

Virginia Railway Express

Update

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703-684-1001

www.vre.org

October 26th, 2011

VRE's New Validation Campaign

BUY AND VALIDATE YOUR TRAIN TICKETS HERE. NO CASH PLEASE.

It's as easy as
1, 2, 3.

1. Buy ticket with credit or debit card.
2. Validate ticket here before boarding.
3. Just sit back and enjoy the ride.



Everyone can use a little validation, your ticket is no exception.

Your eyes glow like sapphires.

Please validate your ticket before you board.



That is
**one
killer tie.**

Everyone can use a little validation, your ticket is no exception.
Please validate your ticket before you board.



You may have noticed a new face on VRE's Ticket Vending Machines (TVMs). This decal is part of a new campaign to remind riders to validate their tickets before they board. The campaign also consists of a series of posters and banners at the stations. The campaign is designed to reduce the number of people who forget to validate their ticket. The monthly ticket and the TLC (Transit Link Card -joint Metro/VRE) are the only VRE tickets that do not require validation. All other tickets (including FRCs) must be inserted into the ticket slot on the machine to have the time and date stamped on to them. Boarding without a valid ticket could result in a costly fine. No one likes to be embarrassed, let alone having to take a day off of work and pay a fine plus court costs.

We know it's easy to forget to validate, especially if you are used to buying a monthly ticket, and then for one reason or another, you choose to buy a Ten-Trip ticket which does have to be validated; you may not be in the habit of validating. But, the conductors have no way of knowing who is trying to get away with something or who simply forgot or did not know. Therefore, we have stepped up our efforts in trying to remind everyone that it is necessary to validate your ticket each and every time you board unless you have a monthly ticket or TLC. Our CEO has repeatedly said he only requires two things from our riders: "Get to the station at least ten minutes before your train is scheduled to depart, and have a valid ticket." So please make every effort to get to the station in plenty of time to validate your ticket and avoid the needless stress, embarrassment and perhaps a costly fine.

Almost all VRE Ticket Vendors now are registered with WMATA for assignment of Electronic Smart Benefits (ESBs), the replacement for the paper SmartBenefit Vouchers. As of Oct. 2011, VRE vendors Union Station (Grayline), L'Enfant (Casey's), Broad Run (Don's), Woodbridge (Coffee Club), Quantico (Coffee Club), Leeland Road (7-11) and Fredericksburg (7-11) are all registered for ESB with WMATA, and all are managed by VRE. Commuter Direct (Mail/Internet/Phone), Crystal City (Commuter Store) and Springfield (Commuter Store) are also registered, but they manage ESBs themselves for their passengers.

The only vendor who cannot yet have ESBs assigned to them is Alexandria (DASH/Old Town Transit), but they're currently working on it. As a reminder, paper vouchers can no longer be accepted by VRE after Nov. 30th, 2011.



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, November 1st, On-Line Forum with CEO Dale Zehner

Friday, November 11th, Veterans Day, No VRE Service

Thursday, November 24th, Thanksgiving, No VRE Service

Friday, November 25th, Day After Thanksgiving, "S" Schedule

Saturday, December 10th, Operation Lifesaver Santa Trains

Friday, December 23rd, Christmas Eve Observance, "S" Schedule

Monday, December 26th, Christmas Observance, No VRE Service



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@vire.org or at (703) 684-1001.

VRE's Annual Emergency Drill



Each year, VRE conducts a simulated train disaster – the goal of this is to test VRE's federally approved Emergency Preparedness Plan as well as our security preparedness.



During the simulated disaster, local first responders test their skills in responding to train emergency, and VRE also gauges our crew, our railroad partners' and our staffs' preparedness



for addressing any train emergency. This year's drill will take place in Alexandria, VA. As we do every year, we utilize volunteers to play the role of victims of this simulated train disaster. The drill will be held on Saturday, November 12. Volunteer victims will arrive by 7am and the event should be done by noon.

The emergency drill, held in conjunction with

regional first responders, will act out criminal activity onboard a train, and "victims" will help para-emergency personnel perform a wide range of emergency response capabilities and learn better ways to mitigate the threat of such activities in the real world. Volunteers will be moulaged and placed in the environment of the incident and handled accordingly; as a result, volunteers will wear warm work clothes and expect to get dirty! Each victim will likely be inside the train for about 30 minutes. "VRE conducts classroom and field training throughout the year for emergency responders," explains VRE's Manager of Safety and Security, Sharmila Samarasinghe.

Participants can expect a realistic simulation, as the more closely we can mirror an actual situation, the more effective these drills are.

We've found over the years that these drills go a long way in teaching emergency responders across jurisdictional boundaries how to best handle emergencies onboard commuter trains, and by varying the location and the incident, the drills continue to be extremely beneficial to us and to participating emergency responders.

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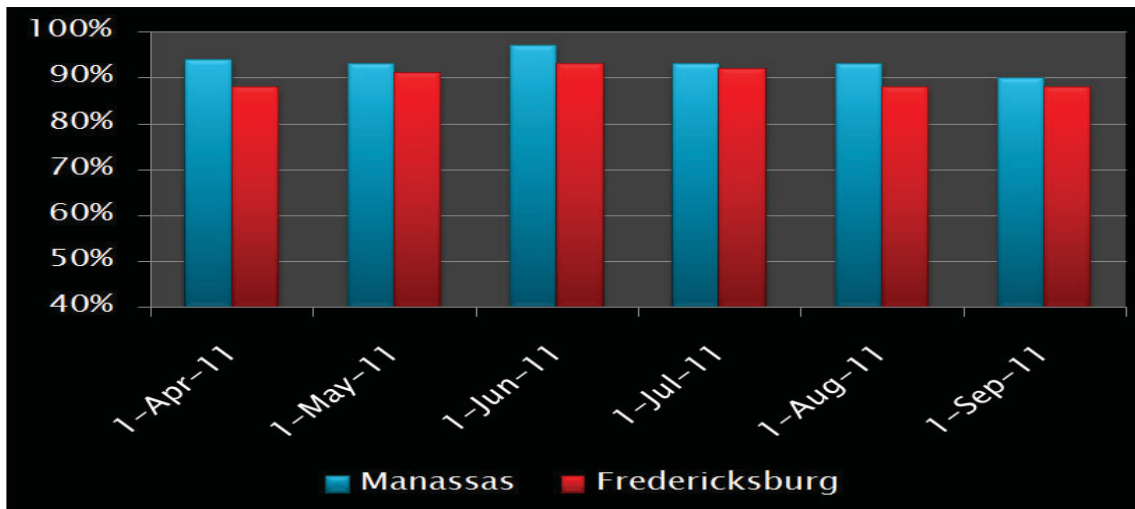
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On Time Performance



On-Time Performance September 2011

Fredericksburg Line

- 300 – 90%
- 302 – 85%
- 304 – 75%
- 306 – 85%
- 308 – 90%
- 310 – 90%
- 312 – 85%

- 301 – 90%
- 303 – 95%
- 305 – 95%
- 307 – 85%
- 309 – 85%
- 311 – 85%
- 313 – 90%

Overall – 88%

Manassas Line

- 322 – 90%
- 324 – 80%
- 326 – 95%
- 328 – 80%
- 330 – 100%
- 332 – 95%
- 336 – 75%
- 338 – 90%

- 321 – 100%
- 325 – 95%
- 327 – 90%
- 329 – 95%
- 331 – 95%
- 333 – 80%
- 335 – 95%
- 337 – 85%

Overall – 90%

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

Participate in the APTA Photo Contest



The American Public Transportation Association is hosting its 12th Annual Photo Invitational in 2011. The invitational seeks photos that depict public transportation's significance, value and

benefits of opportunity, access, freedom, and mobility, which enables everyone in the community to accomplish what is important to them, all the while making communities stronger and more vibrant.

Whether it is creating more livable communities, providing access to seniors and the disabled, or one of the many other benefits public transportation provides to America, such as energy independence, economic vitality or environmental benefits, we have a great story to tell – and we need your help to tell it.

Winning entries will be featured in the 2012 APTA Calendar. The deadline for entering is November 4, 2011. All photos must be submitted via APTA's online entry form. If you have questions, please contact Lesa Rair at lrair@apta.com or 202-496-4804.

Winning photos will show the benefits of public transportation, whether it is people getting to work, appointments, school, events or countless other destinations; or communities rallying around transit at events; or the economic benefits with new construction and transit related jobs.

The best photos depict public transportation vehicles in action with the community and transit employees and are in a variety of natural working conditions for public transportation that depict seasonal activities, promotions, special events, and diverse weather conditions.

Finally, photos should capture human emotion and make the connection of how people or communities benefit from public transportation. Anyone can enter the APTA Photo Invitational. Photos may be submitted either by the individual photographer, or by a transit agency or other organization with rights to the photos. Photos must be received by November 4, 2011.

There is no entry fee, nor is there any limit on the number of photos that can be submitted by each entrant.

Entries must be submitted via the online entry form on apta.com, and photos must be submitted in digital format. Acceptable formats include .jpeg, .jpg or .gif.

By entering the contest, you are giving the American Public Transportation Association a royalty-free, non-exclusive perpetual worldwide license to use your photos. Photos may be used by APTA in a variety of forms besides the APTA calendar. Entries with hired actors prominently featured must be accompanied by a signed photo release.

Please include the signed form as an additional attachment to your submission, or fax to: 202-496-4321, Attn: Lesa Rair.

And, finally, be creative and have fun!



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