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**NEWS RELEASE
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TRANSIT GROUP ANNOUNCES OFFICERS

(Richmond, Va.) -- The Virginia Transit Association, which represents transit properties from throughout the state, has announced its officers for 1998-99. Meredith Richards, Charlottesville vice-mayor, will serve as president of the association.

The other officers include First Vice President Cameron Pitts, Portsmouth city council member and chair of the Tidewater Transportation District Commission; Second Vice President H. William Greenup, Fredericksburg mayor and member of the Fredericksburg Transit Board; and Third Vice President Sandy Modell, Alexandria Transit general manager.

Also elected were Secretary Michael Carroll, general manager of Greater Lynchburg Transit Co.; Treasurer Rollo Axton, general manager of the Greater Richmond Transit Co.; Executive Committee members Michael S. Connelly, Blacksburg Transit director; Michael Townes, Tidewater Transportation District Commission and Peninsula Transportation District Commission executive director; and Carol A. Kachadoorian, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority government relations officer. Immediate Past President Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple is a board member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. The Virginia Transit Association (VTA) has 26 transit property members and 28 associate members. Founded in 1977, VTA provides public education and legislative advocacy to support public transportation systems throughout the state.

"Transit is part of the transportation solution in Virginia," said VTA President Meredith Richards. "It can get people to work, school, shopping and healthcare facilities reliably, quickly and cheaply. It helps business reach out to more workers and contributes to a cleaner environment and a more livable community by reducing congestion on the roads."

According to VTA, transit ridership throughout Virginia increased by almost 900,000 boardings between 1993 and 1997. Public transit offers alternative transportation that benefits riders, motorists and the community, according to association officials. "Public transit systems add capacity to existing roadways, reducing congestion. During rush hour, a standard passenger bus has the potential of removing at least 40 single-occupancy vehicles from the highway," said Richards.

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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