

TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS

Ridership Increases

- HRT—**32%** ridership increase on commuter express bus routes in the last four months
- Fredericksburg Regional Transit—**31%** from Jan - May
- Williamsburg Transit —**16%** over the prior year
- Charlottesville Transit —**12%**
- Loudoun County Transit —**23 %**
- GRTC Transit —**12%** on suburban Chesterfield County
- District Three Governmental serving Southwest Virginia—**20%**
- Washington Metro reported its 6 highest volume days were on weekdays this year

Transit Adds Road Capacity

Clearly people are changing their driving habits, but will more transit make a difference in congestion?

“Transportation models show that *if everyone commuting alone in Hampton Roads would ride the bus just one day out of every 10 workdays, the region’s congestion problems at peak hours would disappear.*” – HRPDC Executive

Director, Dwight Farmer

The Virginia Transit Association urges our legislators to TAKE ACTION on June 23 to:

1.) **Adequately fund transportation—roads AND transit.** The era of cheap oil is over and it’s affecting everyone’s bottom line; however, the General Assembly has the opportunity during the upcoming Transportation Special Session to offer cost effective alternatives to Virginians by funding more public transportation, ridesharing and vanpooling.

2.) **Provide comparable replacement funding for regional authorities authorized in HB 3202.** NVTA revenue is critical for essential transit projects and would provide ongoing funds for VRE and WMATA.

As the price of fuel soars, a record number of Virginians have turned to ridesharing, vanpooling and public transportation in rural, suburban and urban areas. Nationally, vehicle miles traveled are down 4.3 percent from last year while transit ridership is at a staggering 50-year high.

Using public transportation is the quickest way to beat high gas prices, save fuel and help the environment. Benefits of public transportation include:

- Saves families over \$6,200/year
- Saves fuel, helping to move toward energy independence
- Eases road congestion and adds capacity to existing roadways
- Reduces pollution
- Reduces CO₂ (greenhouse gas) emissions. **1 gallon of gas = 20 lbs of CO₂!**
 - In Virginia, 43% of CO₂ emitted from fossil fuel combustion was from transportation (over 54 metric tons in 2004). Emissions rose 31% from 1990 – 2004.
- Allows a growing elderly/disabled population to travel safely and live independently, helping to control the growth in State Medicaid cost

Expanding and upgrading the public transportation network is key to meet the ridership demand if Virginians are to continue to beat high gas prices, save fuel and help the environment.

Governor Kaine’s transportation proposal recognizes that greater investment in the transit, rail and road network is essential now.