



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commonwealth Transportation Board

FROM: Matthew O. Tucker
Agency Director

DATE: September 17, 2008

SUBJECT: Monthly Transit Ridership Report

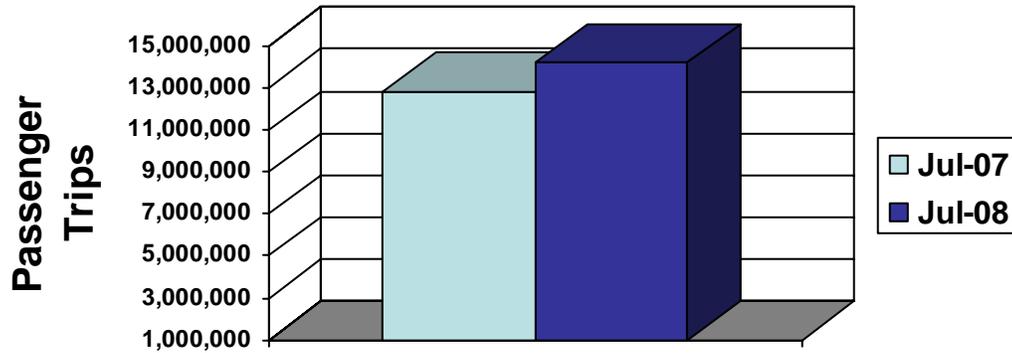
DRPT is pleased to present the first monthly transit ridership report to the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The monthly report will provide a snapshot of current transit performance and recent trends. DRPT will continue to work with individual transit operators to refine transit data and ensure that all transit modes, including bus, rail and specialized service for the elderly and disabled, are accurately reported, and to ensure that this monthly report is comprehensive.

The following key facts are based on a year-over-year comparison of monthly results reported by transit operators for July 2007 and July 2008. Key factors influencing ridership this period include the rise in fuel prices, which increased ridership in many areas but also resulted in some service cuts due to operating budget constraints. A decline in tourism and summer attendance at local colleges was also noted, which affected seasonal routes. In addition, federal regulations went into effect this year which require transit operators to discontinue charter service that was operated last year.

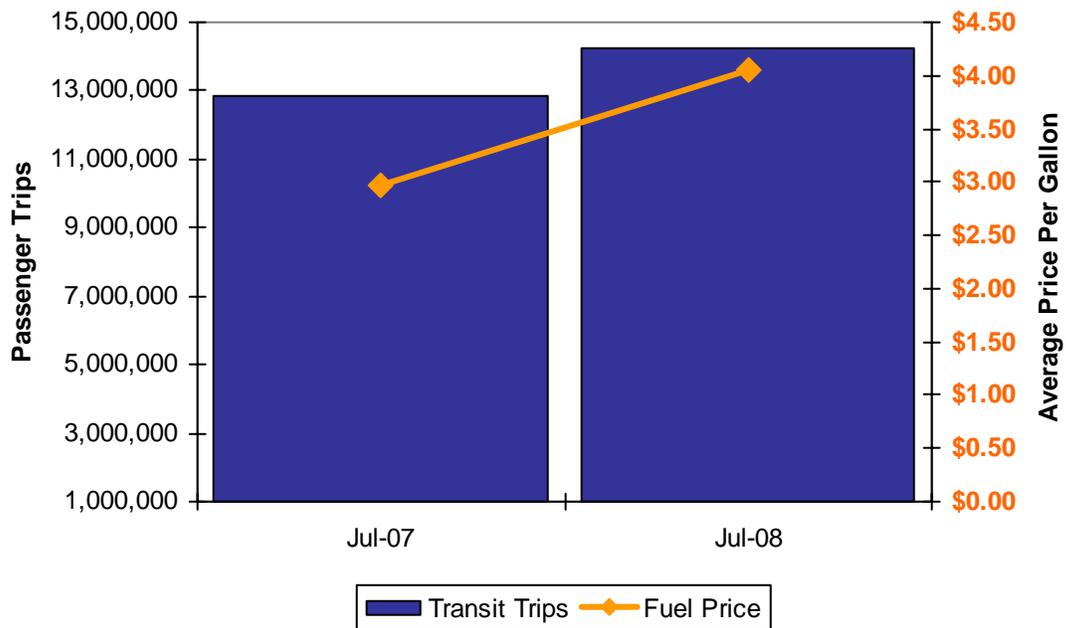
Key Facts

- Transit ridership is impacted by a number of factors to include: land use, population density, seasonal changes, number of days in a particular month, weather, fuel price, economic conditions and fare adjustments. The best method for comparison is current month's performance compared to the previous year's performance for that month.
- Over time, this report will become more detailed as DRPT collects and analyzes, in a more comprehensive manner, factors that impact ridership such as economic conditions and fare policy.
- Comparisons between regions or transit operators should be avoided without detailed analysis and understanding of local goals that support investment in public transportation.
- The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) is the nation's second largest rail operator and fifth largest bus operator. WMATA reports only Virginia ridership (trips that begin and/or end in the Commonwealth) for DRPT's Dashboard.
- Transit ridership in Virginia increased by 11 percent, or 1,133,019 trips for the month of July 2008 as compared to July 2007, based on reports from 52 transit operators, one human service provider and four operators that provide both transit and specialized trips. There were 52 transit operators, 56 human service operators and four operators that provide both transit and specialized trips in the Commonwealth at the time this report was created. The number of human service operators reporting monthly will increase over time.
- The Northern Virginia district accounts for 75.5 percent of statewide transit ridership for July 2008. The Richmond district and Hampton Roads district account for 6.5 percent and 12.6 percent, respectively, of statewide transit ridership for July 2008.
- The Fredericksburg District achieved the highest growth in transit trips at 36 percent, and one district, Hampton Roads, recorded a loss of 1 percent.
- There is a correlation between the recent growth in ridership and the rise in fuel prices over the same period. Additional analysis is needed to determine the exact relationship.

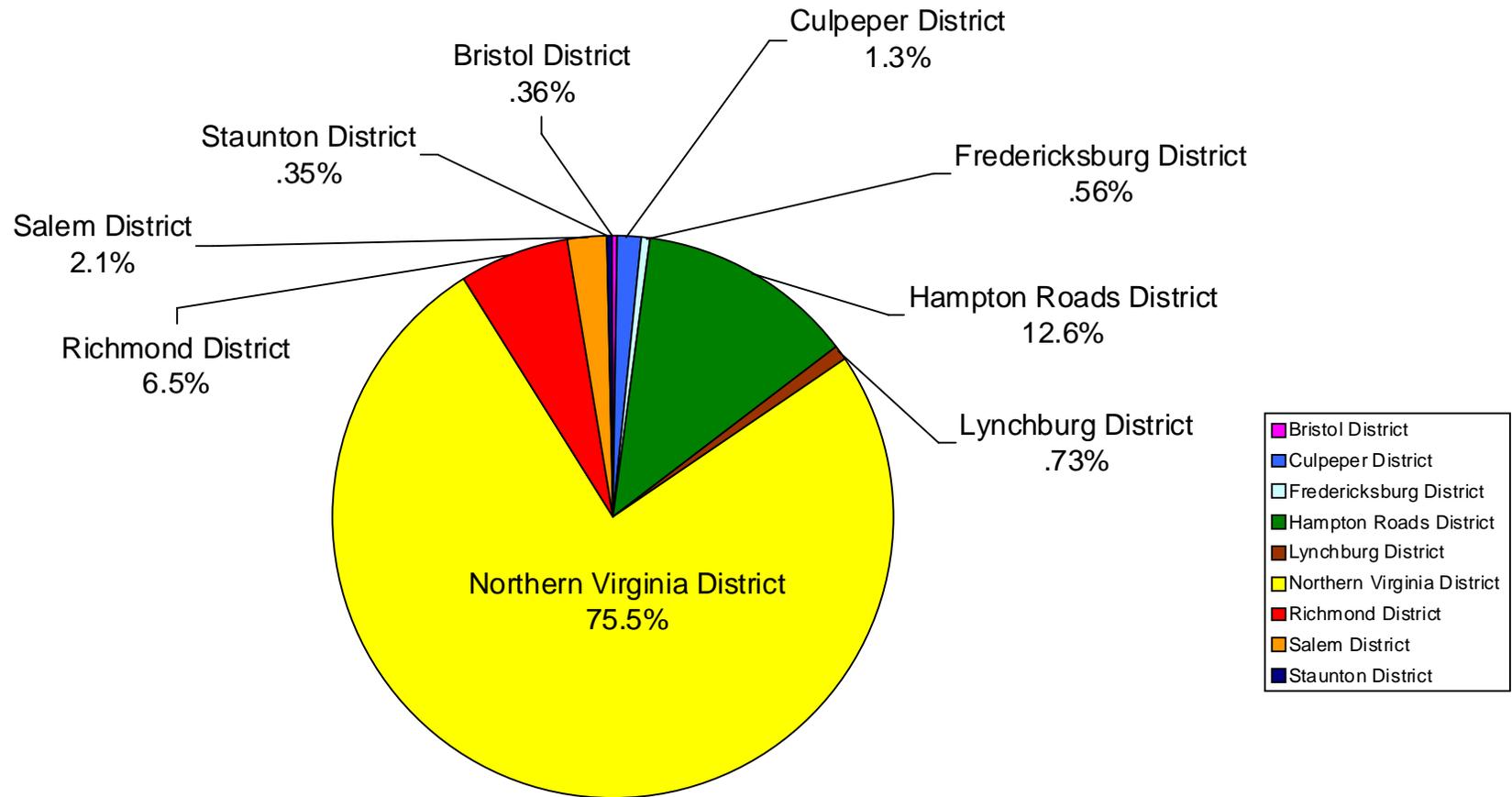
Statewide Transit Ridership July 2007 and July 2008



Average Fuel Price vs. Transit Ridership July 2007 and July 2008



July 2008 District Ridership



Total Monthly Ridership

Operator	Total Ridership July 2008	Total Ridership July 2007	Percent Change
BRISTOL DISTRICT			
AASC / Four County Transit	16,003	12,005	33%
City of Bristol Virginia	7,276	5,043	44%
District Three Public Transit	20,184	21,138	-5%
Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Inc.	4,368	4,260	3%
Town of Bluefield-Graham Transit	3,395	3,112	9%
Total Bristol District Ridership	51,226	45,558	12%
CULPEPER DISTRICT			
Charlottesville Transit Service	147,023	120,516	22%
Greene County Transit, Inc.	3,910	3,810	3%
JAUNT, Inc.	23,085	20,677	12%
Virginia Regional Transit - Culpeper County	360	371	-3%
Virginia Regional Transit - Fauquier/Warrenton	1,661	1,771	-6%
Virginia Regional Transit - Town of Culpeper	6,392	5,354	19%
Virginia Regional Transit - Town of Orange	2,565	2,524	2%
Total Culpeper District Ridership	184,996	155,023	19%
FREDERICKSBURG DISTRICT			
Bay Aging	30,773	26,258	17%
Bay Aging/Colonial Beach Transit	2,362	2,282	4%
FRED - Caroline County	768	542	42%
FRED - King George	1,987	1,121	77%
Fredericksburg Regional Transit	43,139	27,719	56%
Total Fredericksburg District Ridership	79,029	57,922	36%
HAMPTON ROADS DISTRICT			
Hampton Roads Transit	1,346,108	1,399,193	-4%
STAR Transit	3,039	3,234	-6%
Town of Chincoteague	6,848	7,560	-9%
Williamsburg Area Transport	441,780	412,063	7%
Total Hampton Roads District Ridership	1,797,775	1,822,050	-1%
LYNCHBURG DISTRICT			
Blackstone Area Bus / Piedmont Area Transit	762	548	39%
Danville Transit System	21,924	17,947	22%
Farmville Area Bus	3,966	4,469	-11%
Greater Lynchburg Transit Company	76,235	64,780	18%
JAUNT Buckingham	784	698	12%
Lake Area Bus / Halifax Area Rural Transit	657	473	39%
Total Lynchburg District Ridership	104,328	88,915	17%
NORTHERN VIRGINIA DISTRICT			
Alexandria Transit Company	378,270	349,068	8%
Arlington County	125,485	93,932	34%
City of Fairfax	82,773	78,862	5%
Fairfax County	948,821	807,863	17%
Loudoun County Office of Transportation Services	80,497	60,409	33%
WMATA Metrorail (Virginia only)	6,537,595	6,023,935	9%
WMATA Metrobus (Virginia only)	2,001,532	1,662,729	20%

Operator	Total Ridership July 2008	Total Ridership July 2007	Percent Change
PRTC-OmniRide	193,061	144,242	34%
Virginia Railway Express	338,591	292,043	16%
Virginia Regional Transit - Loudoun	47,378	35,070	35%
Virginia Regional Transit - Town of Purcellville	2,455	2,383	3%
Total Northern Virginia District Ridership	10,736,458	9,550,536	12%
RICHMOND DISTRICT			
Bay Aging/NewKent/Charles City	975	1,165	-16%
Blackstone Area Bus	1,850	1,256	47%
Blackstone Area Bus / Town and County Transit	279	209	33%
Blackstone Area Bus - Brunswick Express	211	230	-8%
City of Petersburg	49,838	42,607	17%
Greater Richmond Transit Company	865,663	794,411	9%
Lake Area Bus	489	482	1%
Total Richmond District Ridership	919,305	840,360	9%
SALEM DISTRICT			
Blacksburg Transit	67,664	56,618	20%
Greater Roanoke Transit	226,115	188,081	20%
Pulaski Area Transit	4,450	4,003	11%
RADAR/Roanoke	285	175	63%
Total Salem District Ridership	298,514	248,877	20%
STAUNTON DISTRICT			
City of Harrisonburg Dept. of Public Transportation	17,230	16,847	2%
City of Winchester	12,950	10,931	18%
RADAR/Covington & Clifton Forge	1,337	1,122	19%
Virginia Regional Transit - CATS Coordinated Area Transportation	3,610	3,138	15%
Virginia Regional Transit - City of Staunton	10,961	10,300	6%
Virginia Regional Transit - Clarke County	110	213	-48%
Virginia Regional Transit - Page County	722	545	32%
Virginia Regional Transit - Shenandoah Blue Ridge Service	1,657	835	98%
Virginia Regional Transit - Town of Front Royal	1,300	576	126%
Total Staunton District Ridership	49,877	44,507	12%
STATEWIDE RIDERSHIP	Total Statewide Ridership July 2008	Total Statewide Ridership July 2007	
	14,221,508	12,853,748	11%
AMTRAK			
Amtrak (Virginia only)	107,672	88,559	22%
ON-TIME PERFORMANCE	Percent On-Time Performance July 2008	Percent On-Time Performance July 2007	Percent Change
Virginia Railway Express	81%	91%	-11%
Amtrak	Not available	37%	Not Available

Note: Amtrak on-time performance will be available monthly beginning in October 2008.