



MEDIA CONTACT:

Linda McMinimy, Executive Director
Virginia Transit Association
1108 East Main Street, Suite 1108
Richmond, VA 23219
Phone: 804-643-1166
mcmimimy_associates@cavtel.net

News Briefs, September 2003

HRT Inaugurates Norfolk Naval Base "Navigator" -- In a coordinated effort to alleviate traffic congestion on Norfolk Naval Base, HRT has recently expanded its fixed-route bus service to and from the base by adding a new shuttle service on the base itself. The new service, called "The Navigator" was initiated on June 2nd, and is a free service operating every 30 minutes. The new service will allow more people to move around the base without a car, alleviating traffic and simultaneously decreasing security concerns. Rear Admiral David Architzel, the mid-Atlantic commander was quoted as saying that "the free shuttle will provide a valuable service to our sailors and civilian personnel that will allow them to move around the base easily, while furthering our efforts to decrease traffic flow and parking requirements." -- *Passenger Transport, June 16, 2003*

New Route Added to Chesterfield Link Services -- On August 4, GRTC introduced its newest addition to the Chesterfield Link service, connecting Southside Richmond residents to the downtown area. Route 82, also known as the Winterpock Lowe's Express is the first express bus to operate on the US Route 360 corridor. "This is a long term investment," said Chesterfield Board of Supervisor's Chairman Arthur Warren, "clearly the fact that we now have LINK service on the corridor should help relieve some of that traffic." -- *Times-Dispatch Aug. 6, 2003*

WMATA Posts Record Ridership for 2003 -- By the time the fiscal year ended on June 23, Metrorail had provided more than 184 million customer trips over the course of the year, not only marking seven consecutive years of ridership growth, but also making it the single highest ridership since the system began 27 years ago. Metrobus achieved similar success with FY 2003 marking the second highest ridership in its 30-year history, only 1 million less than the all time high, recorded in 1980. -- *Passenger Transport Aug. 4, 2003*

Fannie Mae Smart Commute Initiative Comes to NOVA -- The Smart Commute Initiative has made its Washington Area debut, allowing Northern Virginians the opportunity to benefit from purchasing homes in transit corridors. Among the benefits to using the Smart Commute Initiative are the purchase of eligible home loans by Fannie Mae, down payments of only 3 percent, and 50 percent discount on WMATA fares for six months and reduced fare options for other NoVa regional systems. With this recent expansion of the program, Washington joins nine other major metropolitan areas around the country whose residents have already been enjoying the benefits of the Smart Commute Initiative. -- *Passenger Transport Jul. 28 2003*

#

VTA is a trade association based in Richmond, VA representing transit agencies of all sizes throughout Virginia and businesses that support public transportation. VTA's members provide a wide range of services to the communities in which they operate. www.vatransit.com