



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS  
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# PRESS RELEASE

Office of Public Affairs

**For Immediate Release**

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## **VRE Is Perfect Commuting Alternative During Metrorail Station Closures** *Commuter Rail Connects Franconia-Springfield and Alexandria with Stations in NOVA & DC*

**Alexandria, Va.** – When the six Metrorail stations south of National Airport shut down this summer, the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) will be a convenient alternative for many commuters. VRE offers service at two stations, Franconia-Springfield and Alexandria, that are a short walk from the soon-to-be closed Franconia-Springfield and King St-Old Town Metrorail stations. VRE trains run northbound in the morning and southbound in the evening with stops at Crystal City in Virginia, and L’Enfant and Union Station in Washington, D.C.

“VRE makes commuting easy,” said Doug Allen, the railroad’s chief executive officer. “Our 32 daily trains provide nearly 20,000 passenger trips and connect to all six Metrorail lines. VRE is a great commuting alternative for many Metrorail riders affected by this summer’s station shutdown.”

VRE trains arrive at Union Station each weekday between 6:24 and 9:17 a.m. and depart Union Station between 12:55 and 7:05 p.m. While all trains stop at the Alexandria station, only trains on the Fredericksburg line stop at Franconia-Springfield, where parking at the Metro garage will be free during the station closure. Passengers can see which trains have the most available seating by visiting VRE’s [train utilization trends page](#) at [www.vre.org](http://www.vre.org).

[Determining fares and purchasing a ticket](#) are a snap with VRE Mobile. The app allows riders to select from several fare products, some of which offer discounts. VRE Mobile accepts credit cards and SmartBenefits®. Tickets also may be purchased through fare vending machines on VRE station platforms. VRE’s fare payment system does not support Metro’s SmarTrip® card.

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To free up capacity on trains for new riders, the cost of a single-ride [Amtrak Step-Up ticket](#) has been temporarily lowered from \$8 to \$4. The Step-Up ticket gives passengers with multi-ride VRE passes (Monthly, 5-Day, 10-Ride, and Transit Link Card) the option to use any of [12 Amtrak trains listed on the current VRE schedule](#).

[Free shuttles in Prince William County](#) will carry riders to VRE's Rippon and Woodbridge stations during the Metrorail shutdown. The OmniRide shuttles will begin operating on Tuesday, May 28 and continue until Metro reopens the six Blue and Yellow line stations in September. The Dale City shuttle will connect the commuter lot at Minnieville Road and Gemini Way with the Rippon station, while the Lake Ridge shuttle will connect the commuter lot at Old Bridge and Minnieville roads with the Woodbridge station.

The 12th largest commuter rail service in the U.S., VRE is a transportation partnership of the Northern Virginia and Potomac & Rappahannock Transportation Commissions. VRE's mission is to provide safe, cost effective, accessible, reliable, convenient, and customer responsive commuter-oriented passenger rail service. The 4.5 million rides the railroad provides annually in Northern Virginia and Washington D.C. remove some 100 million vehicle miles from the region's interstates. Learn more at [www.vre.org](http://www.vre.org).

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