VRE Returns to Full Service

More trains mean a more convenient commute. The Virginia Railway Express (VRE) resumed its full-service schedule (www.vre.org/service/schedules) on June 1, going from 18 to 32 daily trains – 16 a piece on the Fredericksburg and Manassas lines. While ridership has increased as a result, the additional trains give passengers even more room to social distance.

As workplaces in Northern Virginia and the District of Columbia reopen, traffic is approaching pre-pandemic levels, according to a recent report by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Meanwhile, traffic fatalities in the region rose 7 percent between 2019 and 2020, according to an analysis by The Washington Post. VRE remains one of the safest and most reliable ways to commute in Virginia.

While safety and reliability are paramount, there is much to be said for the amenities and benefits of commuting on VRE. The friendly train crews, railcar restrooms, and option to bring food and drinks onboard top the list. Being able to relax, check email, text or read also rank high among VRE passengers.

Returning passengers have fond memories of VRE and are appreciative of the commuter rail system’s concern for their health and safety. “First ride on the @VaRailXpress in a while,” wrote Marie Cox on Twitter. “Same comfy seats, friendly staff and good views, plus social distancing cues, sanitizer, touchless doors.”

“First day back on @VaRailXpress since pandemic began – Plenty of room to social distance. Nice to see...the conductors again,” noted Alex D’Emidio on Twitter.

While the U.S. Centers for Disease Control has relaxed face-mask restrictions in some public settings, the Transportation Security Administration requires them on all public transportation conveyances, stations and platforms through September 13, 2021.

VRE has 19 stations. XXX on the XXX Line are closest to XXX. VRE trains generally run northbound weekday mornings and southbound in the evenings. VRE’s mobile app allows for the contactless purchase and validation of tickets. Passengers can find the socially distanced seat that works best for them at www.vre.org/service/rider/train-utilization-trends.