



VRE OPERATIONS BOARD MEETING

May 19, 2023

*The meeting will
begin at 9 a.m.*

Meeting materials are available at
vre.org/about/board/board-agenda-minutes/2023/May

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE



ROLL CALL



Walter Alcorn
Fairfax County



Sarah Bagley
Alexandria



Andrea Bailey
Prince William County



Meg Bohmke
Stafford County



Katie Cristol
Arlington



Margaret Franklin
Prince William County



Monica Gary
Stafford County



Lori Hayes
Spotsylvania County



Matt Kelly
Fredericksburg



Jeanine Lawson
Prince William County



Mike McLaughlin
Commonwealth of Virginia



Alanna Mensing
Manassas Park



Ralph Smith
Manassas



Dan Storck
Fairfax County



James Walkinshaw
Fairfax County



SAFETY MOMENT



APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Safety Briefing
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes from the April 21, 2023 VRE Operations Board Meeting
6. Chair's Comments
7. Chief Executive Officer's Report
8. VRE Riders' and Public Comment
9. Action Items
 - A. Recommend Authorization to Execute an Amendment for the Third Year of the First Option Period of the Contract for Maintenance Services for Commuter Rail
 - B. Recommend Authorization to Execute an Amendment for the Fourth Year of the Second Option Period of the Contract for Operating Services for Commuter Rail
 - C. Authorization to Execute a Contract Amendment for Construction Management Services for the Quantico Station Improvements
 - D. Recommend Authorization to Extend the Term of the Operating Access Agreement with Norfolk Southern
 - E. Authorization to Offer Fare-Free Travel on Fridays to All Riders for June 2023 to September 2023
10. Information Items
 - A. Spending Authority Report
 - B. System Plan 2050
11. Closed Session
12. Operations Board Members' Time

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 21, 2023

Meeting with YouTube Livestream

Members Present

- Walter Alcorn (NVTC)
- Sarah Bagley (NVTC)
- Andrea Bailey (PRTC)
- Meg Bohmke (PRTC)
- Katie Cristol (NVTC)
- Margaret Franklin (PRTC)
- Lori Hayes (PRTC)
- Matt Kelly (PRTC)
- Jeanine Lawson (PRTC)
- Michael McLaughlin (VPRA) *
- Alanna Mensing (PRTC)
- Ralph Smith (PRTC)
- Dan Storck (NVTC)
- James Walkinshaw (NVTC)

Members Absent

- Monica Gary (PRTC)

*Participated virtually

Jurisdiction

- Fairfax County
- City of Alexandria
- Prince William County
- Stafford County
- Arlington County
- Prince William County
- Spotsylvania County
- City of Fredericksburg
- Prince William County
- Commonwealth of Virginia
- City of Manassas Park
- City of Manassas
- Fairfax County
- Fairfax County

Jurisdiction

- Stafford County



James Walkinshaw
VRE Operations Board Chair
Fairfax County



CHAIR'S COMMENTS

- Welcome to the VRE Operations Board May meeting.
- There will be a closed session following the two information items.
- Be advised the CEO/CLO Evaluation Committee will meet at the conclusion of this meeting.
- I would like to recognize former Operations Board Chair and current Member Katie Cristol for her contributions to VRE, as she prepares to leave elected office in July.



James Walkinshaw
VRE Operations Board Chair
Fairfax County



CEO REPORT

- **Safety**
- **Performance**
- **Ridership**
- **Events**
- **Seasonal Schedule**
- **New Staff**



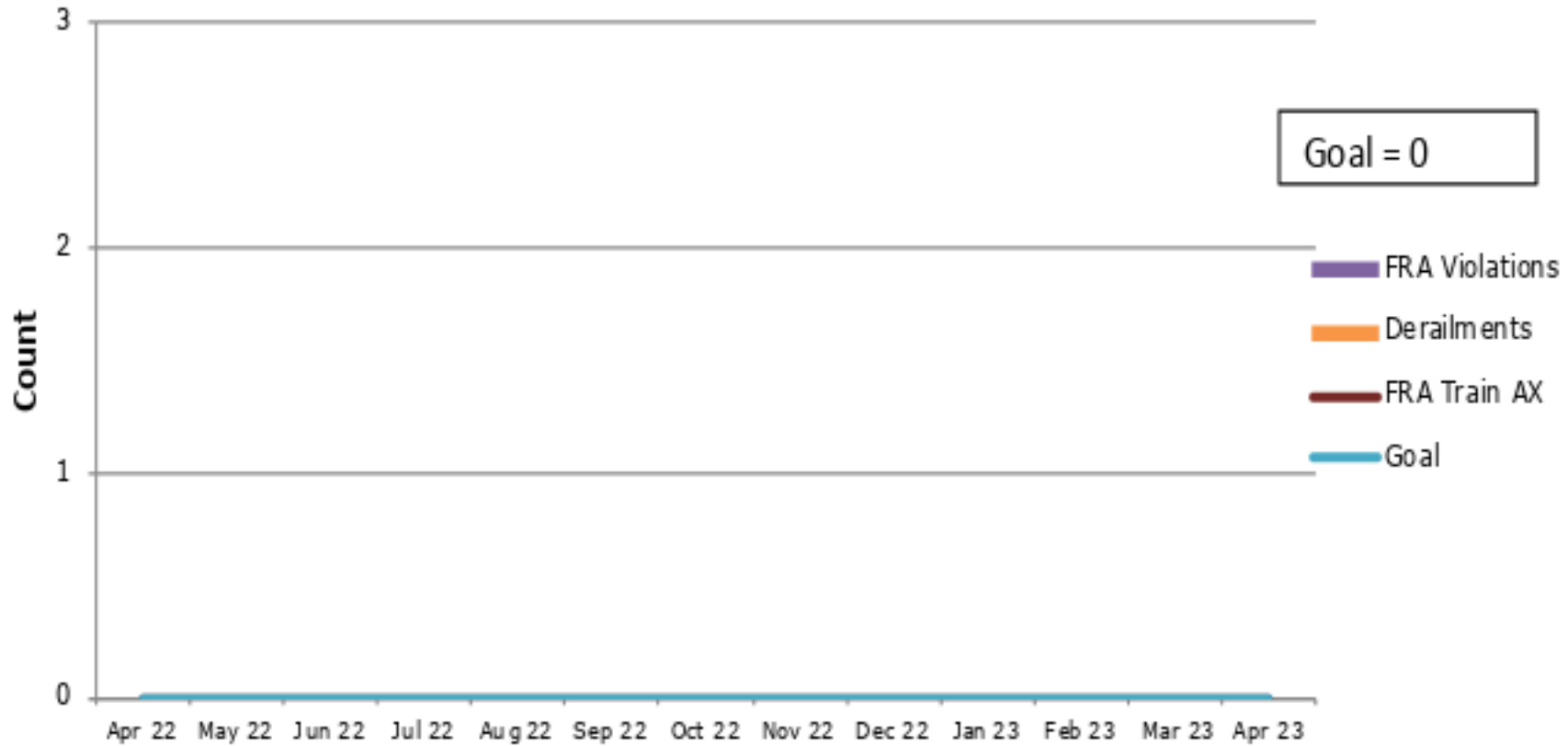
Rich Dalton
VRE CEO



CEO REPORT – SAFETY

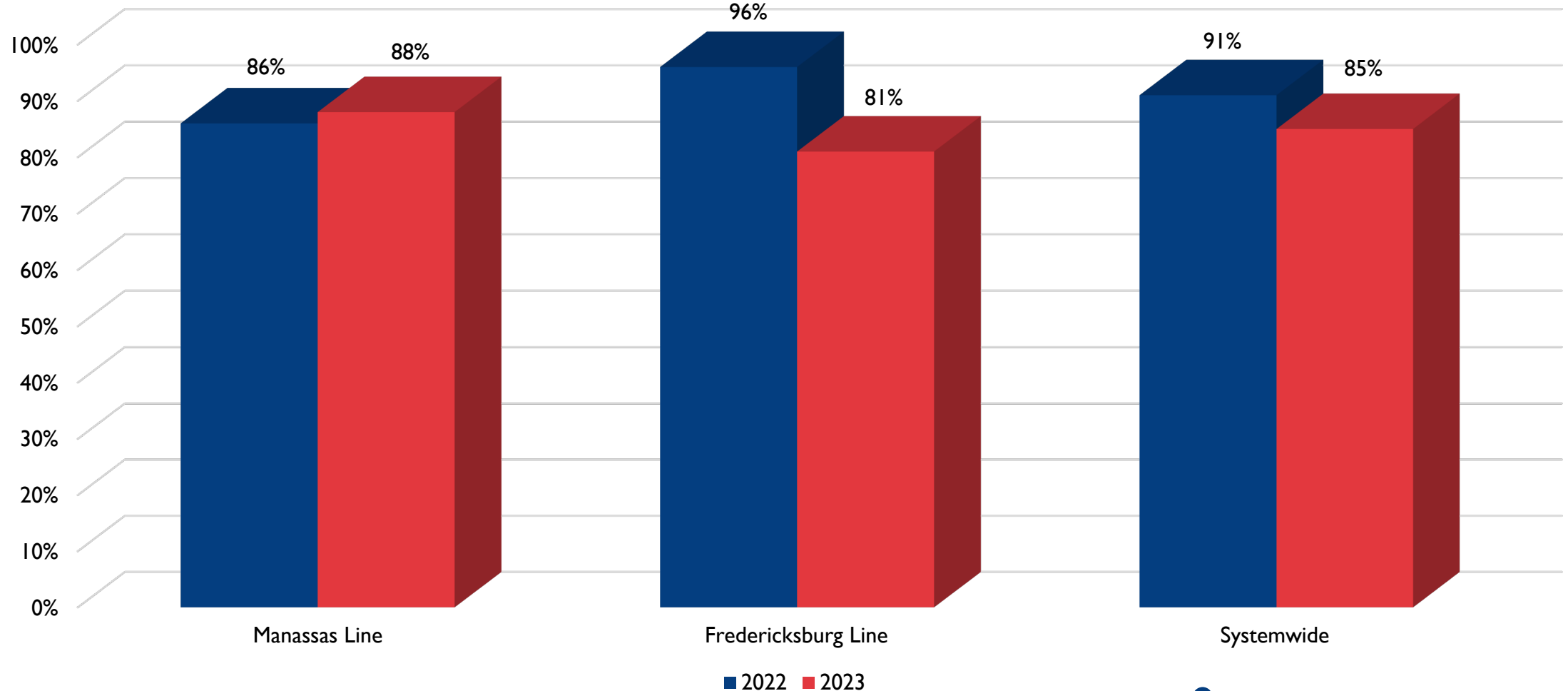
FRA Violations, Derailments (KRSV Controllable),
FRA Train Accidents (KRSV Controllable)

FRA Violations, Controllable Derailments, and FRA Controllable Accidents

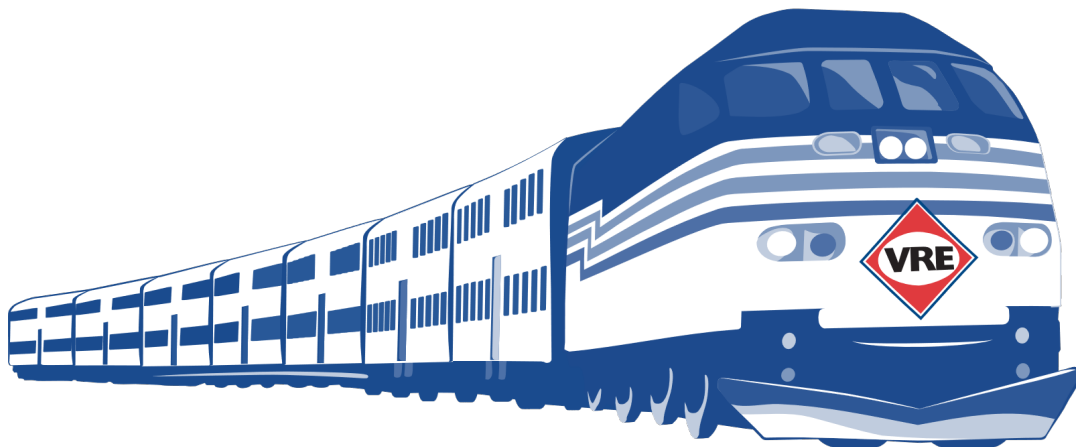


CEO REPORT – ON-TIME PERFORMANCE

April Comparisons



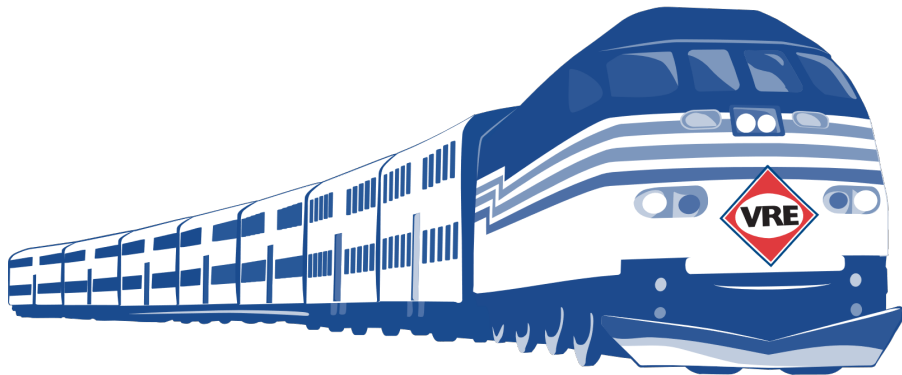
CEO REPORT – ON-TIME PERFORMANCE



| | FEB. 2023 | MAR. 2023 | APR. 2023 |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 19 Days | 23 Days | 20 Days |
| <i>LATE TRAINS</i> | | | |
| Manassas | 37 | 54 | 37 |
| Fredericksburg | 54 | 102 | 60 |
| Systemwide | 91 | 156 | 97 |
| <i>AVERAGE MINUTES DELAYED</i> | | | |
| | 19 | 19 | 14 |
| <i># TRAINS 30+ MINUTES LATE</i> | | | |
| | 14 | 22 | 5 |
| <i>OTP</i> | | | |
| Manassas | 88% | 85% | 88% |
| Fredericksburg | 82% | 72% | 81% |
| Systemwide | 85% | 79% | 85% |



CEO REPORT – ON-TIME PERFORMANCE



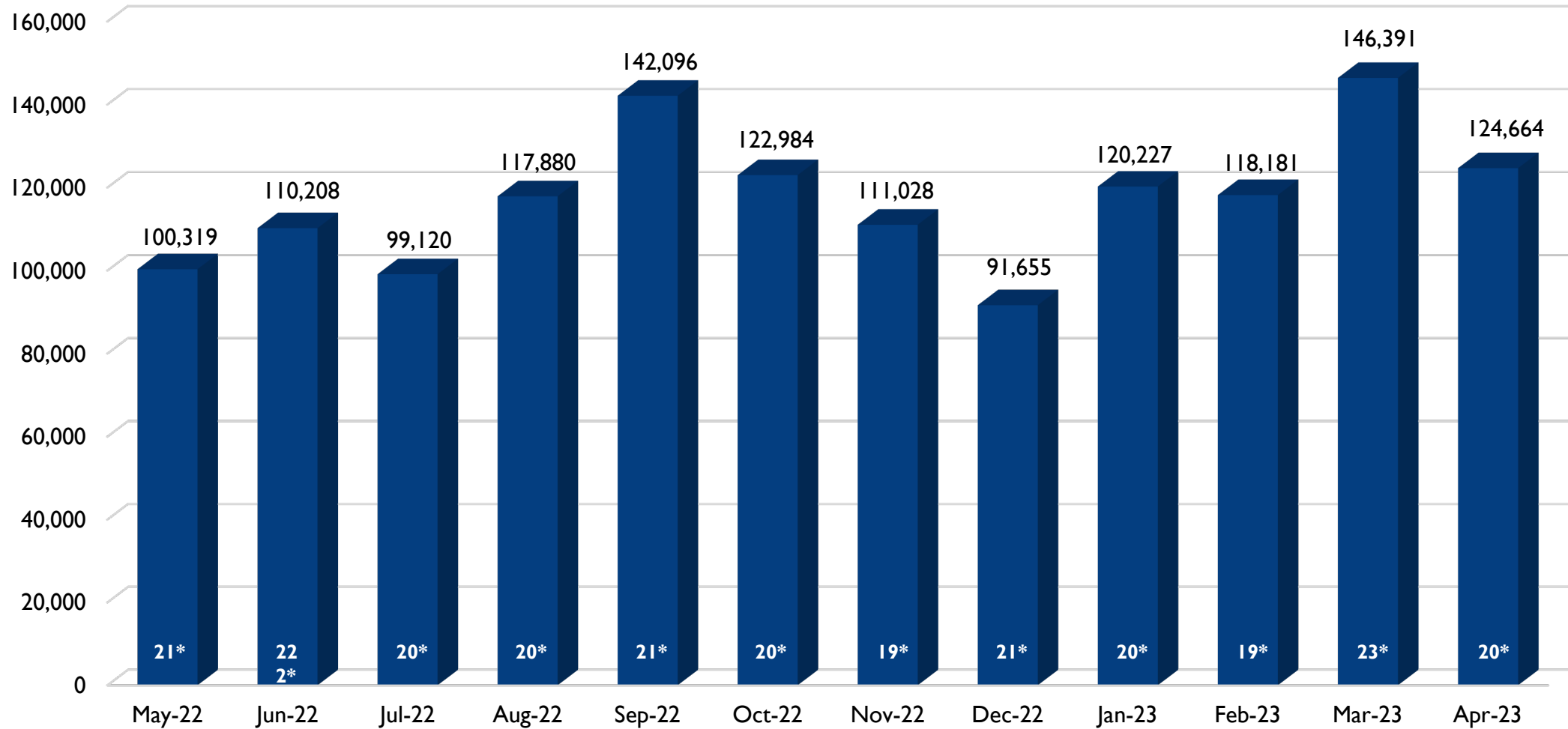
| | | FEB. | MAR. | APR. | TOTAL # | TOTAL % |
|------------------------|-----------|---------------------|------------|-----------|------------|---------------|
| | | 19 Days | 23 Days | 20 Days | 62 Days | |
| CAUSE | | # OF TRAINS DELAYED | | | | |
| Congestion | | 48 | 80 | 52 | 180 | 52.3% |
| Maintenance of Way | | 7 | 39 | 2 | 48 | 14.0% |
| Speed Restrictions | | 9 | 7 | 22 | 38 | 11.0% |
| Switch/Signal Issue | | 19 | 1 | 11 | 31 | 9.0% |
| Positive Train Control | Primary | 1 | 9 | 1 | 11 | 4.4% |
| | Cascading | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | |
| Police Activity | | - | 6* | 6** | 12 | 3.5% |
| Bridge Strike | | - | 8 | - | 8 | 2.3% |
| Dispatcher | | 2 | 3 | - | 5 | 1.4% |
| Mechanical | Primary | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1.2% |
| | Cascading | - | - | - | - | |
| Amtrak | | - | 1 | - | 1 | 0.3% |
| Tree Strike | | 1 | - | - | 1 | 0.3% |
| Trespasser | | | | 1 | 1 | 0.3% |
| Total Delays | | 91 | 156 | 97 | 344 | 100.0% |

*Unruly passenger (3/9)

**Trespasser incident on Accotink Bridge (4/10) and investigation at Manassas Station (4/26) – No VRE train directly involved in April police activity

CEO REPORT – MONTHLY RIDERSHIP

Exclusive of Boardings at Alexandria and Crystal City

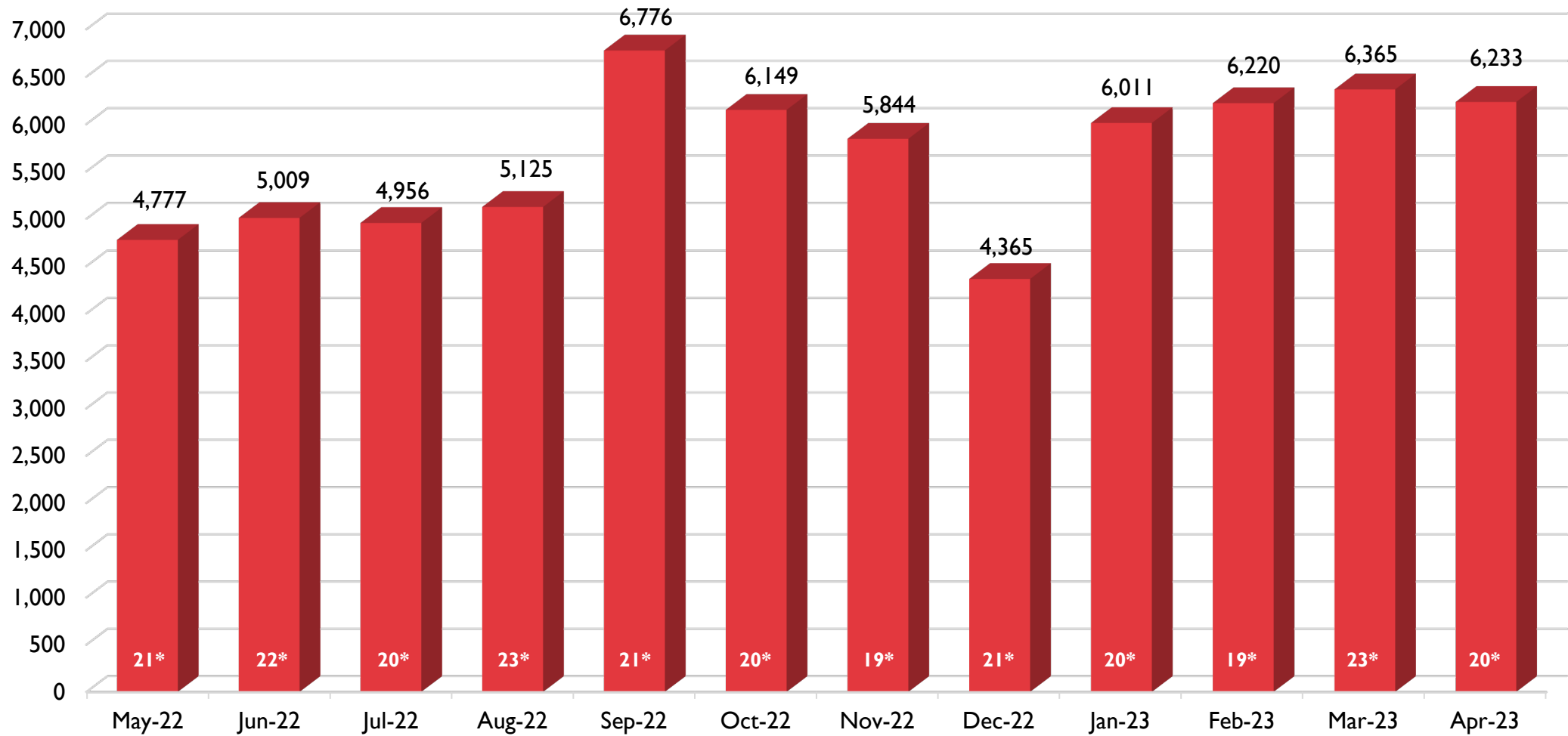


*service days per month



CEO REPORT – AVERAGE DAILY RIDERSHIP

Exclusive of Boardings at Alexandria and Crystal City

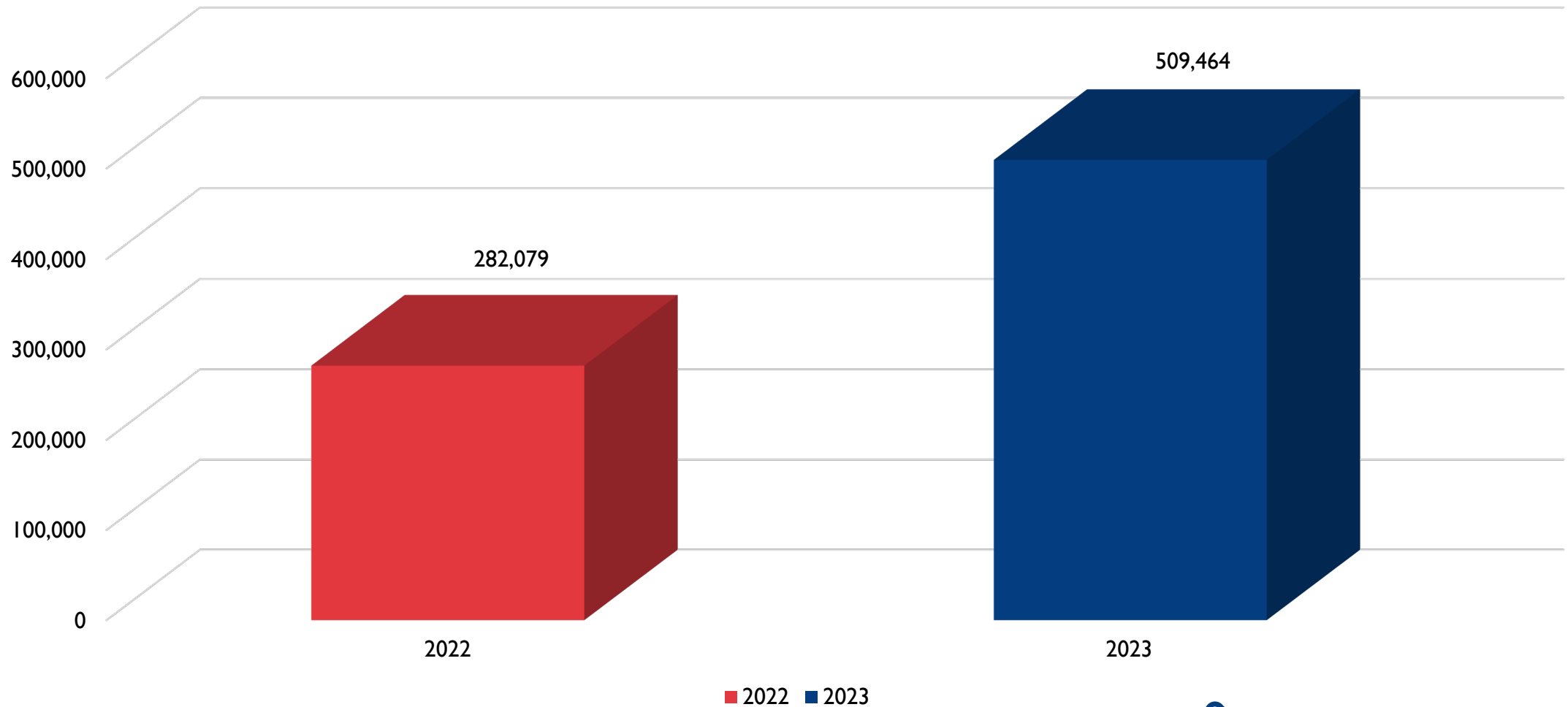


*service days per month

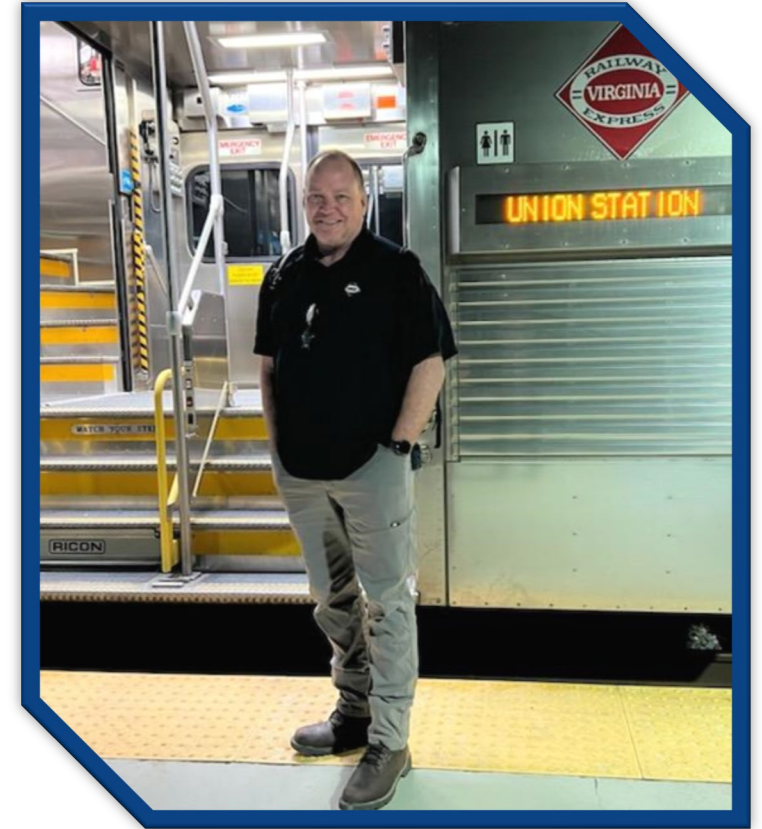


CEO REPORT – RIDERSHIP

January - April Comparisons



CEO REPORT – CUSTOMER SURVEY



CEO REPORT – BIKE TO WORK DAY



Pitstop Stations & Partners

Burke Centre

Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling

Manassas

Prince William County

Manassas Park

Council Member Alanna Mensing

Woodbridge

Supervisor Margaret Franklin

CEO REPORT – MEET THE MANAGEMENT

Locations & Dates

L'Enfant

June 7



Crystal City

June 14



Alexandria

June 21



Franconia-Springfield

July 12

Union Station

July 19

CEO REPORT – MANASSAS RAILWAY FESTIVAL

VRE excursion trains:

- run from Manassas to Clifton and back
- board hourly from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- cost \$7.50 per person

Tickets available:

- online (www.insidenovatix.com)
- in person (at the Manassas station)



The poster features a VRE train at the top with the text 'MANASSAS VIRGINIA' and 'VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS'. Below the train is a circular logo for 'MANASSAS RAILWAY FESTIVAL 2023'. The main text reads '29TH ANNUAL MANASSAS RAILWAY FESTIVAL' and 'June 3, 2023'. A list of activities includes 'TRAIN RIDES', 'FOOD TRUCKS', 'LOCAL VENDORS', and 'LIVE MUSIC'. The address '9201 CENTER STREET MANASSAS, VA 20110' is shown above a photograph of the station platform. At the bottom, there are icons for 'SCHEDULES' (clock), 'TBA' (train ticket), 'ADA View' (wheelchair), and 'DOWNLOAD VRE MOBILE' (QR code). The slogan 'You've got a train to catch.' is at the bottom with the contact number 'Contact VRE 703-684-1001'.



CEO REPORT – GREAT TRAIN RACE



CEO REPORT – SEASONAL SCHEDULE

Announcing VRE's 2023 Seasonal Schedule Effective

Memorial Day through **Labor Day**



vre.org/schedules



CEO REPORT – NEW STAFF MEMBER

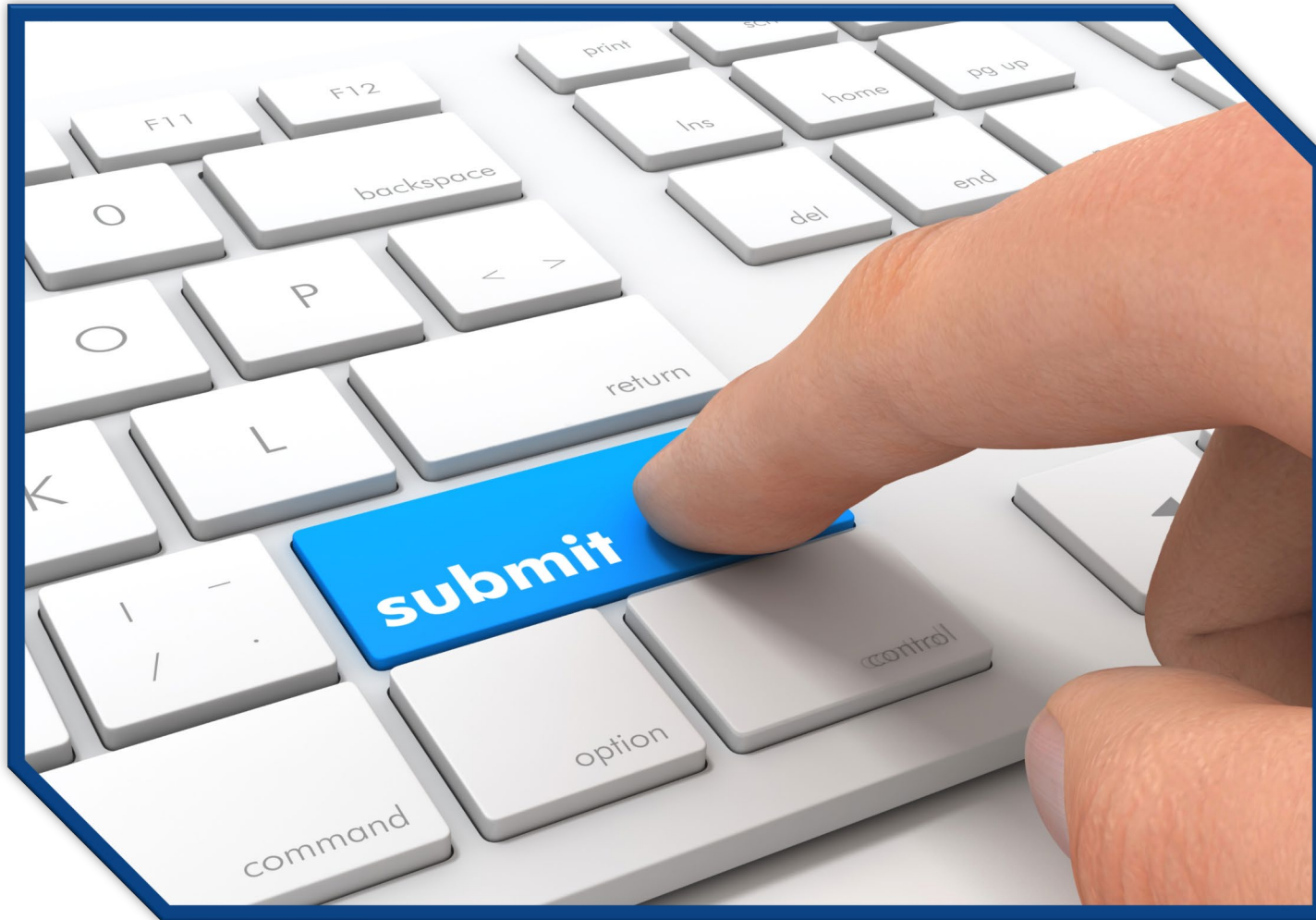


Brandon Stine
Facilities Maintenance Assistant

CEO REPORT – COMMENTS



VRE RIDERS' & PUBLIC COMMENT



James Walkinshaw
VRE Operations Board Chair
Fairfax County



RECOMMEND AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT FOR THE 3RD YEAR OF THE 1ST OPTION PERIOD OF THE CONTRACT FOR MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR COMMUTER RAIL

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to recommend the commissions authorize the CEO to execute an amendment to the contract for maintenance services for commuter rail with Keolis Rail Services Virginia, LLC by approving up to \$11,825,500 for the third year of the first option period, for a total contract value not to exceed \$70,751,779 through June 30, 2024.

Summary:

This action will authorize the continuation of contracted services for the maintenance, inspection, and repair of VRE locomotives, passenger railcars and maintenance facilities for FY 2024. The work performed under this contract includes daily and periodic servicing, inspection and repair of locomotives and passenger railcars. Lifecycle maintenance and extensive rolling stock repair work are included in this contract through a task order process. In addition to locomotive and passenger railcar work, the scope of work includes inspection, maintenance and repair of facilities equipment including yard tracks and buildings. There are no material changes to the scope of work for the upcoming fiscal year. Funding is provided in the FY 2024 operating budget.



James Walkinshaw
VRE Operations Board Chair
Fairfax County



Rich Dalton
VRE CEO



RECOMMEND AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT FOR THE 4TH YEAR OF THE 2ND OPTION PERIOD OF THE CONTRACT FOR OPERATING SERVICES FOR COMMUTER RAIL

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the CEO to recommend the commissions authorize the CEO to execute an amendment to the contract for operating services for commuter rail with Keolis Rail Services Virginia, LLC by approving up to \$19,129,000 for the fourth year of the second option period, for a total contract value not to exceed \$249,717,057 through June 30, 2024.

Summary:

This action will authorize the fourth year of the final option period and continue the contracted services for management, supervision and certified locomotive engineers and conductors to operate VRE commuter-rail trains for FY 2024. The work performed under this contract includes providing certified locomotive engineers and conductors to operate VRE commuter rail trains. The contract also includes Federal Railroad Administration reporting and claims management. Funding for the fourth year of the second option period (14th year) is included in the FY 2024 operating budget. The total amount budgeted for train operations is \$19,129,000.



James Walkinshaw
VRE Operations Board Chair
Fairfax County



Rich Dalton
VRE CEO



AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE QUANTICO STATION IMPROVEMENTS

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the CEO to execute an amendment to the contract with Dewberry Engineers, Inc. of Fairfax, Virginia, for construction management services for Quantico Station improvements in the amount of \$937,436, plus a 10% contingency of \$93,744, for a total not to exceed \$1,031,180. This will increase the total authorization for this contract from \$2,055,654 to a total amount not to exceed \$3,086,834.

Summary:

Construction of the Quantico Station improvements requires a dedicated construction manager to provide oversight for the safe implementation of the project in conformity with plans and specifications and with the requirements of CSX Transportation, Amtrak, the Federal Railroad Administration, Marine Corps Base Quantico, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, and VRE itself.

Additional support is required of Dewberry's construction management team to oversee construction efforts through completion of the project. Completion of construction and subsequent closeout of the project is expected in the second quarter of calendar year 2024.

Funding for the Quantico Station Improvements Project, including construction management services, is provided by the Commonwealth of Virginia.



James Walkinshaw
VRE Operations Board Chair
Fairfax County



Rich Dalton
VRE CEO



RECOMMEND AUTHORIZATION TO EXTEND THE TERM OF THE OPERATING ACCESS AGREEMENT WITH NORFOLK SOUTHERN

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to recommend the commissions authorize the CEO to execute a letter of agreement to extend the current term of the operating access agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway Company for one year to expire on June 30, 2024.

Summary:

The term of the current operating access agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway Company - which permits VRE operations in the Manassas, VA to Washington, DC corridor - expires June 30, 2023. VRE and Norfolk Southern staff have been in discussions on terms for a new agreement. Both parties agree more time is needed. All other existing terms and conditions will remain the same through the extension period ending June 30, 2024.



James Walkinshaw
VRE Operations Board Chair
Fairfax County



Rich Dalton
VRE CEO



AUTHORIZATION TO OFFER FARE-FREE TRAVEL ON FRIDAYS TO ALL RIDERS FOR JUNE 2023 TO SEPTEMBER 2023

Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the CEO to offer fare-free travel on Fridays for all VRE riders starting June 2, 2023, through September 1, 2023.

Summary:

The summer months, particularly Fridays, are traditionally low ridership days for VRE service. This Fare-Free Fridays initiative will promote VRE service as an option to those who commute on Fridays and riders who are using the VRE service for non-commuter purposes. During this period, VRE staff will work with regional partners to promote the VRE service in general, but also connect them with areas of interest in the region. In particular, VRE will reach out to various organizations that may find it convenient to travel on VRE with a larger group on a summer Friday.

The expected cost, in terms of foregone fare revenue, of Fare-Free Fridays for summer 2023 is in the range of \$250,000 to \$300,000. VRE's existing federal pandemic relief funds (American Rescue Plan Act) will provide a backstop to replace this revenue.



James Walkinshaw
VRE Operations Board Chair
Fairfax County



Rich Dalton
VRE CEO



SPENDING AUTHORITY REPORT

On September 18, 2020, the VRE Operations Board approved increasing the CEO's delegated spending authority from \$100,000 to \$200,000. It was resolved as part of that increased delegation that any purchase or contract award in the range of \$50,000 to \$200,000 would be communicated to the Board as an information item.

- On April 18, 2023, VRE issued a purchase order to FedTek, Inc. in the amount of \$52,241 for a three-year subscription for licensing and maintenance of VRE's Barracuda backup servers.
- On April 28, 2023, VRE issued a task order in the amount of \$174,349 to Keolis Rail Services Virginia under the maintenance services for commuter rail operations contract to replace the safety markings on VRE's railcars. The scope of work for this task order requires Keolis to remove and replace the retroreflective film (orange/black striping) located on the B end of each of VRE's 21 cab control cars. Keolis will also remove and replace the retroreflective striping and signage that indicates the location of the rooftop emergency access locations on an additional 12 cars in the fleet.



Rich Dalton
VRE CEO



SYSTEM PLAN 2050 BACKGROUND

Staff will present a summary of the currently adopted System Plan 2040 and changes that have taken place since the adoption of the plan in 2014 as background information for the June 16 VRE Operations Board Workshop.



Nick Ruiz
VRE



Rich Dalton
VRE CEO



SYSTEM PLAN 2040

VRE ridership forecast to **more than double by 2040 to +50,000 trips/day**

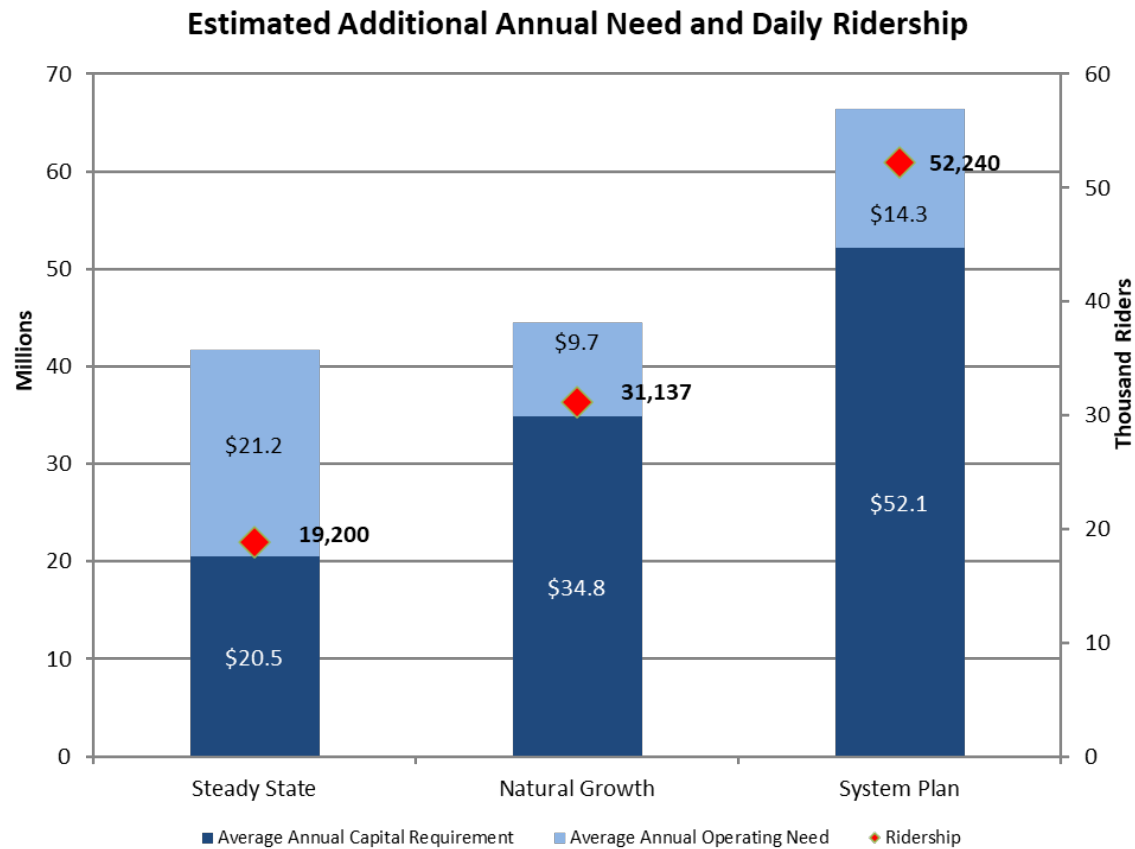
| | Phase I (2014-2020) | Phase 2 (2021-2030) | Phase 3 (2031-2040) |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| PROPOSED SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS | | | |
| | <i>16-18 Daily Round Trips</i> | <i>~32 Daily Round Trips</i> | <i>~52 Daily Round Trips</i> |
| | <i>More Trains Longer Trains</i> | <i>20-minute Peak Service Reverse-Peak Service More Off-Peak Service Gainesville-Haymarket Service</i> | <i>15-minute Peak Service 30-minute Reverse-Peak Service Hourly Off-Peak Service</i> |
| SYSTEM INVESTMENTS | | | |
| Station & Parking Expansion | | | |
| Rolling Stock & Yard Expansion | | | |
| Long Bridge Expansion DC-Alexandria Fourth Track | | | |
| Fredericksburg Line Third Track | | | |
| Gainesville-Haymarket Extension* | | | |



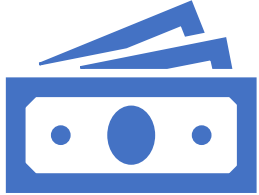
*In 2017 the VRE Operations Board elected to pursue expansion of the VRE Broad Run complex instead of extending service to Haymarket.

SYSTEM PLAN 2040 FINANCIAL PLAN

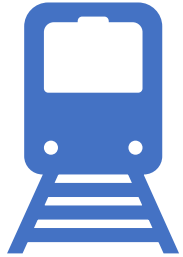
- Completed in 2016
- VRE will follow the *Natural Growth* profile of service expansion (i.e., lengthen trains in response to growth in demand) as a short-term focus
- VRE will pursue additional funding sources to implement the service concepts included in the System Plan 2040
- Capital/facilities expansion will be advanced to maintain state-of-good-repair and increase system capacity



WHAT HAS CHANGED?



Commuter Rail Operating and Capital (CROC) funding enacted by VA General Assembly (2018)



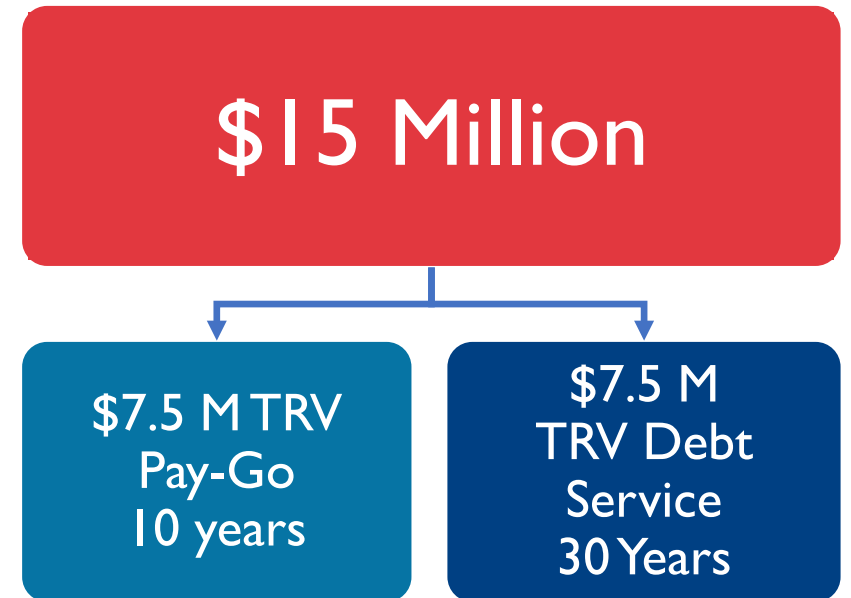
Transforming Rail in Virginia (TRV) Initiative (2019)



COVID-19 Pandemic (2020)

COMMUTER RAIL OPERATING AND CAPITAL (CROC) FUND

- Dedicated \$15 million annually to VRE (no escalation for inflation)
- Can use for capital or operating expenses
- VRE Operations Board committed 100% of CROC funding for TRV capital investments:
 - » \$7.5 million committed to debt service for TRV right-of-way acquisition from CSXT (30 years)
 - » \$7.5 million committed to pay-go payments for TRV infrastructure projects in corridor (10 years)
- After 2033, \$7.5 million available to VRE for capital or operations
- After 2052, full \$15 million available to VRE



TRANSFORMING RAIL IN VIRGINIA (TRV)



- TRV has two defined phases (I and II) and two undefined phases (III and IV)
- Major Phase II improvements by 2030:
 - » New 2-track Long Bridge
 - » 4-track railroad to Alexandria
 - » 3-track railroad Alexandria to Lorton
 - » Passenger/freight bypass in Franconia
- TRV Phase II gives VRE:
 - » 63% more weekday service than today (14 FBG + 12 MSS* = 26 R/Ts)
 - » Weekend service
 - » Freight separation between Washington Union Station and Lorton
 - » Potential for additional Manassas trains* to run on TRV/VPRA infrastructure

*Subject to separate agreement with Norfolk Southern



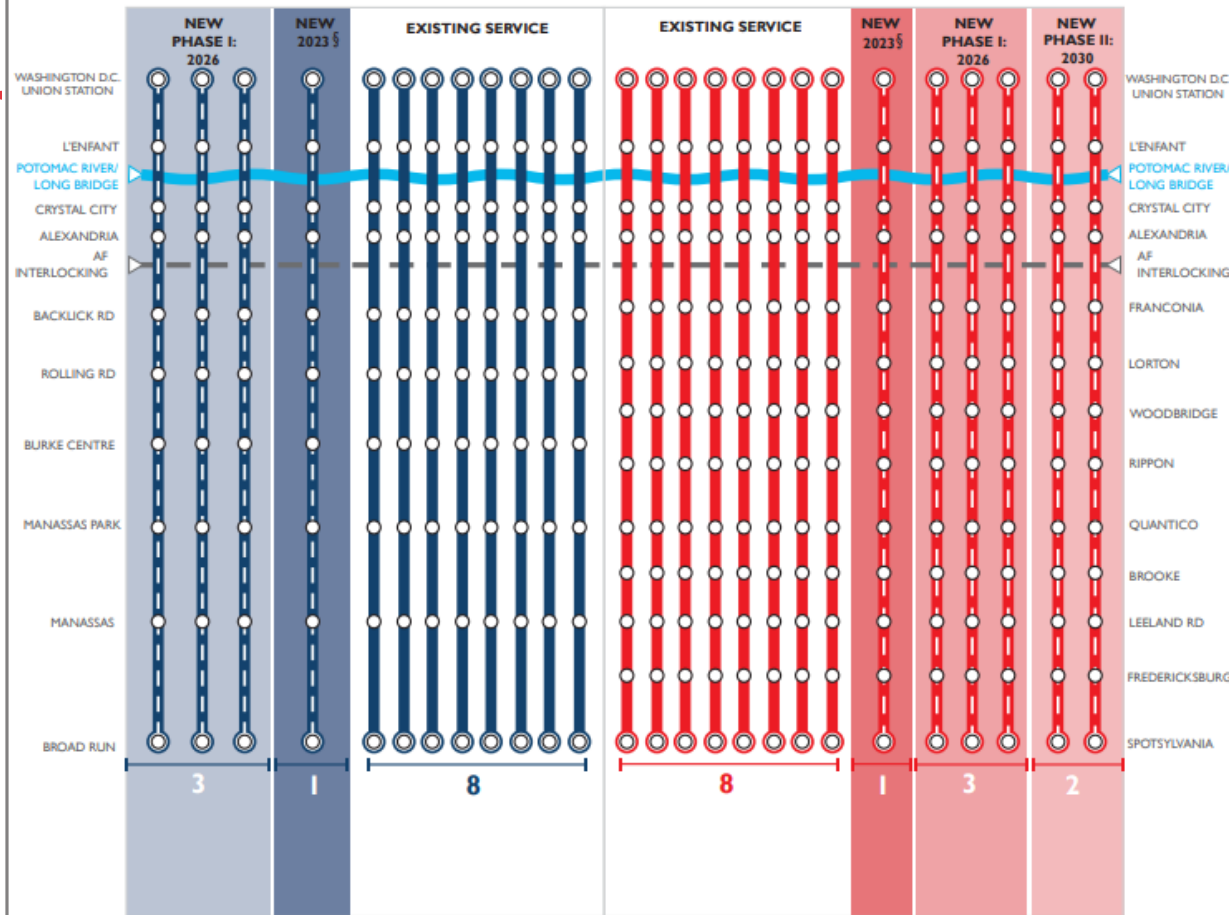
**VIRGINIA - CSX RAIL PROPOSAL
PROPOSED VRE COMMUTER RAIL SERVICE PLAN**

TRV 2030 PHASE II SERVICE PLAN

- +10 weekday round trips systemwide* (+63%)
- +6 weekend round trips systemwide*
- ~20 min peak period headways
- Accommodates *limited* late-night and midday travel markets
- *The TRV service plan implements key elements of the System Plan 2040 Phase II service recommendations*

***VRE MANASSAS LINE**

VRE FREDERICKSBURG LINE



DATE: 02/14/2023

EXISTING AND PROPOSED VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS (VRE) SERVICE IN VIRGINIA

NOTES:

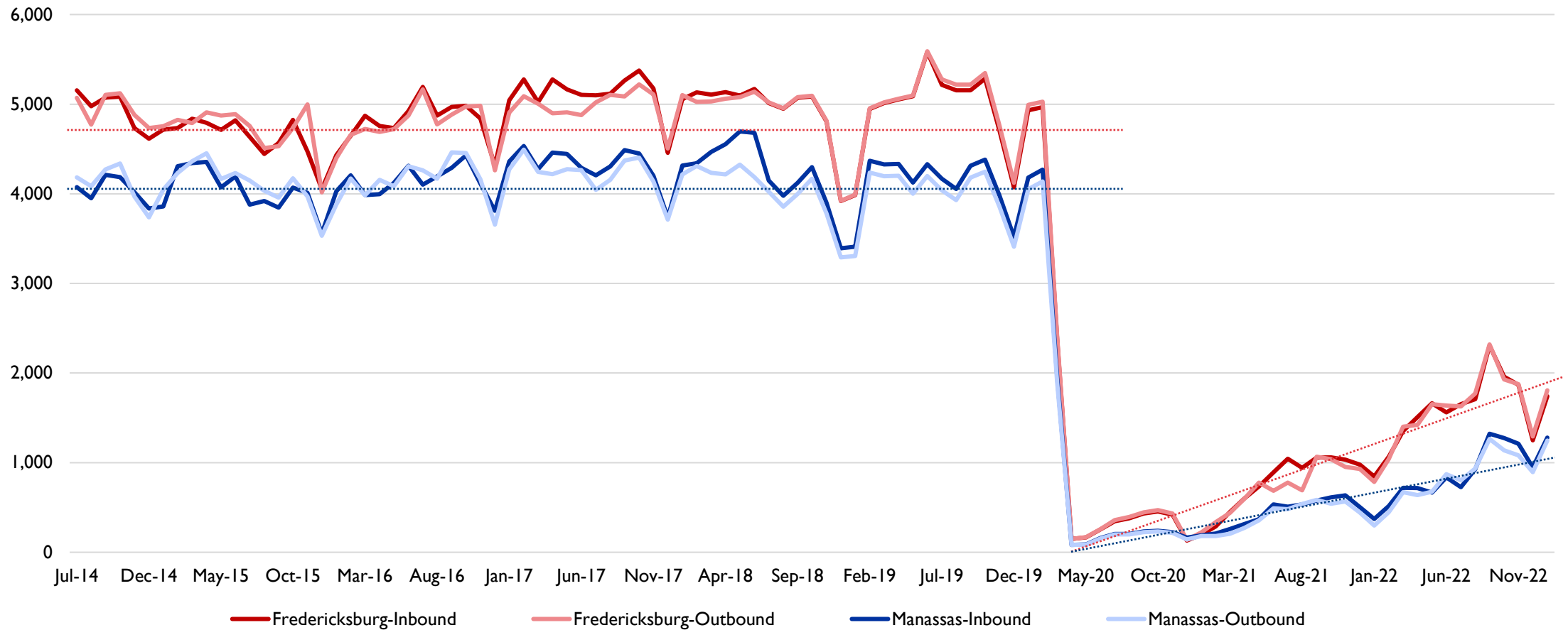
1. * Subject to agreement with Norfolk Southern
2. Each line segment represents a round trip
3. § Service to be operational in year 2023 is contingent on ongoing negotiations with stakeholders
4. Phase I includes new late night weekday service and new weekend service

- STATION
- ~ RIVER
- MANASSAS LINE
- FREDERICKSBURG LINE
- FUTURE MANASSAS LINE
- FUTURE FREDERICKSBURG LINE



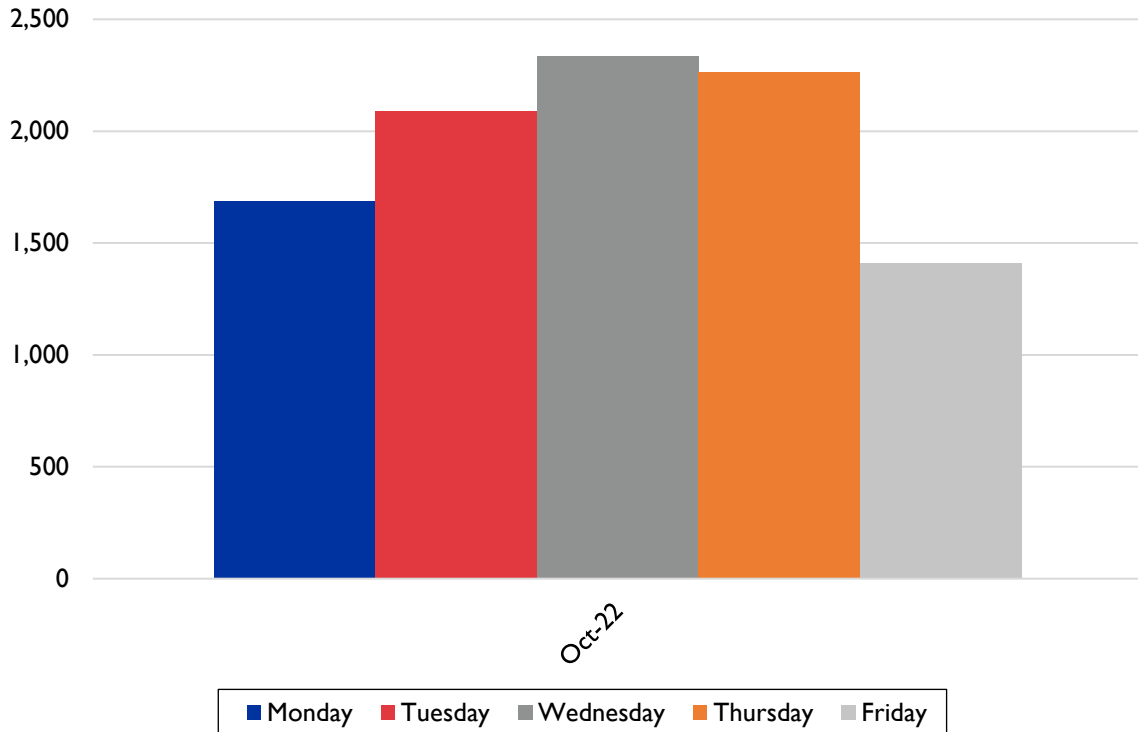
COVID-19 PANDEMIC

VRE Ridership July 2014 to December 2022

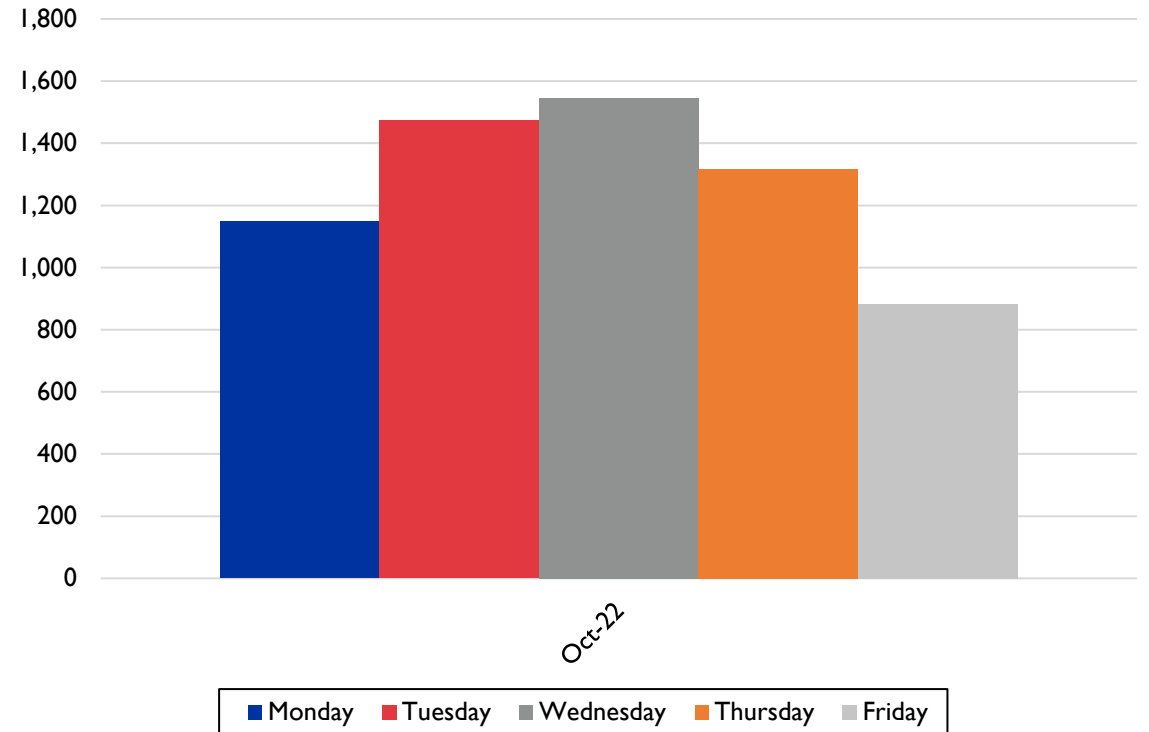


VRE RIDERSHIP TRENDS

Fredericksburg Line Ridership: Day of Week

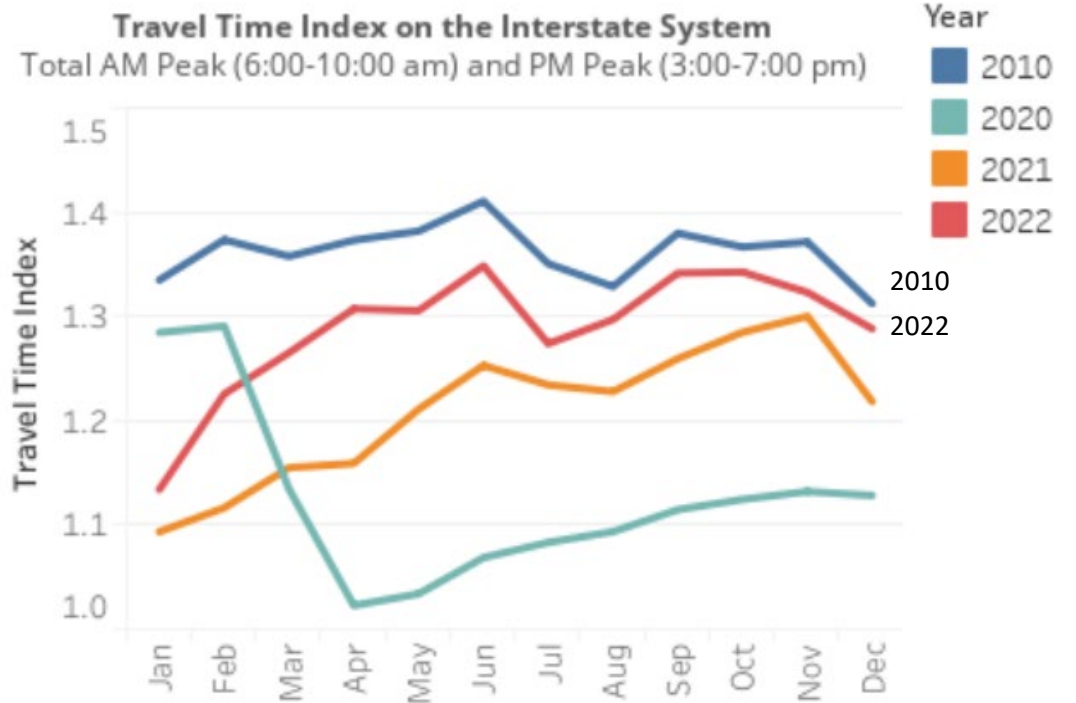
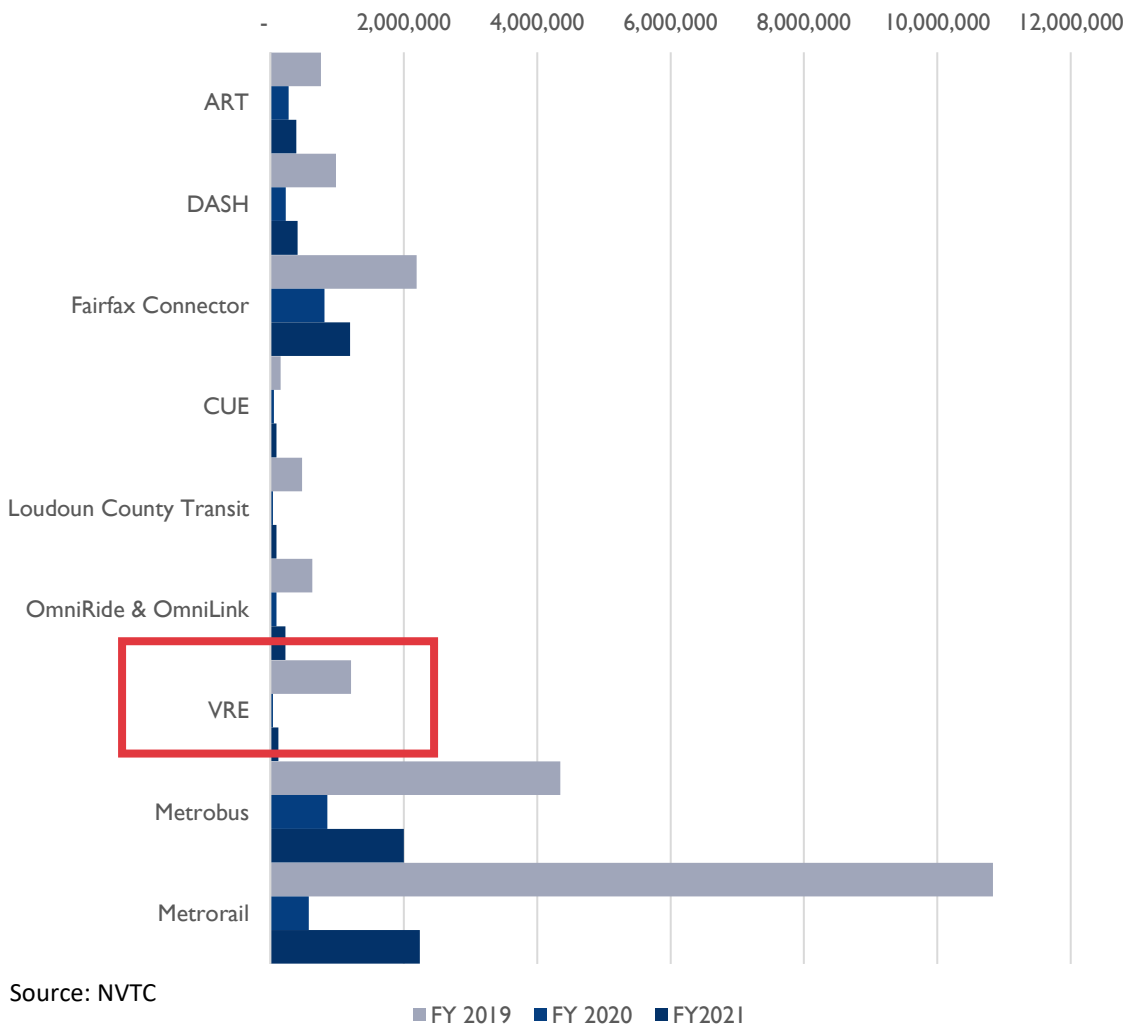


Manassas Line Ridership: Day of Week



NORTHERN VIRGINIA POST-COVID TRANSIT AND HIGHWAY STATUS

Ridership by System 4th Quarter (April-June)



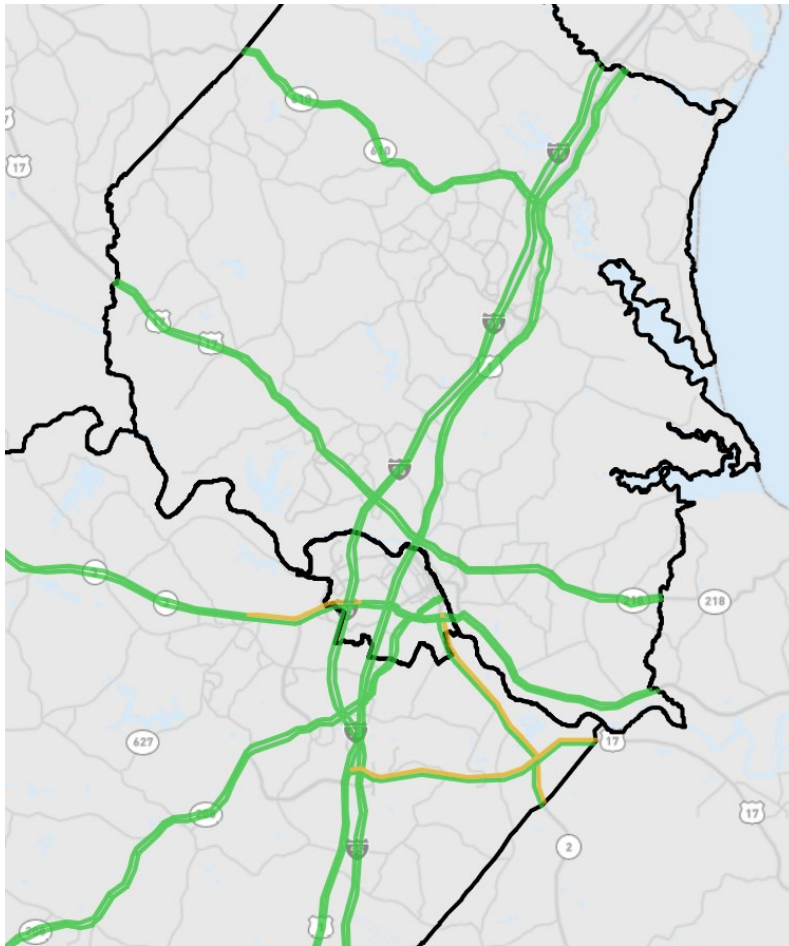
Source: MWCOG Congestion Dashboard

Travel Time Index =
Ratio of free-flow travel time to congested travel time

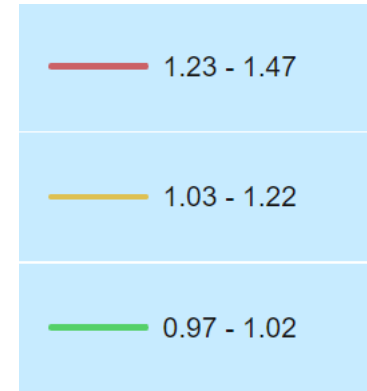
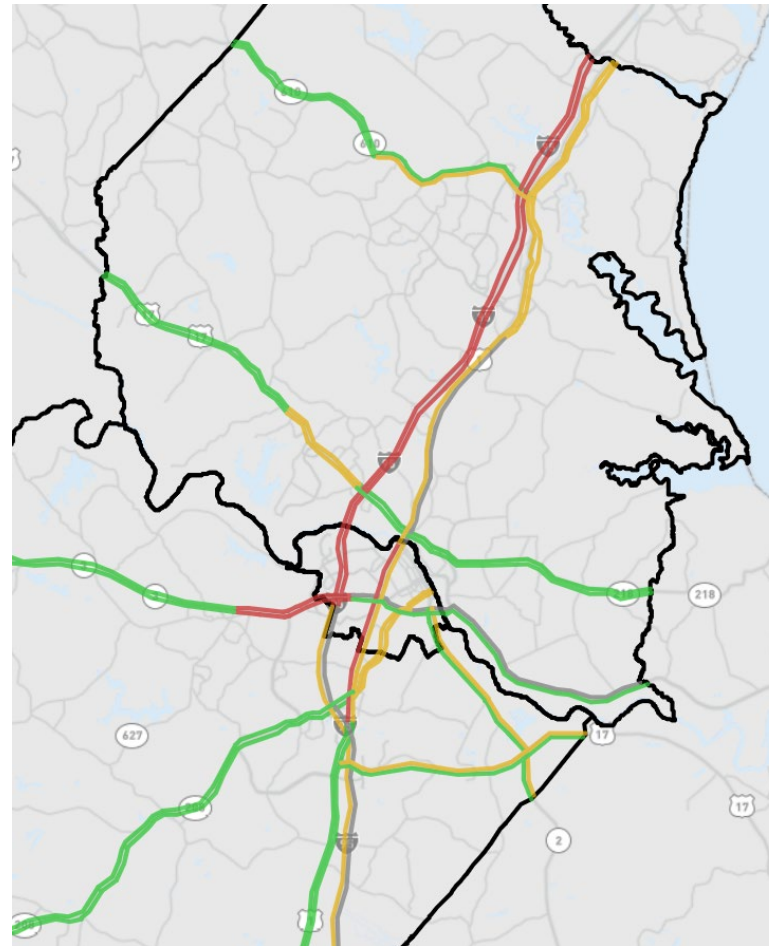


NORTHERN VIRGINIA POST-COVID TRANSIT AND HIGHWAY STATUS

Fredericksburg: Weekday AM TTI



Fredericksburg: Weekend TTI



Travel Time Index =
Ratio of free-flow travel time
to congested travel time

Source: FAMPO 2022 CMP



SYSTEM PLAN 2050 VISION

VRE will grow to serve the region as the transportation service of choice, creating meaningful connections and economic opportunities in a safe, sustainable, and equitable manner.



SYSTEM PLAN 2050 GOALS



1. Safety and Reliability



2. Market Growth and Financial Stability



3. Regional System Integration and Equitable Service



4. Sustainability and Resiliency

SERVICE SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

22 Long List Service Scenarios

Description, scoping and preliminary
evaluation

9 Refined Long List Service Scenarios

Fatal Flaw Analysis (Schedules
Infrastructure, Fleet, etc.)
Operations model under development

4 Short List 2050 Service Scenarios

4 Alternatives within 2030 Horizon

June Board Workshop

WHAT TO EXPECT IN JUNE

- **Review of Current Ridership Trends**
- **Regional Traveler and VRE Rider Trends**
- **Baseline Ridership Projections**
- **2030 “Near Term” Service Alternatives**
- **Cost, Performance Data for Alternatives**
- **Recommended Next Steps**



OPERATIONS BOARD CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Section 2.2-3711.A(19) of the Code of Virginia), I move that the VRE Operations Board convene a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing one matter involving plans to protect public safety as it relates to specific cybersecurity threats or vulnerabilities and actions taken to respond to such matters and related threats to public safety where discussion in an open meeting would jeopardize the safety of any person or the security of any facility, building, structure, information technology system, or software program.



Meg Bohmke
Vice Chair
Stafford County



OPERATIONS BOARD CLOSED SESSION

**The livestream will recommence
following this portion of the meeting**



OPERATIONS BOARD CLOSED SESSION

The VRE Operations Board certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge and with no individual member dissenting, at the just concluded closed session:

- 1. Only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Freedom of Information Act were discussed; and,**
- 2. Only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened were heard, discussed or considered.**



Meg Bohmke

Vice Chair
Stafford County



OPERATIONS BOARD MEMBERS' TIME



Walter Alcorn
Fairfax County



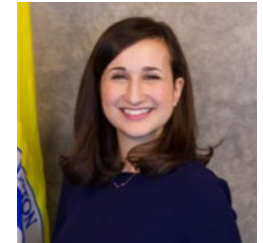
Sarah Bagley
Alexandria



Andrea Bailey
Prince William County



Meg Bohmke
Stafford County



Katie Cristol
Arlington



Margaret Franklin
Prince William County



Monica Gary
Stafford County



Lori Hayes
Spotsylvania County



Matt Kelly
Fredericksburg



Jeanine Lawson
Prince William County



Mike McLaughlin
Commonwealth of Virginia



Alanna Mensing
Manassas Park



Ralph Smith
Manassas



Dan Storck
Fairfax County



James Walkinshaw
Fairfax County



**THE MAY 19, 2023 MEETING OF
THE VRE OPERATIONS BOARD
IS ADJOURNED**



[VRE.ORG](https://vre.org)



MAY 19, 2023
CEO/CLO EVALUATION
COMMITTEE MEETING



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