



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

June 2008

## MONTHLY DELAY SUMMARY

	February 08	March 08	April 08	May
<b>System wide</b>				
Total delays	84	75	126	123
Average length of delay (mins.)	16	16	14	17
Number over 30 minutes	9	6	11	20
Days with Heat Restrictions/Total days	0/20	0/21	0/22	0/21
On-Time Performance	85.5%	87.7%	80.3%	80.9%
<b>Fredericksburg Line</b>				
Total delays	42	31	70	67
Average length of delay (mins.)	16	18	12	18
Number over 30 minutes	3	4	0	9
On-Time Performance	83.8%	88.6%	75.5%	76.8%
<b>Manassas Line</b>				
Total delays	42	44	56	56
Average length of delay (mins.)	16	15	17	17
Number over 30 minutes	6	2	11	11
On-Time Performance	86.9%	86.9%	84.1%	84.4%

## SYSTEM RIDERSHIP

Ridership has increased for eleven consecutive months. The last time that VRE had eleven months of consecutive growth was in FY 2004. Ridership in May 2008 was 8.4% higher than in May 2007. The cumulative ridership for this fiscal year has climbed to 14,572 average daily trips and represents a 4.4% increase from last fiscal year. This is the highest that it's been since June 2006. There are now 611 more trips per day than there were a year ago. In addition, we are experiencing many more phone calls from new riders asking questions about how to ride VRE and on the peak period trains we are starting to see standees.

## SYSTEM ON TIME PERFORMANCE

System wide on-time performance (OTP) remained at 80.9% in May, with an OTP of 76.8% on the Fredericksburg Line and 84.4% on the Manassas Line. The major cause of delays was train interference. Only 9 delays out of the total 115 delays for May were due to mechanical issues. Events that significantly affected on-time performance in May were a disabled freight train near Alexandria on May 6<sup>th</sup> and speed restrictions related to flash flood warnings on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Although OTP is not where I want it to be, we continue to work on improving it. First, Amtrak trains OTP is improving. Second, we have mechanical delays under control. Third, CSX dispatchers for our territory will relocate to Baltimore effective June 21<sup>st</sup> and I anticipate the

dispatchers will gain a more intimate knowledge of the territory and VRE crews. Both will ensure more direct and personal dispatching – a direct benefit to CSX, VRE and Amtrak.

### **CSX THIRD TRACK INSTALLATION**

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On Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, VRE experienced planned service disruptions on both lines due to CSX tying in a new portion of third main track at “RO”, an area just south of the Potomac River Bridge near the Crystal City Station. CSX began the process on Thursday evening, May 29 after VRE service and completed it on Sunday, June 1.

During that day, VRE terminated Fredericksburg line trains at Franconia/Springfield and passengers transferred to Metrorail using their VRE ticket. Manassas line trains terminated at the Norfolk Southern facility near the Van Dorn Street Metrorail station where they were bused to the Metro Station. This process was reversed in the afternoon. VRE staff was on location at both Metro stations to assist passengers. While ridership was low - 7,037 passenger rides-ample notification helped minimize this temporary inconvenience. WMATA station managers provided exceptional customer service to our riders.

### **CSX RAIL REPLACEMENT**

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The CSX R3 rail team will work on the RF&P subdivision from Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> through Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. The team will work eight straight days beginning on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> through Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, followed by six days off . Work will resume from Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup> and run through Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, with no work on Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. While most work will occur overnight, some daylight hours are needed for work on the Long Bridge. Work will start at milepost CFP 60.87, near Dahlgren, VA and work north to milepost CFP 112.3, near Virginia Avenue, DC. A total of 85,931 linear feet of rail will be installed during this period.

### **MANASSAS RAILWAY FESTIVAL**

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On Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, the Fourteenth Annual Manassas Railway Festival was held at the Manassas VRE station from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. VRE ran excursion train rides every hour on the hour starting at 10:00 a.m. with the last one departing at 3:00 p.m. The train consist was made up entirely of VRE’s new Gallery cars. The festival also featured a variety of model railroads, railroad history and memorabilia, live bands, children’s rides and activities, and plenty of food. The train service expenses were paid by Historic Manassas up front, so no costs were incurred by VRE.

### **MEET THE MANAGEMENT**

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For the month of June, Meet the Management events will take place at Manassas, Brooke, Manassas Park and Quantico. We will meet all morning trains with refreshments and answer any questions.

## **NEXT DELIVERY OF NEW RAIL CARS**

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The next five new Gallery cars (31<sup>st</sup> through 35<sup>th</sup> cars) are scheduled to arrive on Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. They will be tested over the weekend and are scheduled to be in service the week of June 23<sup>rd</sup> on the Manassas line.

## **VRE FARE INCREASE**

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The approved 3% fare increase will go into effect on June 30, 2008. Fare collection machines will be reprogrammed and Fare and Schedule posters, Rider's Guides, and the web site will be updated with the new rates.

**MONTHLY PERFORMANCE MEASURES – MAY 2008**

<b>MONTHLY ON-TIME PERFORMANCE</b>	<b>ON-TIME PERCENTAGE</b>
May Fredericksburg OTP Average	76.8%
May Manassas OTP Average	84.4%
<b>VRE MAY OVERALL OTP AVERAGE</b>	<b>80.9%</b>

<b>RIDERSHIP YEAR TO DATE</b>	<b>RIDERSHIP</b>
VRE FY 2008 Passenger Totals	3,300,410
VRE FY 2007 Passenger Totals	3,155,216
<b>PERCENTAGE CHANGE</b>	<b>4.6%</b>

<b>RIDERSHIP MONTH TO MONTH COMPARISON</b>	
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>MONTHLY RIDERSHIP</b>
MAY 2008	305,560
MAY 2007	310,046
<b>PERCENTAGE CHANGE</b>	<b>8.4% (NORMALIZED)</b>
<b>SERVICE DAYS (CURRENT/PRIOR)</b>	<b>20/22</b>