

Virginia Railway Express

Update

ALEXANDRIA CRYSTAL CITY L'ENFANT UNION STATION
BROAD RUN MANASSAS MANASSAS PARK BURKE CENTRE ROLLING ROAD JACKSON ROAD
FREDERICKSBURG LEELAND ROAD BROOKE QUANTICO RIPPON WOODBRIDGE LORTON FRANCONIA/SPRINGFIELD

703-684-1001

www.vre.org

March 16th, 2011

VRE Cracks 20,000 Daily Riders

On Wednesday, February 16, 2011, VRE surpassed the previous ridership mark set back in January, 2011. VRE provided 20,133 passenger trips on February 16th, exceeding the prior mark by nearly 200 trips.

VRE's ridership is 7.5% higher than this same period last year. For example, for FY 2010 VRE had made 2.541 million passenger trips and for FY 2011 VRE has made 2.694 million passenger trips. That's 152,000 more passenger trips than the same time during FY 2010.

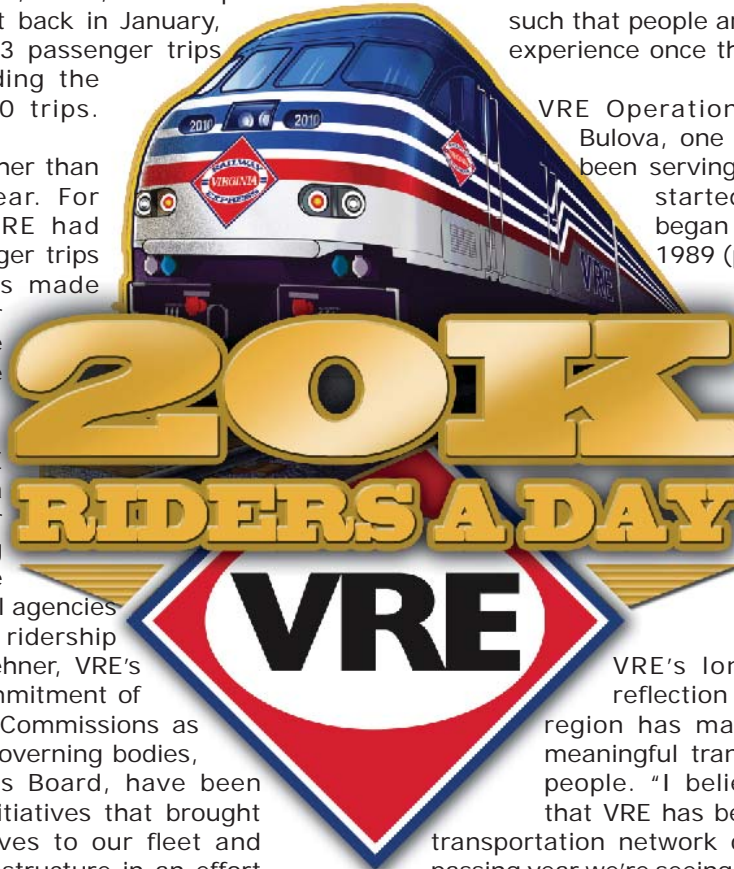
When asked why VRE continues to do so well at a time when other commuter rail agencies are fighting to hold their market share (only 13 of 27 commuter rail agencies showed a growth in their ridership as noted by APTA) Dale Zehner, VRE's CEO, cited the ongoing commitment of the Operations Board and Commissions as one primary reason. "The governing bodies, particularly the Operations Board, have been invaluable in supporting initiatives that brought new railcars and locomotives to our fleet and upgraded stations and infrastructure in an effort to position VRE for success," said Zehner. "I think people today rely on VRE far more than in the past because it's

a viable alternative to the car and our performance is such that people are very confident in their riding experience once they get onboard," said Zehner.

VRE Operations Board Chairman Sharon Bulova, one of the few members who has been serving on the board since VRE first started operating, noted, "When I began serving on the board back in 1989 (prior to service even beginning) we never envisioned VRE carrying this many people.

Back then we hoped that one day we'd grow the business to carry 10,000. And I still remember back in 2000 when we accomplished that feat that it seemed remarkable, but in a few short years we've doubled even that milestone."

The Chairman noted that VRE's long-term growth is really a reflection of the commitment that the region has made to finding and delivering meaningful transportation alternatives to the people. "I believe that no one would deny that VRE has become a critical partner in the transportation network of our region. And with each passing year we're seeing more and more of a reliance on VRE to bring solutions to the transportation crisis facing all of us here in Northern Virginia," said Chairman Bulova.



Currently, we are well over capacity at several of our stations, including Fredericksburg, Leeland Road, Brooke, Broad Run, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Rolling Road. Here are some of the solutions that are being worked on. Fredericksburg: The best solution to this will be the establishment of the Spotsylvania station. With that, we think that the vast majority of Fredericksburg riders will transition down to the new station. We anticipate that there will be a parking facility big enough for 500 spaces that can be expanded to 1000 spaces. Unfortunately, it will take about 3 years for that station to be constructed. In the meanwhile, Fredericksburg City Councilman Fred Howe has asked for a parking task force to be created to look for some creative options to the parking situation in Fredericksburg. VRE will be an integral part of this committee.

Leeland Road and Brooke: We are in final design for both of these projects and are hoping we have sufficient funding to expand both of these lots. Both lots would be expanded by roughly 200 spaces. The expansion at Leeland would be south of the current parking area and include a formalization of the "rabbit path" that leads from the platform access ramp. The expansion at Brooke would be in the location where the old house used to be. Broad Run: We are working towards the design of a garage at Broad Run. There are many complicating factors here, including height issues because of the local airport. This is still several years away. Unfortunately, there are no immediate plans for the other three stations. I will continue to look for options for these three stations. Thank you for your continued ridership and helping us break the 20,000 mark. ~ Dale



Meet the Management Returns April 6

Meet the Management Dates:

April
6th - Union Station
13th - L'Enfant
20th - Crystal City
27th - Alexandria

May
4th - Franconia/
Springfield
18th - Fredericksburg
25th - Broad Run

June
1st - Leeland Road
8th - Manassas
15th - Brooke
22nd - Manassas
Park
29th - Quantico

July
6th - Burke Centre
13th - Rippon
20th - Rolling Road
27th - Woodbridge

August
3rd - Backlick Road
10th - Lorton



Spring is in the air! And along with spring comes our own annual spring tradition: "Meet the Management".

For new riders, "Meet the Management" is a months-long program in which VRE staff members visit all of VRE's stations during morning and afternoon rush hours so that you, our customer, have the opportunity to share an opinion, ask a question or give us an idea for making things better. We know that for many people, there's no better communication than face-to-face, and that's why Meet the Management has historically been one of our most productive and effective ways of hearing what's on your mind.

And for our experienced riders, Meet the Management has always meant "snack time",

and it will continue to be that as we'll provide granola bars and juice in the morning, and sodas, water and cookies in the afternoons along with replacement ticket holders, clips, luggage tags, and this year we've added new bookmarks.

Beginning April 6, we'll visit a different station every week with the goal of meeting as many of our riders as possible to hear any questions, complaints or comments you may have.

We're easy to identify—just look for our cobalt blue "VRE Staff" shirts or our yellow staff jackets. We'll continue the program through August, ensuring that during the summer months, when issues like summer heat restrictions are on people's minds, we'll be there to answer your questions and help you through the dog days of summer. Want to know when we'll be at a station near you? Check out www.vre.org/feedback/mtm.htm. So, please keep an eye out for us, and please come talk to us!



Searching for ways to save on auto insurance? That's why we're here.

Contact us about available discounts on your auto insurance.



VRE Update is a publication of Virginia Railway Express. The newsletter is published monthly 12 times per year. Stories included are for the sole use of VRE riders. Comments and questions may be directed to VRE at gotrains@vre.org or at (703) 684-1001.

David W. Cropper Insurance Agency
David W Cropper
cropped@nationwide.com
Protecting What Matters Most
Serving The Metro Area
Start Saving Today, VA 00000
(877) 822-9495



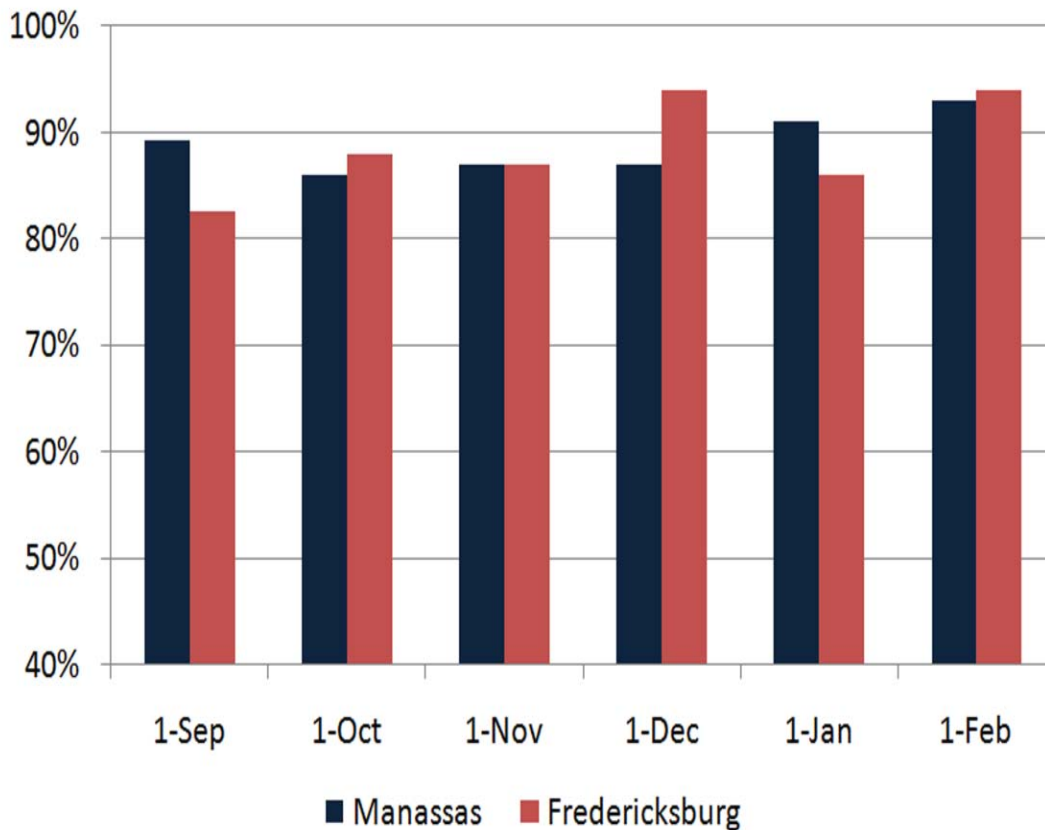
Nationwide®
On Your Side

Auto Home Life Business



©2006 Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and Affiliated Companies. Nationwide Life Insurance Company, Home office: Columbus, Ohio 43215-2220. Nationwide, the Nationwide Framework and On Your Side are federally registered service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. Not available in all states. Subject to underwriting guidelines, review and approval.

On Time Performance for the Last Six Months



On-Time Performance February 2011

Fredericksburg Line

300 – 95%
 302 – 95%
 304 – 89%
 306 – 95%
 308 – 100%
 310 – 84%
 312 – 84%

301 – 89%
 303 – 100%
 305 – 100%
 307 – 100%
 309 – 100%
 311 – 100%
 313 – 95%

Overall – 94%

Manassas Line

322 – 100%
 324 – 100%
 326 – 100%
 328 – 100%
 330 – 100%
 332 – 95%
 336 – 95%
 338 – 89%

321 – 95%
 325 – 95%
 327 – 75%
 329 – 79%
 331 – 100%
 333 – 95%
 335 – 95%
 337 – 84%

Overall – 93%

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

Complete Auto



10327 Piper Ln.

Manassas Va.20110

703-331-0444

Conveniently located next to the Broad Run VRE Station, we offer automotive repairs on all Foreign and Domestic Cars and SUV's. Equipped with Advanced Technology powered by Snap-On Tools, our ASE Certified Technicians can quickly and efficiently diagnose all of your automotive needs. Preventive maintenance is our specialty, we carry a full range Of BG Products and Services. From oil changes to fuel and induction services, to engine and transmission repairs, we do it all. Forget about waiting at an automotive repair shop, Complete Auto Care can pick up your vehicle and service it while you are at work.

Call Kevin Farhat at 703-331-0444 for more details.

Now offering Va. State Inspections.

Safety Sense

VRE has received numerous emails from riders who have witnessed or almost have been a victim of hazardous driving in our parking lots. Many have mentioned that a pedestrian was nearly mowed down, or a head on collision between two autos was narrowly avoided.

Remember, while everyone wants to get to the platform and return home as soon as possible, this does not mean you can disregard speed limit signs, one way signs, and entry only and exit only signs.

Speed limits within these lots are there to ensure vehicles and pedestrians can circulate without unnecessary danger.

Entry Only and Exit Only signs are posted at parking garages to ensure more efficient circulation of traffic and pedestrians. By disregarding such signage those individuals are putting themselves in danger of a head-on collision with another vehicle, and/or placing pedestrians in a very perilous situation.

VRE has been advised by local law enforcement authorities that enforcement of these road rules will be increased and offenders will be issued citations for such violations.



Welcome to the Corner of King and Peyton!

On the corner of King and Peyton in Alexandria, Virginia stands the old Coca Cola bottling plant that now houses the headquarters of several businesses, one of which being the offices of the Virginia Railway Express.

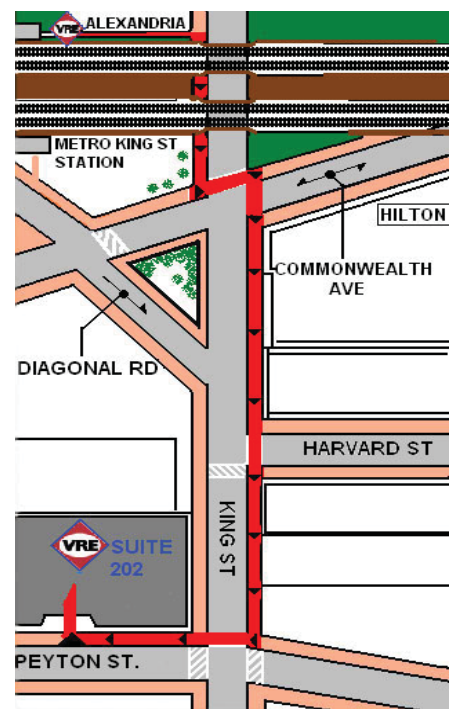
On this corner back in 1888 (upper left picture) stood the Old Virginia House, a hotel that offered, for 1 dollar a day, large bedrooms, dining rooms, a bar and a parlor for travelers.

The Hotel was later owned and renamed by Washington "Wash" Jackson. The Hotel Jackson (middle picture) served African American clientele and was a venue for African American community and civic activities, such as the staging area for the the emancipation celebration in 1903 and the meeting site for a local branch of the National Negro Men's Business League in 1905.

In November 1927 the Hotel Jackson was severely damaged by a tornado and it was ordered razed by the City in 1930.

The Alexandria Coca-Cola bottling plant was built on this corner in 1932. In 1983, the building was renovated and converted for use as office and retail space (bottom picture) and Virginia Railway Express moved in in 1998.

If you wish to visit our offices, please see our website at <http://www.vre.org/feedback/vreoffice.htm>.



How... do I know what car I am in?

This was a question that VRE received during the March 2011 On-Line Forum.

Car numbers are best way of communicating where are you on the train. VRE train crews will recognize this; local, state and federal first responders will recognize this. The car number is stated with a "V" followed by three digits, such as "V863". There are several ways of finding out what car number you are in:

1. On the exterior of each passenger car
 - a. At all four corners of each car
 - b. At each end of the car
2. Car numbers are located in the interior above the vestibule boarding doors
3. Car numbers are located above the Passenger emergency intercom button
 - a. In the aisles
 - b. In the restrooms
4. At the end doors of each passenger car.

1b.



3.



3b.

1.



4.



New and Improved SmartBenefits Reimbursement Form

For those that take advantage of the Smart Benefit Reimbursement program, there is a new and improved form now on our website. The information is the same, but some options have been added at the bottom of the form.

For example, if your credit card number has been provided for previous reimbursements, you may now choose to fill in the last 5 digits and the expiration date on the form.

By providing these choices, the aim is to create a more secure environment for customers to mail in sensitive information, and possibly help them avoid the nightmare of credit card fraud or identity theft.

The procedures for mailed in reimbursements remains the same.

The new form can be found on our website at http://www.vre.org/service/pdf/smartbenefits_voucher.pdf

Nokesville Church of the Brethren

Please Join Us in our Community Easter Celebrations...

Palm Sunday Service, April 17 at 11:00 am
Nokesville Church of the Brethren (NCOB)

Love Feast, Maundy Thursday, April 21 at 7:30 pm
NCOB, 13002 Fitzwater Dr., Nokesville, VA 20181

Good Friday Service, April 22 at 7:30 pm
Nokesville United Methodist Church
12550 Aden Rd., Nokesville, VA 20181

Easter Egg Hunt, April 23 at 10:00 am
NCOB, for Children ages pre-school to 5th grade

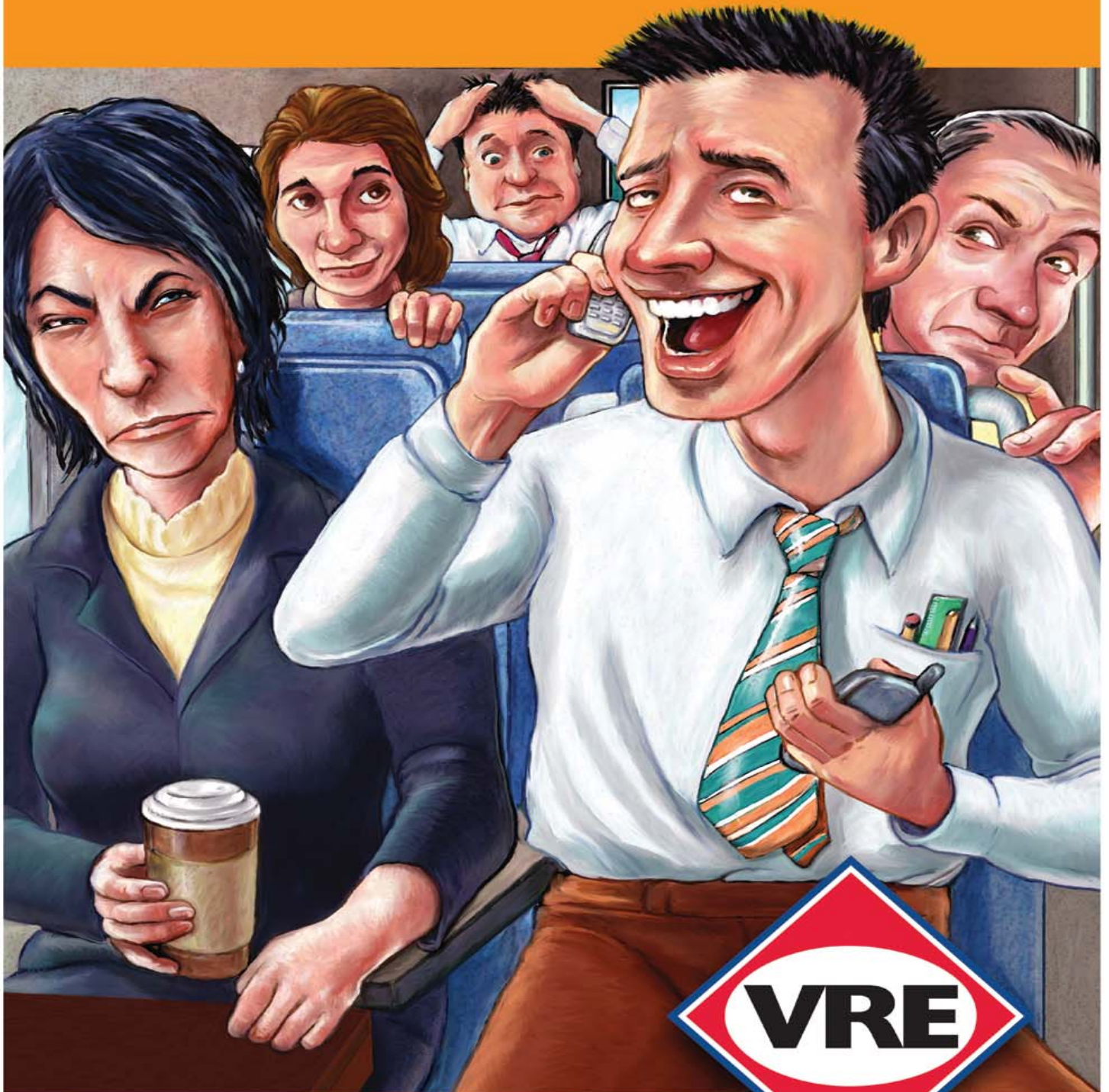
Easter Sunrise Service, April 24
at sunrise ~ 6:30 am
Asbury United Methodist Church
14113 Fleetwood Dr., Nokesville, VA 20181

Easter Sunday Service
NCOB, April 24, at 11:00 am



13002 FITZWATER DRIVE • NOKESVILLE, VA 20181 • 703-594-2685
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.NOKESVILLECOB.ORG

It's So Nice To Be Nice.



Please keep your cell phone calls short and quiet and not at all if you're in the Quiet Car.

works for me
vre.org