from many of you that your trains are full and at capacity. While increasing capacity on our trains is not as easy as we would like it to be, we are looking into ways to improve the situation. Our storage yard in Washington, D.C. is the major sticking point. There is very little room for expansion.

If your schedule is flexible, we have a tool that might help you decide what train you want to ride. Our consist page on the website not only tells you which trains have which cars, but it also tells you how many seats are available and what the mid-week ridership looks like for that train. (Tuesdays through Thursdays are our highest ridership days).

This page is updated regularly and can be found at www.vre.org/service/consist.htm.

Workshops to Discuss Gainesville-Haymarket Extension

In the last issue of *VRE Update*, we told you about the launch of the Gainesville-Haymarket Extension Feasibility Study and Alternatives Analysis, that began this spring. The study will evaluate the feasibility and desirability of extending VRE service by approximately 11 miles to Gainesville and Haymarket, as well as address the requirements of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for potential project funding. And coming up this month, the public will have their first opportunity to see exactly what the project could involve and weigh in with their opinions.

over the possible extension of VRE service to Gainesville and Haymarket," said VRE's Manager of Planning, Christine Hoeffner. "Public input will play a significant role in the development and analysis of alternatives, and this meeting will provide a great way to begin learning about the potential for a VRE extension. All stakeholders are encouraged to attend ... so if you think you may be a stakeholder, then you are."

The study will last a total of 12 months, concluding in March 2009. There will be two additional opportunities during the study where

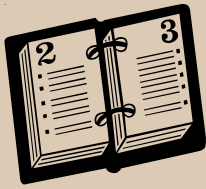


So mark your calendars for Wednesday, July 30, 2008, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., when the first public workshop is scheduled. It will be held at Stonewall Jackson High School in Manassas, VA (The address is 8820 Rixlew Lane, Manassas, VA 20109), with the first half hour providing time for attendants to meet and chat, a formal presentation on the proposed extension beginning at 7:00 p.m., and small group discussions and question and answer sessions scheduled as well.

"This workshop will provide an excellent opportunity for local stakeholders to become educated and share their thoughts and concerns

VRE will seek public input as we move through alternatives development and analysis. Information about these workshops will be communicated via VRE Update, TrainTalk, our Web site, and the local press.

The study is being handled by planning/engineering consultant Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB), and the current 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 Norfolk Southern's "B" Line.



Repairs Planned for Fredericksburg Bridge

Upcoming Dates

Friday, July 25

Brooke lot closed after service for re-stripping

Wednesday, July 30

Meet the Management
Backlick Road
All Morning Trains

Gainesville-Haymarket
Public Workshop:00pm

Wednesday, August 6

Meet the Management
Lorton
All Morning Trains

Thursday, August 14

There was a time when walking under the 80-year old Fredericksburg bridge could be a dicey affair, as debris and small chunks of concrete were known to occasionally fall from above. Last summer, VRE had a condition assessment done for the structure, with the first priority aimed at identifying any loose material that could fall. Thankfully, the engineers doing the assessment found that

In response, VRE recently earmarked funds to address these maintenance issues, and is working with CSX, which owns the bridge, to ensure that a major rehab of the structure is scheduled on their capital improvements program.

“In the short term, we’re planning to request bids and hire a contractor to do some repairs to

deficient areas that have worsened over the past few years, which will stabilize the underside of the bridge,” explained Sirel Mouchantaf, VRE’s director of construction and facilities, “as well as clear some drains and improve overall drainage for the structure. Doing so will buy us some time—probably about five to 10 years—which will give us more time to work with CSX and plan for a more extensive rehab for



Plans are underway to rehabilitate the bridges surrounding the Fredericksburg Station.

the bridge’s underside was safe, with no additional loose material identified. As a result, the bridge was deemed safe, and people can continue to walk under it.

the long term. It’s going to be a major project, and we’ve offered to use some grant money to help CSX in its efforts and give them some incentive to do the rehab sooner rather than later.”

The assessment also looked at the root cause of the problem—ballast clogging drain lines on top of the bridge and therefore causing drainage problems for the entire structure—and put forth different options for eventually rehabilitating the bridge.

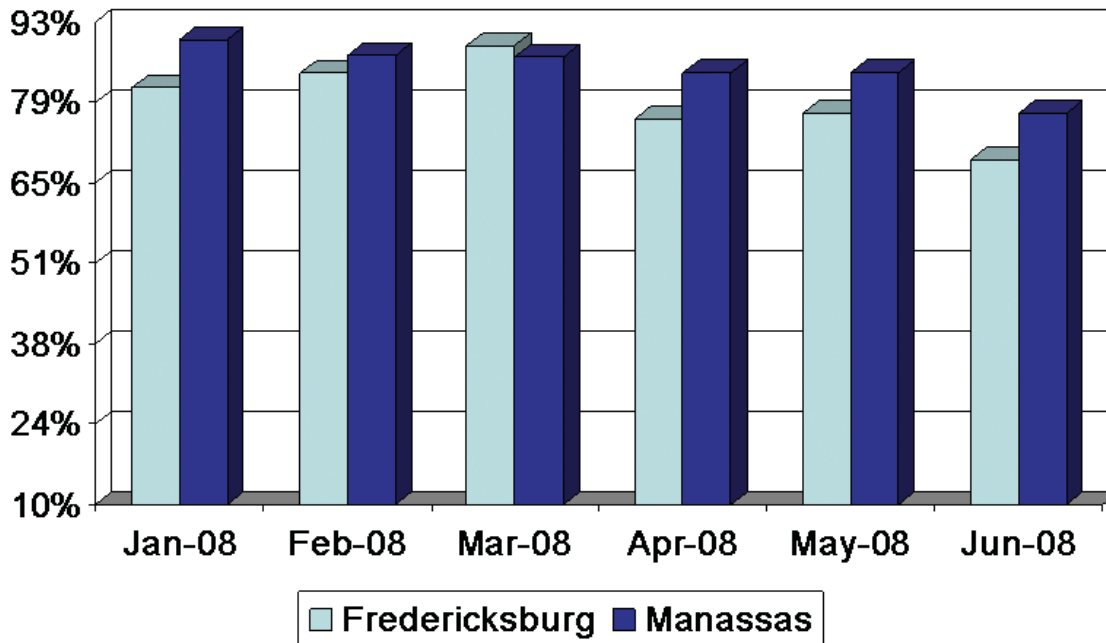
The initial patchwork and drain clearing, planned for spring 2009, will not affect the operation of the station or the passage of trains; more intensive rehab work will ultimately affect both freight and commuter traffic but is likely several years out.



VRE Update is a publication of Virginia Railway Express. The newsletter is published bi-weekly 24 times per year. Stories included are for the sole use of VRE riders and its supporters. Comments and questions may be directed to VRE Customer Service at gotrains@vre.org or at (703) 684-1001.

On-Time Performance

Over the Last Six Months



On-Time Performance by Train for the month of June 2008

Fredericksburg Line

300 – 71%
 302 – 57%
 304 – 95%
 306 – 76%
 308 – 95%
 310 – 100%
 301 – 67%
 303 – 38%
 305 – 52%
 307 – 57%
 309 – 71%
 311 – 57%
 313 – 57%

Overall – 69%

Manassas Line

322 – 100%
 324 – 90%
 326 – 90%
 328 – 90%
 330 – 95%
 332 – 90%
 325 – 81%
 327 – 62%
 329 – 71%
 331 – 67%
 333 – 52%
 335 – 67%
 337 – 52%

Overall – 77%

*A train is considered delayed if it is more than 5 minutes later than the posted schedule into its final destination.

Taxi Service is Only a Phone Call Away

While we never want to see it happen, we know that it does. Someone oversleeps, or gets too into their book, or worse yet, inconsiderate passengers queue in advance of their station. No matter the reason, when you miss your stop, you'll need to find a way to get home. We can't promise that it won't ever happen to you, but we can provide you with some numbers for local taxi companies that can help.

Fredericksburg Line Taxi Companies

Fredericksburg:

Hilldrup Taxi - (540) 373-8294

Leeland Road/Brooke:

Brenda's Cab Co. - (540) 659-3295

Quantico/Rippon/Woodbridge:

Yellow Cab - (703) 640-6464**

Lorton: Yellow Cab - (703) 451-2255

Yellow Cab of Fairfax (703) 534-1111**

Red Top Cab (703) 941-4000

Manassas Line Taxi Companies

Broad Run/Manassas/Manassas Park:

Manassas Cab Company - (703) 257-0222**

Burke Centre/Rolling Road/Backlick Road:

Yellow Cab - (703) 451-2255

Yellow Cab of Fairfax (703) 534-1111**

Red Top Cab (703) 941-4000

*Taxi cab numbers are deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

** Accepts credit cards - minimum charge may apply



Helping To Make Your Commute Easier!

For the Early Riser!

Conveniently located off Tartan Hills Drive in the Braemar subdivision, we open at 5:30 am to accommodate those commuters with an early schedule.

Manassas Line

Minnieland at Braemar

12700 Coreen Hills Drive 703-396-7447

Fredericksburg Line

Minnieland at Leavells

11117 Leavells Road 540-898-9269

Flexible Schedule or Late Nights

Does your work schedule vary from week-to-week? Whether you need care 2, 3 or 5 days a week, Minnieland can accommodate you. Offering care for children aged 3 weeks to 12 years, our centers provide your child a quality child care program in a learning and loving environment.

Manassas Line

Minnieland at Gainesville

8299 Harness Shop Road 703-753-2213

Fredericksburg Line

Minnieland at Salem Library

5707 Salem Run Boulevard 540-785-9816

Montessori

Minnieland at Technology provides a year-round Montessori Program for children aged 3-6. The Montessori program helps to develop the child's individual potential in a prepared environment.

Manassas Line

Minnieland at Technology

9511 Technology Drive 703-330-9507

Pre-Kindergarten

Children in this class are maturing with energy, drive and a growing confidence. This literacy based language curriculum features *Story Stretchers* and *Math Their Way*.

Fredericksburg Line

Minnieland at The Courthouse

8903 Courthouse Road 540-582-8005

Location, Location, Location

Located less than 2 miles from the VRE station in Olde Town Manassas, our hours of operation are 6:00 am -7:00 pm for those of you who commute into DC. We transport to 4 Manassas City schools and Bennett Elementary School in Prince William County.

Manassas Line

Minnieland at Wellington

10249 Hendley Road 703-369-7929



Minnieland

Learning In A Loving Environment

Whether its off to work on the Manassas Line VRE or the Fredericksburg Line, Minnieland can help make your commute easier. With over 45 centers providing quality child care programs, its no wonder Minnieland was voted Best of Prince William County for a fifth consecutive year! Call today to enroll your child in a

Learning and Loving Environment!

Our Centers Offer Year-Round Programs in:

- Infant/Toddler Care Preschools
- Preschool Readiness Enrichment Program
- Montessori, Pre-Kindergarten and Jr. Kindergarten Programs
- Before and After School Care

We Also Offer:

- A Healthy, Safe and Nurturing Environment
- Home cooked, healthy, hot meals prepared daily by full-time cook
- Secured front entrances with keypads



Call 800.504.2993

For More Information

Or Visit www.minnieland.com

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