



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

August 2008

## MONTHLY DELAY SUMMARY

|  | April | May   | June  | July  |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>System wide</b>                     |       |       |       |       |
| Total delays                           | 126   | 123   | 163   | 120   |
| Average length of delay (mins.)        | 14    | 17    | 20    | 16    |
| Number over 30 minutes                 | 11    | 20    | 35    | 15    |
| Days with Heat Restrictions/Total days | 0/22  | 0/21  | 5/21  | 3/22  |
| On-Time Performance                    | 80.3% | 80.9% | 73.2% | 81.2% |
| <b>Fredericksburg Line</b>             |       |       |       |       |
| Total delays                           | 70    | 67    | 84    | 57    |
| Average length of delay (mins.)        | 12    | 18    | 17    | 17    |
| Number over 30 minutes                 | 0     | 9     | 13    | 7     |
| On-Time Performance                    | 75.5% | 76.8% | 69.2% | 80.1% |
| <b>Manassas Line</b>                   |       |       |       |       |
| Total delays                           | 56    | 56    | 79    | 63    |
| Average length of delay (mins.)        | 17    | 17    | 23    | 14    |
| Number over 30 minutes                 | 11    | 11    | 22    | 8     |
| On-Time Performance                    | 84.1% | 84.4% | 76.5% | 82.2% |

## SYSTEM RIDERSHIP

Ridership has increased for thirteen consecutive months. Three of VRE's Top Ten Ridership Days (over 16,285) occurred in July 2008. Normally, ridership declines slightly in July and August as riders take their summer vacations. Therefore, having three of our top ridership days in the month of July is quite an accomplishment. Ridership in July 2008 was 10.7% higher than in July 2007.

## SYSTEM ON TIME PERFORMANCE

System wide on-time performance (OTP) was 81.2 % in July, with an OTP of 80.1% on the Fredericksburg Line and 82.2% on the Manassas Line. Seven of the 15 delays over 30 minutes were related to a CSX problem with issuing train orders the morning of July 22. Only 5 delays out of the total 120 delays for July were due to mechanical issues. Although OTP is still not where I want it to be, it has improved significantly from June.

## **CAFR AWARD**

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VRE was notified last week that our financial report for FY 2007 qualified for GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. I was pleased to receive the award for our first submission. Taking part in GFOA's program is a way to ensure that we continue to improve our reports each year in response to comments from GFOA peer reviewers around the country.

## **GAINESVILLE-HAYMARKET EXTENSION STUDY**

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A Public Workshop was held at Stonewall Jackson High School in Manassas on July 30, from 6:30pm to 9:00pm. The workshop kicked off a Feasibility Study/Alternatives Analysis which considers proposed new service from the existing VRE Manassas Station to the Town of Haymarket, for eleven miles along Norfolk Southern's "B" line and may include up to three new stations/stops. This service would not replace existing service out to Broad Run. A previous study, the Gainesville-Haymarket Implementation Plan, was completed in 2005. The Feasibility Study/Alternatives Analysis builds upon the results of that plan and provides a more detailed analysis of station locations, rail infrastructure needs and potential costs. This workshop was the first opportunity for the general public to hear more about the Gainesville-Haymarket extension study.

About 50 people attended the workshop, including Chairman Jenkins. Overall, the general nature of the comments seemed to be supportive of the extension, although there are specific concerns expressed regarding potential impacts to local roads from traffic to stations and at-grade crossings. There is also concern for how the project would be funded given current funding limitations. Another public meeting will be held in several months. The date has not been finalized but likely will be in the September-October time frame. That meeting will be scheduled for a location more centrally located relative to the study corridor (i.e., closer to Gainesville-Haymarket) and will include a discussion of candidate station locations.

## **BROOKE LOT GAINS MORE SPACES**

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The new parking layout for Brooke was completed over the weekend of July 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. This project added approximately 70 parking spaces and improved circulation for traffic and pedestrians. Painted STOP signs were added on the ground to improve safety for drivers and pedestrians. As part of this restriping, VRE is also testing a new pilot program for motorcycle parking. On the north end of the parking lot in the perimeter parking, two motorcycle spaces were designated. We will monitor the use of these spaces to better determine whether to expand this model to other stations.

## MEET THE MANAGEMENT

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The final Meet the Management event for 2008 took place at Lorton on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Staff was available that morning with refreshments to hear comments and answer any questions. Next year's Meet the Management series will begin in April 2009.

## NEXT DELIVERY OF NEW RAIL CARS

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The next five new Gallery cars (cars 41 through 45) are scheduled to arrive on Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. The cars will be tested over the weekend and are scheduled to be in service the week of August 18<sup>th</sup>.

## MONTHLY PERFORMANCE MEASURES – JULY 2008

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| MONTHLY ON-TIME PERFORMANCE         | ON-TIME PERCENTAGE |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| July Fredericksburg OTP Average     | 80.1%              |
| July Manassas OTP Average           | 82.2%              |
| <b>VRE JULY OVERALL OTP AVERAGE</b> | <b>81.2%</b>       |

| RIDERSHIP MONTH TO MONTH COMPARISON |                   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| DESCRIPTION                         | MONTHLY RIDERSHIP |
| JULY 2008                           | 338,591           |
| JULY 2007                           | 292,043           |
| PERCENTAGE CHANGE                   | 10.7% NORMALIZED  |
| SERVICE DAYS (CURRENT/PRIOR)        | 22/21             |