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**DASH Wins Top Honors at Virginia State Bus Roadeo**

(Alexandria, VA) Alexandria Transit’s DASH operator Clarence “Action” Jackson won first place with the highest score in the annual Virginia State Bus Roadeo competition on Sunday, March 21. Approximately 200 competitors, transit system staff, volunteers, and judges converged on Alexandria for the weekend, with twenty-seven top drivers and twenty-one mechanics from eight transit companies across the State competing.

The highest scoring team award went to the Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC), while the DASH operator team came in third place in the statewide competition. The roadeo tests the driving and knowledge skills of bus operators in an obstacle course that mirrors the specific driving maneuvers and encounters frequently experienced in the course of their daily work behind the wheel of their bus. The drivers must demonstrate safety habits and smoothness of operation and are rated on both while driving through each situation on the course. They are also tested on their abilities in a pre-trip inspection and written test.

“Clarence is very passionate about his driving ability. Alexandria Transit is so proud of Clarence and all of our Roadeo participants,” stated Sandy Modell, DASH’s general manager. Jackson has won the State competition two times before, in 2005 and 2007. As a result of winning this year, Jackson will be sent by the Virginia Transit Association (VTA) to the International Roadeo competition in Cleveland, Ohio in May.

The transit systems that competed in this year’s event included: Alexandria DASH; Fairfax Connector; Lynchburg; Richmond; Roanoke; Arlington Transit; Potomac Rappahannock; and Hampton Roads.

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