



For Immediate Release

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Virginia's Own GRTC Transit System is Named the #1 Transit System in North America

Richmond, VA – GRTC Transit System has been recognized as the best transit system of its size in North America by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA).

This annual award honors one public transportation system in North America each year who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in efficiency and effectiveness. Systems are judged on their performances over a three year period and one system is chosen from each of the four categories based on ridership totals. GRTC Transit System was ranked number one in the competitive 4-30 million passenger trips category, which includes over 100 transit systems across the entire continent. This award recognizes transit systems who demonstrate exceptional efficiency and effectiveness in all phases of their operations; transit systems are judged on services and programs, safety, operations, customer service, financial management, attendance and employee costs, advancement of minorities and women, marketing, policy and administration, and community relations.

“This is the highest honor that can be awarded in our industry,” said John M. Lewis, Jr. Chief Executive Officer for GRTC Transit System. “We are so proud to be the recipient of this prestigious award. I want to commend each and every one of our dedicated employees that make GRTC Transit System the incredible system that it is – this award truly belongs to them. From our bus operators to our mechanics to our Corporate Office staff; from bus service to RideFinders to CARE to C-VAN, it is their dedication and hard work that are being recognized today. This award also belongs to all of the citizens of the Greater Richmond Region; it is through their continuous support and patronage of GRTC Transit System that we have been able to accomplish such an achievement.”

The award will be presented to GRTC Transit System at the APTA Annual Meeting in San Diego, California on Tuesday, October 7, 2008. This conference brings together more than 2,000 transit industry professionals from across the world.

With ridership totaling almost fifteen million trips in 2007, GRTC Transit System continues to be committed to maintaining and always improving the quality of their services to meet the needs of the growing communities they serve. Through the implementation of new technology such as on-board automatic bus stop announcements, GPS-driven vehicle tracking, an online Trip Planner service, and new and easy-to-use fare cards, over the past three years GRTC has been able to not only improve the riding experience for its current customers, but to find new ways to continuously motivate new customers to try transit. Just as they are committed to their customers, GRTC Transit System is committed to its employees. GRTC is proud of the fact that nearly 35% of its employees have been with the company for over ten years or more.

For more information about GRTC Transit System, please contact Kathy Shaw Clary, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, at (804) 474-9354 or email kshaw@ridegrtc.com. For more information about APTA or the APTA Annual Meeting, please visit www.apta.com.

GRTC Transit System is the primary mass transit carrier in the Richmond region. GRTC is a non-profit public service corporation that was created by the City of Richmond and incorporated on April 12, 1973. GRTC provides management oversight on behalf of the Capitol Region Advisory Board for taxi service in the Richmond Region. GRTC has an active fleet made up of 176 transit vehicles, 52 CARE vans and 28 CVAN vans. The geographic region GRTC operates in consists of 41 routes and over 9 million passenger rides. RideFinders, the ride share component of the transit system, provides assistance car and vanpool ride-matching services for over 8500 clients and supports 63 long distance van pools.