



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

PRESS RELEASE

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Virginia Railway Express Celebrates Historic Ridership Milestone

100 million riders since operations began in 1992

Alexandria, Va. – On Monday, October 6, the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) reached a major milestone of 100 million total riders since operations began in 1992, a reflection of VRE’s enduring importance in connecting Northern and Central Virginia with Washington, D.C., and the continued trust and support of its passengers, partners, and the communities it serves.

“This is a proud day for VRE,” said VRE Acting CEO Dallas Richards. “Reaching 100 million riders is a powerful reminder of how vital regional rail has become for daily life, mobility, and sustainability across our service area. We are humbled by the confidence placed in us, and we recommit to delivering safe, reliable, and rider-focused service into the future.”

VRE began operations in the summer of 1992, launching service on the Manassas Line in June and the Fredericksburg Line in July. What started as a modest commuter operation has grown into a critical transportation link for the region, offering thousands of Virginians a dependable alternative to congested highways. Over the past three decades, VRE has evolved alongside the communities it serves, expanding its ridership, improving infrastructure, and enhancing service reliability.

Like many transit agencies across the country, VRE faced challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the system has since experienced a strong ridership rebound. In recent months, ridership growth has accelerated, with over 100,000 more passengers traveling in July 2025 compared to the same month the previous year.

While today marks an important chapter in VRE’s history, the organization remains focused on the future. Alongside the Commonwealth of Virginia’s monumental investments in rail infrastructure through [Transforming Rail in Virginia](#), planned capacity enhancements, additional rolling stock, and continued station modernization projects will allow VRE to serve a growing

population with greater reliability and convenience. The [recently adopted System Plan 2050](#) outlines a long-term vision for the future of commuter rail in the region, including increased service frequency, longer operating hours, and strategic investments to accommodate future population and employment growth.

“We have reached the 100 million riders milestone at the start of a new chapter for VRE,” said VRE Operations Board Chair and City of Alexandria Vice Mayor Sarah Bagley. “Our region is changing, and so are the ways people travel. VRE has and will continue to grow with our communities while delivering the safe, sustainable, and high-quality service riders deserve and have come to expect from VRE.”

To commemorate the occasion, VRE will celebrate with riders on board trains following the conclusion of the federal government shutdown. As many riders are directly affected, VRE looks forward to marking this milestone together once government operations and normal routines resume. Event details will be shared on VRE’s social media channels.

VRE, the nation’s 13th largest commuter rail service, connects Central and Northern Virginia with the District of Columbia. VRE is recognized for its provision of safe, reliable, convenient, and comfortable transportation. Its two lines, Manassas and Fredericksburg, serve 19 stations, including two – L’Enfant and Union Station – in D.C. Additional information, including fares and schedules, is available at www.vre.org.

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