

VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE

# RIDE

APRIL 2016



IMPROVEMENTS  
PLANNED FOR  
UNION STATION

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## COURTESY REMINDER

### Understanding Queuing:



While riders are allowed to stand on the train, any standing riders must clear the aisles at station stops for passengers who need to detrain. Standing riders are not allowed to block access to vestibule doors or stand in the stairwells. Should the crew decide that detraining is impeded by standing riders, that crew can hold the train at a station until all riders find a seat. Please be courteous to fellow riders and allow them easy access through train car aisles.

Editor in Chief: Joseph M. Swartz  
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Access RIDE online at [www.VRE.org/RIDE](http://www.VRE.org/RIDE)

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS MAGAZINE



## FROM THE CEO

### READY FOR THAT NEW-CAR SMELL?

Back in 2005, VRE started purchasing new railcars to upgrade our fleet and improve our riders' experience by increasing both comfort and reliability. With the help of federal and state grants and other financing opportunities we've made a lot of progress over the years and the results speak for themselves.

I am happy to announce that another five brand new Nippon Sharyo gallery-style railcars will be going into service this month. These new railcars are similar to the other railcars built by Nippon Sharyo, with some minor design upgrades. We think you will find them very spacious, with 132 seats and a restroom, plus they will also include bike and wheelchair space; advanced safety features; in-cabin hand holds; luggage racks; armrests with cup holders; coat hangers and an automated announcement communication system.

Additional new railcars are scheduled for delivery in the next couple of years. In 2017 we are scheduled to receive five more and in 2018 we are expecting nine. These will help us complete our transition to an entirely modern fleet and even provide some expansion capacity. While I doubt anyone will actually miss our legacy cars, we have had other agencies contact us about them. So don't worry, they will find a good home.

The VRE staff and I are proud of VRE's commitment to provide a world class commuter rail service. Thank you for riding VRE and know that we continue to invest in the system to provide you the best possible service.



DOUG ALLEN  
Chief Executive Officer



▲ Review of VRE's new railcars at Nippon Sharyo's production facility in Rochelle, IL.



▲ Nippon Sharyo makes final preparation to deliver VRE's railcars.

DOUG ALLEN

Chief Executive Officer  
Virginia Railway Express



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**"Mercy Street" Inspired  
Spring Tours and Events**  
Ongoing

**Old Town Alexandria, VA**

The City of Alexandria is celebrating its heritage by presenting experiences for fans of the PBS series, "Mercy Street." Check out the new tours, exhibits and events inspired by "Mercy Street."

[www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/mercystreet](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/mercystreet)

## JOIN VRE FOR MEET THE MANAGEMENT

**M**eeet the Management is VRE's opportunity to show our appreciation for you, our loyal passengers. Every spring, VRE management visits a different station on Wednesdays, bringing refreshments and VRE promotional items for passengers to get prior to their train departure. VRE's goal is to meet our passengers in person to hear any questions, feedback or comments they may have to improve VRE. In addition to our destination stations, this June we will be heading to our newest station, Spotsylvania.

Date	Time	Station
Wednesday, April 27, 2016	Afternoon and Evening Service	Union Station
Wednesday, May 11, 2016	Afternoon and Evening Service	L'Enfant
Wednesday, May 18, 2016	Afternoon and Evening Service	Crystal City
Wednesday, May 25, 2016	Afternoon and Evening Service	Alexandria
Wednesday, June 1, 2016	Afternoon and Evening Service	Franconia-Springfield
Wednesday, June 8, 2016	Morning Service	Spotsylvania



## Fredericksburg's 13th Annual Earth Day Festival

**Saturday, April 23, 11 a.m – 4 p.m.**

**Old Mill Park**

**2410 Caroline St, Fredericksburg, VA 22401**

Celebrate Earth Day at Old Mill Park on the Rappahannock River in Fredericksburg.

This free festival, sponsored by the City of Fredericksburg Parks & Recreation Department, includes live music, great food and dozens of vendors. Experience hands-on activities for adults and kids. Rain date is Saturday, April 30.

[www.earthdayfred.com](http://www.earthdayfred.com)

## Keep Prince William Beautiful Festival

**Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m – 4 p.m.**

**G. Richard Pfitzner Stadium**

**7 County Complex Ct.**

**Woodbridge, VA**

The Keep Prince William Beautiful Festival is a new community event designed to showcase businesses, nonprofits, food vendors, and other organizations that educates and inspires people to be environmental stewards and "Keep Prince William Beautiful." This family-friendly event is free to the public as well as your leashed pet. [www.kpwb.org](http://www.kpwb.org)

## 2016 Manassas Regional Airport Airshow and Open House

**Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Manassas Regional Airport**

**10600 Harry Parrish Blvd.**

**Manassas, VA**

The Manassas Airshow and Open House is a free family event featuring many of the finest local aerobatic performers and a wide variety of displays and attractions, including the Freedom Museum based at the airport. Rain date is Sunday, May 8.

[www.manassasairshow.com](http://www.manassasairshow.com)



# DESTINATION STATION ARRIVES AT WOODBRIDGE

**T**here is a new store and VRE ticket vendor coming to the Woodbridge Station. Destination Station, which is located where Coffee Club Café was previously, is set to open in early April and will be a welcome oasis for VRE and Amtrak passengers as well as the residents of the Belmont Bay community. Destination Station will sell VRE tickets and passes plus handle SmartBenefits transactions.

Besides providing VRE ticket sales and information, Destination Station will offer service that is reminiscent of a corner store, gift shop, healthy snack store, café and coffee shop. Besides basic snack items of chips, candy bars and sodas, Destination Station will offer snacks and beverages that are geared towards a healthy lifestyle, such as bottled high protein diet drinks; organic teas and juices; energy snack bars and gluten free items plus fresh pastries, coffee and teas will be available in the morning. Destination Station will be a convenient spot for customers to pick up basic travel needs too.

The hours of operation will be Monday to Friday from 5–9 a.m. and then will re-open for business from 4–8 p.m. These hours will be extended as the weeks go on to accommodate not only passengers but also the residents of Belmont Bay and U.S. 1 commuters.



▲ Destination Station will be opening soon at Woodbridge Station.

Working for 10 years as an executive chef in the DC Area, owner Ferdinand “Ferd” Dimaiwat is well versed in excellent service and providing customers with their daily needs.

“I hope to provide passengers of the VRE, Amtrak and residents of Belmont Bay a one-stop shop for all their basic everyday needs and I hope to be a viable member of the community by providing excellent service with a friendly neighborhood feel,” said Ferd. “I like to think that we will be the last stop before folks hit the hustle and bustle of U.S. 1 and a nice shining beacon for them to know they are home.”

Welcome to the VRE community, Destination Station!

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# MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED FOR UNION STATION

Washington Union Station is advancing a series of projects to transform the station into a world-class multimodal transportation center for our region.

Built in 1907, Union Station is a critical transportation center in the Mid-Atlantic region. Approximately 37 million people pass through the station annually. It is one of the most visited tourist attractions in the nation's capital and serves as a hub for VRE, MARC and Amtrak plus Metrorail and Metrobus. Many tour bus and intercity bus services also use Union Station's bus facilities. With the station's success has come challenges as Union Station has reached its capacity at peak travel times, resulting in long departing queues and visible passenger frustration. The station's platforms also do not meet modern designs standards.

Union Station's 2nd Century plan is a comprehensive improvement initiative comprising multiple projects seeking to triple passenger capacity and double train capacity over the next 20 years. The plan includes the Station Expansion project, which will modernize the station while preserving its historical significance in order to provide a more positive customer experience. It includes reconstructing and realigning tracks, developing new concourse facilities, maintaining and modernizing multimodal transportation facilities, as well as improving and expanding infrastructure and other supporting facilities. The project would also include better connections among intercity and commuter rail, Metrorail, buses, taxi and bike options to meet future demand.

"Union Station is one of the busiest transportation hubs in the world and a gateway to the nation's capital," explained Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Administrator Sarah E. Feinberg. "To be good stewards of this historic transportation asset, it is our duty to plan for the station's future while understanding the impact of our actions today. We owe it to the public to preserve this modern transportation hub for the future of the neighborhood, city, region and country."

FRA, as the lead federal agency, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential impacts to the human and natural environment resulting from the Washington Union Station Expansion Project.

The plan also includes a separate and privately developed transit-



▲ Passenger Concourse Modernization project will add approximately 20,000 square feet of new passenger space.

oriented, urban neighborhood known as the Burnham Place project. The developer, Akridge, is developing a three million square-foot mixed-use development over the existing rail yard.

Additionally, planning and design is now underway to deliver several critical, near-term improvements to the passenger experience and rail facility. Amtrak is leading the Passenger Concourse Modernization project, a comprehensive renovation of the station's sole intercity and commuter concourse. The Concourse Modernization project will add approximately 20,000 square feet of new passenger space, resulting in a new and unified entry for train passengers. Passenger amenities will be redesigned to include new restrooms, boarding gates, seating and ClubAcela lounge. The design will feature new architectural features and natural light elements to enliven the space and greatly enhance the passenger experience.

"The advancement of this project is a significant milestone for Union Station's 2nd Century plan. It will vastly improve passenger comfort and accessibility with a modern and expanded concourse area, benefiting Amtrak, VRE and MARC passengers," said Stephen Gardner, Amtrak's Executive Vice President of North East Corridor Business Development. "This work and other planned improvement will transform Union Station's capacity and performance, befitting the vital regional gateway and civic hub the Station has become since its redevelopment in 1988."

Design is currently underway for the Passenger Concourse Modernization project and early action construction will start spring 2016, including the relocation of heating and ventilation units. Phased construction is anticipated to start in 2017 and will seek to minimize impacts to all station users. Additional near-term projects include the North Hangar waiting area, where VRE riders will soon see improved weatherproofing as a new roof and repairs to the lower-level track canopies are completed in the summer of 2016.

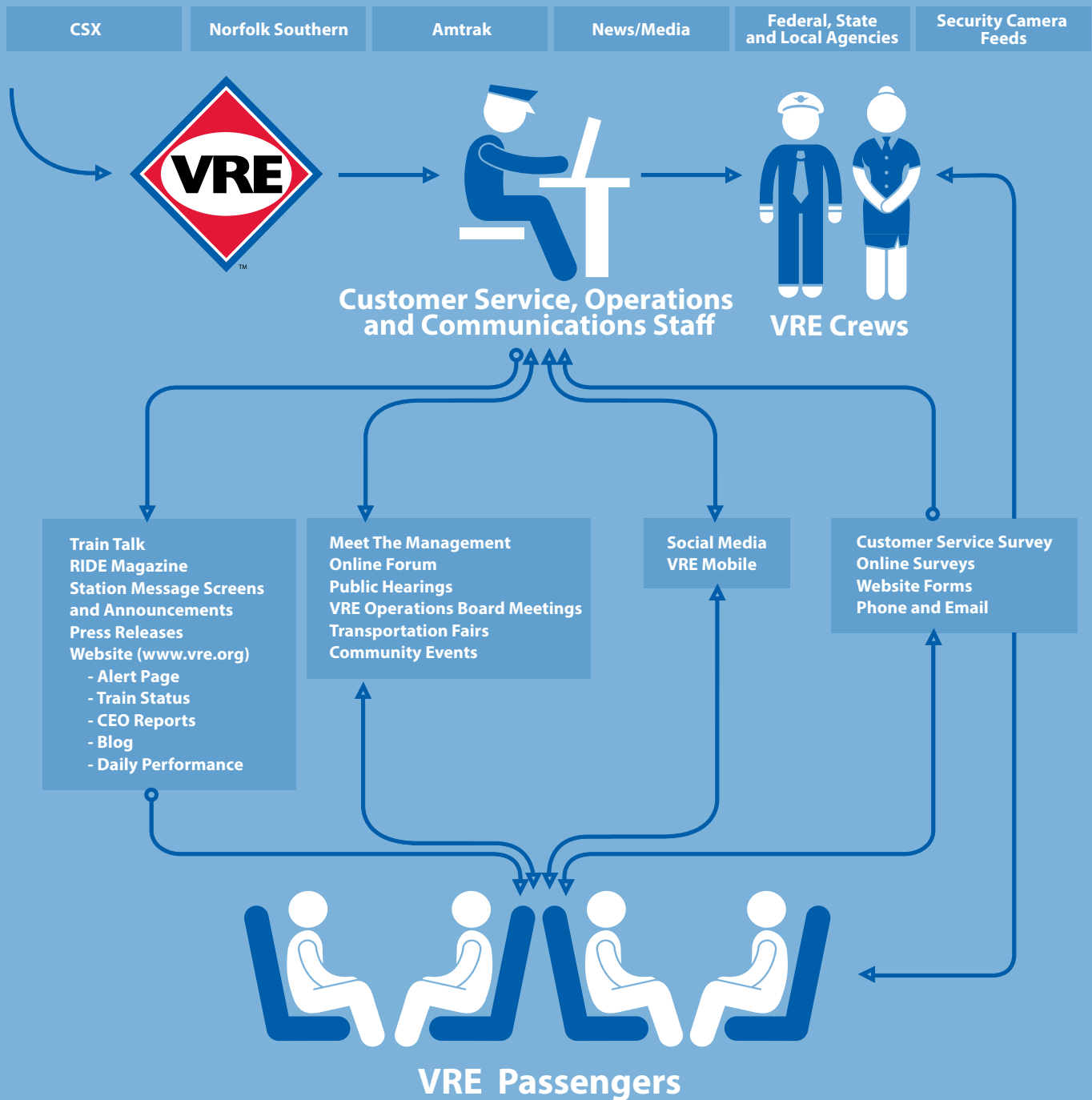
For more information on these projects, please visit [wusstationexpansion.com](http://wusstationexpansion.com) and [nec.amtrak.com](http://nec.amtrak.com).



▲ Union Station's 2nd Century plan seeks to triple passenger capacity and double train capacity over the next 20 years.

# The Many Ways VRE Communicates With Passengers

At VRE, it is important we provide multiple ways to communicate important information with our passengers and provide a two-way dialogue.



# SPOTLIGHT ON KEOLIS

## MEET ERIC AVERY

Eric Avery's biggest priority when he goes to work at VRE is to make sure his passengers arrive safely to their destination. As a conductor for nearly four years, Eric has worked hard to ensure the safety of his passengers.

Coming from three generations of railroad professionals, Eric began his career in the industry as a conductor at Norfolk Southern Railway.

At VRE, Eric works to ensure passenger safety by reviewing train orders (documents that outline special operating conditions), inspecting equipment for brake and door malfunctions and communicating with crewmembers the signal indications and speed restrictions that affect their train.

"If you run a safe train, remain alert and focused - you will help ensure passenger safety. I have always felt that way and work hard every single day to make that a reality," says Eric. "My mission is to get each passenger from Spotsylvania to Union Station, and every stop in between, by the safest means possible."

No two days with the VRE are the same and Eric enjoys the challenge. In fact, he loves how much can change from the morning to the evening commute, and the unique daily challenges associated with it. Navigating changing track signals, speed regulations and

passenger needs keeps the job interesting and exciting. Just like the VRE passengers, who may be regulars or riding the train for their first time, every experience is different for Eric.

What inspires Eric at the VRE, and what he finds most rewarding, is the gratitude of passengers who take advantage of the railway. According to Eric, the "thank yous" that he receives from so many riders when they get to their destination are the best part of the job. It gives him the satisfaction of knowing he has provided a great service to both passengers and the VRE.

"My most memorable experience with the VRE was assisting a woman and her granddaughter onto the train. The granddaughter was having the time of her life and I gave her a toy train and was asked to take a picture with her. A few days later I saw the passenger again and she told me that the train ride was the highlight of her granddaughter's day. And that made my day," reflected Eric.

In his free time, you can find Eric playing his bass guitar.



*Keolis is VRE's contractor that maintains and operates VRE trains.*

**JOIN VRE FOR bike to work day**

**FRIDAY MAY 20, 2016**

Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association invite you to participate in Bike to Work Day! Registered attendees can enjoy refreshments, a free t-shirt, and a chance to win bicycles and other prizes at pit stops throughout DC, Maryland and Virginia – including VRE's Burke Centre, Manassas, Rippon and Woodbridge stations.

To get more Bike to Work Day details and register for free, visit [BikeToWorkMetroDC.org](http://BikeToWorkMetroDC.org) or call 800.745.7433.

Full-size bikes are allowed on Fredericksburg line trains 301, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314 and 315 or on Manassas line trains 321, 325, 328, 330, 332, 333, 335, 336 and 338. Park your bike at any VRE station, or visit [vre.org/bikepolicy](http://vre.org/bikepolicy) for VRE's complete on-board bike policy.



#BTWD2016

**COMMUTER CONNECTIONS®**



# LOOKING FOR SAFETY IN UNEXPECTED PLACES

**M**ost of us are familiar with what standard suspicious behavior looks like, but there are some unusual actions that could be signs of a more imminent threat. These activities may be harder to detect than an obviously unattended bag, but early recognition and reporting of them can be vital to the safety of our entire system:

## MAINTENANCE

Prevention is our best line of defense. Because suspicious objects are often left in dim hallways, corners or trashcans, it's important to notify a maintenance worker regarding any overflowing bins or broken lights.

## SURVEILLANCE

Signs of unauthorized surveillance should be reported immediately. This can include taking photos or drawing diagrams of security equipment, tracks or unauthorized areas, and recording or monitoring activities like daily routines of transit employees and security procedures.

## SUSPICIOUS QUESTIONING

Some individuals may approach riders or workers for information about operations, staffing and security. Any unusual questioning about hiring processes or system operations is cause for alarm.

## TESTS OF SECURITY

Imminent threats usually require planning. So take note of any attempts to measure response times of the public, security, or police to unattended items or reported activity.

## FUNDING

Attacks require proper financial resources. It may be difficult to track such things, but if you happen to notice anyone attempting to use inconspicuous means of transferring and spending money, such as unusually large cash transactions or exchanges for large amounts of gift cards, report it as soon as you can.

## ACQUIRING SUPPLIES

Obtaining explosives, weapons, or large amounts of one-time use cell phones may seem like obvious causes for suspicion. But often we don't even notice these things. Just to be safe, report any of these suspicious behaviors including attempts to steal or obtain uniforms, badges or credentials of transit personnel, security or police.

## IMPERSONATION

Some suspicious people will also attempt to impersonate police, mail carriers or transit employees to gain information. So keep an eye out for anyone who seems out of place or doesn't fit into your daily routine or community.

## REHEARSAL

In order to ensure an attack will run smoothly, suspicious persons will often perform multiple trial runs and rehearse action steps without actually committing the crime. Any of these activities are cause for alarm and should be reported.

## DEPLOYMENT

If you see supplies being distributed or people being put into position, report it immediately. This could be a sign that you're in the midst of an attack.

## IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.™

It can be difficult to know what something suspicious looks like, but trust yourself when something doesn't feel quite right. Race, gender or religious affiliations are not indicators of suspicious behavior. Don't be afraid to report something, even if you aren't sure how serious it is.

## WHAT TO DO

Report any imminent threats or attacks to the police by calling 911. Take detailed notes, such as the train number or station name.

**DO NOT** take direct action

**DO NOT** confront the individual

**DO NOT** reveal your suspicions

**DO** record as many details as possible

**DO** notify appropriate authorities as soon as possible

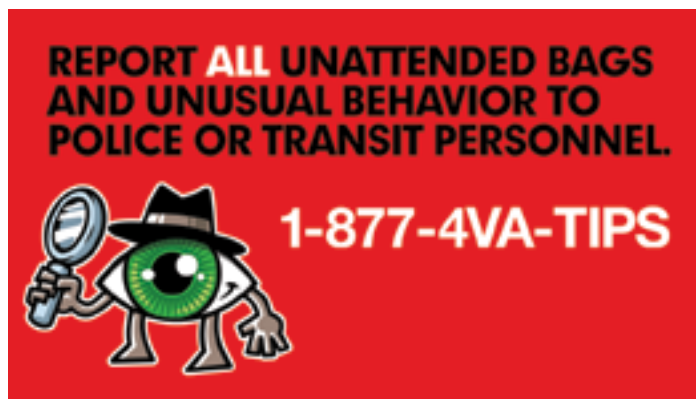
## WHO TO TELL

Notify a police officer or transit personnel. If you can't easily locate someone in uniform, call the police at either:

**1-877-4VA-TIPS or 911.**

If you're on a bus, tell the driver. If you're on a train or at a train station, tell a conductor or transit worker.

Save your local police phone number into your contacts for quick future reference. For more information about how to help make riding transit safer for everyone, visit [SecureTransit.org](http://SecureTransit.org).



*This ad was purchased with funds provided by the US Department of Homeland Security.*

# GHX COMMUNITY MEETING

Wednesday, April 27, 2016, 6–8 p.m.

Gainesville Middle School  
8001 Limestone Drive Gainesville, VA



Join VRE for a Community Meeting as we present drafted Gainesville-Haymarket Extension (GHX) project alternatives for public review. The draft alternatives include a range of options for the extension route, stations, service plan, and storage and maintenance facilities. The GHX project will support key regional goals such as adding travel capacity to the I-66 corridor, accommodating freight rail operations, providing reliable mobility options, enhancing Manassas Line service for riders and supporting local plans and economic development. Community input is critical to the planning process. We look forward to seeing you there.

You can also provide feedback online by visiting [www.vre.org/ghx](http://www.vre.org/ghx) or contacting the project team at [ghx@vre.org](mailto:ghx@vre.org).

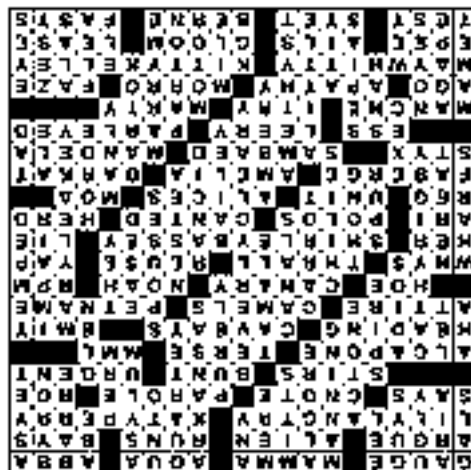
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VRE carries 20,000 passengers every workday and 70 percent of passengers have an annual household income of more than \$100,000.

Reach our passengers with advertising opportunities on our platforms, in our trains and through our award-winning RIDE Magazine.

For more information go to [www.vre.org/advertising](http://www.vre.org/advertising) or contact [advertising@vre.org](mailto:advertising@vre.org) or (703) 838-5425.

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



1	2	6	7	5	3	9	4	8
5	4	3	8	9	2	1	6	7
9	8	7	4	1	6	3	5	2
6	7	9	3	8	1	4	2	5
8	3	2	5	4	7	6	9	1
4	5	1	6	2	9	8	7	3
3	6	8	9	7	5	2	1	4
2	9	5	1	3	4	7	8	6
7	1	4	2	6	8	5	3	9



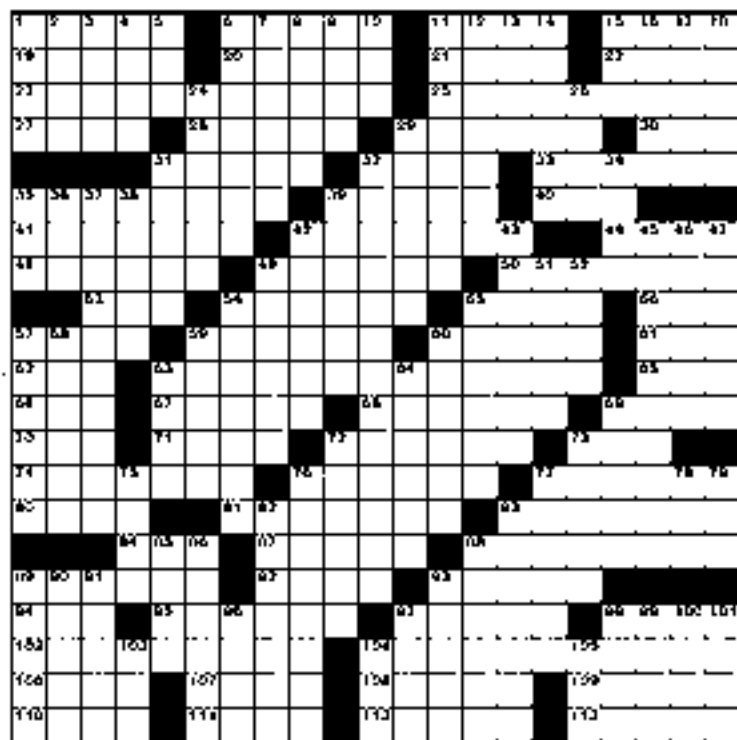
# RAIL TIME PUZZLES

## ACROSS

- 1 Measure off  
6 "Mud" 185 Across  
lunn)  
11 Postal shade  
15 Swedish singing group  
19 Present one's case  
20 Scribble  
21 Winnie the Pooh  
22 Shattered waters  
23 Victorian Era actress  
25 Pop singer superstar  
27 Remarks  
28 Tenth of a thou  
29 Conditional sentence  
30 Equance of some ship  
31 Moved to  
32 Diamond tactic  
33 Pressing  
35 Elton John's name  
39 Not overly vocal  
40 Ten Times CCV  
41 Nautical course  
43 Caubons  
44 Throw off  
45 Apparel  
49 Ten Commandments  
50 Term of endearment  
53 Groundbreaker  
54 Shade of yellow  
55 Stewart's Daily Show  
59 Letters on facts  
57 Motivators  
59 Pardon in savin'ns  
60 One of the  
environmental  
Three R's  
61 Talk nondrop  
62 Every other hurricane  
63 "Goldfinger" singer  
65 Whopper of a tale  
66 Hill street laws  
67 Casual whale
- 68 At an angle  
69 Branch of buffaloes  
70 Rhythmic, for short  
71 No-charge rental  
72 Adventures in  
Wonderland  
73 Bygone pid  
74 Big name in eggs  
75 Mary Seabird's book  
77 Speak to sharply  
80 Mythical river  
81 Danced at Carnival,  
quite possibly  
83 1993 Pease Minister  
84 Half in, half out  
87 Far from convinced  
88 Had a conference  
89 Cherbourg's egg on  
92 Modest comment  
93 Back to the Future  
luna
- 94 Before now  
95 Unconcern  
97 Havana's Castle  
98 Descendant  
100 The Lady Vanishes  
101
- 104 Celebrity biographer  
105 Sporting sword  
107 Let's up to par  
108 Mordant  
109 Tenancy document  
110 Audition, for instance  
111 Prolonged mark  
113 City north of Linn  
112 Knives' food

## DOWN

- 1 Square dance partners  
2 Dora's performance  
3 Hostile as a crowd  
4 Square dance partners  
5 Essence of some suit  
6 Quarterback brothers  
7 Dan Quayle  
8 Successor  
9 Unimportant  
10 Vague amount  
11 Huckabee's  
home state  
12 15 Across, +9  
13 Biblical preparation  
14 Sanctuary  
15 Press on a penny  
16 Ballet ball  
17 "Love will find a way"  
poet  
18 Up in now  
19 Overline followup  
20 Double-headed  
21 100%  
22 Topped up  
23 Linn's 100th  
anniversary  
24 plaid  
(woolen fabric)  
25 Liphman, as a  
moment  
26 Hamlet  
27 Gymnast at the  
1968 Olympics  
28 Francisco's farewell  
29 Tex Mex fare  
30 Gumball's route  
31 Brides and grooms  
32 British  
anthropologist  
33 Hempel  
34 Was a sub of the nitty  
45 Embellish  
46 metaphor  
47 Mangled  
48 People in general  
49 Tex Mex fare  
50 Snappy competitor  
51 Mordant place  
52 Because of this, in  
English



- 59 Handful part  
60 Bad as butter  
62 Egg on  
64 "Greatest Show"  
sumo  
69 Mashed  
70 Lager description  
72 Two listed  
75 Member of the band  
76 February birthstone  
77 Hungarian composer  
78 Plummy product  
79 Woo bit  
82 See 83 Down  
83 With 82 Down,  
Scandinavian  
85 Persian style  
86 Old photo unit  
88 Do-ywood host  
89 American Buffalo  
playwright  
90 Vagabond  
91 "The Highwayman"  
poet  
92 Hoteller part  
96 Take a crack  
97 Performer  
measure  
98 Leaping hug  
99 Ancestor of "Doh"  
100 Hearty enjoyment  
101 Peering paw  
102 Quizzical  
104 Part of a 1980s  
employer  
105 Trillion rhymer

## SUDOKU

7		4	2	6		5		
							8	
	6		9		5	2		
	5				9			
8		2				6		1
			3				2	
		7	4		6		5	
	4							
		6		5	3	9		8



"I reckon Spring is just around the corner.  
The rain is definitely feeling warmer!"

**A****B**

WHICH BAG LOOKS **SUSPICIOUS?**

**C**

**DIFFICULT  
CHOICE,  
RIGHT?**

(THE ANSWER IS ALL OF THE ABOVE)

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