



# DRPT Monthly Director's Report

July 2026



# Growing Ridership & Building Connections

- **Statewide Transit**

- April 2026 Ridership was 14.4 million Statewide, up 2% over April 2025. See slide 9-10 for further details. This month was the highest month for ridership since February 2020.
- Thank you to the many transit agency and rail partners who provided additional service during June and July to help move records of number of people at special events happening around Virginia!

- **Virginia Breeze**

- April 2026 Virginia Breeze ridership was 5,658, up ~9% over April 2025. See slide 11 for further details.

- **Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee**

- TSDAC met on July 7 to finalize recommendations for the MERIT and TRIP programs. TSDAC's recommendations are available for review on DRPT's website.

- **Industry Engagement**

- June 25: Director Zimmerman presented to the Virginia Association of Counties.
- June 28/29: Director Zimmerman and Deputy Director Fye presented at the American Public Transportation Association Rail Conference.
- July 14: Deputy Director Fye presented to the Virginia Municipal League's Infrastructure Policy Committee, providing an update on TSDAC's efforts, the Statewide Rail Plan, and ongoing studies.

# Celebrating our Partners

## *Milestones from Across the Commonwealth*

- **Hampton Roads Transit Making Huge Strides:**

- Launched its new GoMobile fare payment system.
  - Riders can now either use an app, a GoMobile card, or a credit or debit card, to pay for fares.
- Installed new modern Ticket Vending Machines at light rail stops and major transit centers.
- Saw record ridership in June during the Juneteenth weekend.
  - Nearly 51,000 riders on Juneteenth, a 58 percent increase over the same day in 2025.
  - Over 33,000 trips on the ferry system over four days, the largest number since 2012.

- **GRTC Issues Downtown Transfer Station RFP**

- On June 2, GRTC issued the Request for Proposals for its Downtown Transfer Hub project and anticipates selecting a developer by the end of the year.
- The Downtown Transfer Hub will serve as a permanent transfer station for GRTC, as well as involve the construction of a mixed-use building in downtown Richmond.

- **Bristol Trolley Feasibility Study**

- In June, the Bristol Metropolitan Planning Organization launched a public survey as part of its Bristol Trolley Feasibility Study; and is partnering with Bristol Virginia Transit, Bristol Tennessee Transit, and the respective Cities of Bristol to explore how a trolley service could connect the twin cities.

- **DASH Groundbreaking**

- On June 23, DASH held a groundbreaking ceremony for its on-route electric bus charger allowing electric buses to charge while on a service break, rather than return to DASH's main facility helping to reduce costs and save time.



# State Rail Initiatives

## *DRPT Rail Update*

- **Corridor ID Advancing**

- Step 1 of DRPT's Corridor Identification and Development (CID) projects, the east-west Commonwealth Corridor and D.C. to Bristol Corridor, have been accepted by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). This clears the way for the FRA to obligate grants for Step 2, which is expected later this summer.

- **Statewide Rail Plan**

- DRPT hosted three focused Virginia Statewide Rail Plan stakeholder sessions for business/economic development, localities, transit agencies, and rail industry representatives, to inform the rail plan and get input on preferences and potential strategies for rail development.
- A second Virtual Public Meeting will be scheduled for August.

- **Emergency Notification System Sign Awareness Day**

- June 24 was Emergency Notification System Sign Awareness Day, bringing attention to the importance of Emergency Notification System signs located where roadways cross railroad tracks.
- DRPT joined VPRA and the State Corporation Commission in issuing a joint press release recognizing the ENS.



# Transforming Rail in Virginia

## *Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Project Updates*

- **Long Bridge Project**

- North Package: the contractor has begun constructing key structural elements for the rail bridge over Ohio Drive SW in East Potomac Park. They are installing support-of-excavation systems, which are earth-retaining structures built to stabilize soil and prevent cave-ins. This enables the construction of the foundations for the new rail bridge.
- South Package: crews working from bulkheads and barges in the Potomac River have completed all test piles and Statnamic load tests. This data is informing the final design for the foundations of the new passenger rail bridge across the Potomac River.

- **New River Valley Passenger Rail Project**

- Concrete pouring continues for the passenger platform sidewalls and base. 375 linear feet of the platform has been poured to-date, out of 960 feet total. Crews are also constructing a major soldier pile retaining wall along Depot Street.

- **King and Commonwealth Bridges**

- At the King & Commonwealth rail bridges in Alexandria, the third and final set of jump span installations were completed on schedule in mid-June. These jump spans enable crews to begin excavating behind the existing bridge abutments and start the foundations for the replacement bridges over King St and Commonwealth Ave that will be installed in 2027.
- Learn more: [Capital Projects – VPRA](#)

- **BUILD Grants**

- On July 6, the USDOT's BUILD Grant program awarded \$25M each to the L'Enfant Station and Fourth Track Project (VRE) and the Richmond Layover Facility Project (VPRA).

# CTB Oversight of WMATA

## *Virginia Budget Adds Additional Requirements*

- Current WMATA Requirements:
  - Supply an annual budget and proposed capital expenditures to CTB.
  - Require WMATA General Manager and Commonwealth's WMATA Board members address CTB annually.
  - Limit alternates' participation at Board Meetings when the main Board members are present.
  - Cap operating cost growth to 3% - suspended by current biennial budget.
  - Adopt/Update its Strategic Plan every three years and holding a public hearing in NOVA - suspended by current biennial budget.
  - Adopt by July 1 a detailed CIP that covers a six-year period and hold a public hearing in NOVA.
- **New additional** requirements in Biennial Budget:
  - Report an annual 20-year capital plan, financial plan for major projects, performance report and efficiency report.
  - Report a calculation of mode-specific unit cost and growth, and cap unit growth at 3% starting in FY29.
  - Comply with DMVMoves Plan reporting requirements.
  - Report on system performance and progress update towards DMVMoves goals, to NVTC and MWCOG.
  - Publish a rail signaling automation and workforce transition plan by FY29.
  - Ensure that no employees are terminated as part of a reduction in force due to automation.

The CTB votes to certify WMATA's compliance of these requirements every Fall. If WMATA is found noncompliant, the CTB may withhold a portion of WMATA's allocation of Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund.

# Ongoing Transit Studies

## *Monthly Study Update*

- **Statewide Transit Oriented Development Study**
  - DRPT has engaged with a consultant team and will approach the report in two phases, with the first phase of the report submitted to the General Assembly by December 1, 2026.
- **Equivalent Compensation Labor Study**
  - DRPT has engaged with a consultant team on the study and outreach to work group members has begun.
- **WMATA Efficiency Reporting**
  - DRPT will submit the report by October 15, 2026.
- **HJ28 Hampton Roads Transit Regional Needs Study**
  - Hampton Roads Transit is the lead and is in the process of procuring a consultant to lead efforts.
  - *The adopted budget allocated \$300,000 to DRPT for the study.*
- **Northern Virginia Bus Transit Consolidation Study**
  - DRPT has engaged with a consultant team on the study and has started outreach to impacted providers.
- **Virginia Breeze Study\***
  - DRPT has initiated a review of the Virginia Breeze to identify new opportunities, efficiencies, and improvements.



# FY26 SYIP Transfers

## *DRPT Director Approved- Under 200,000*

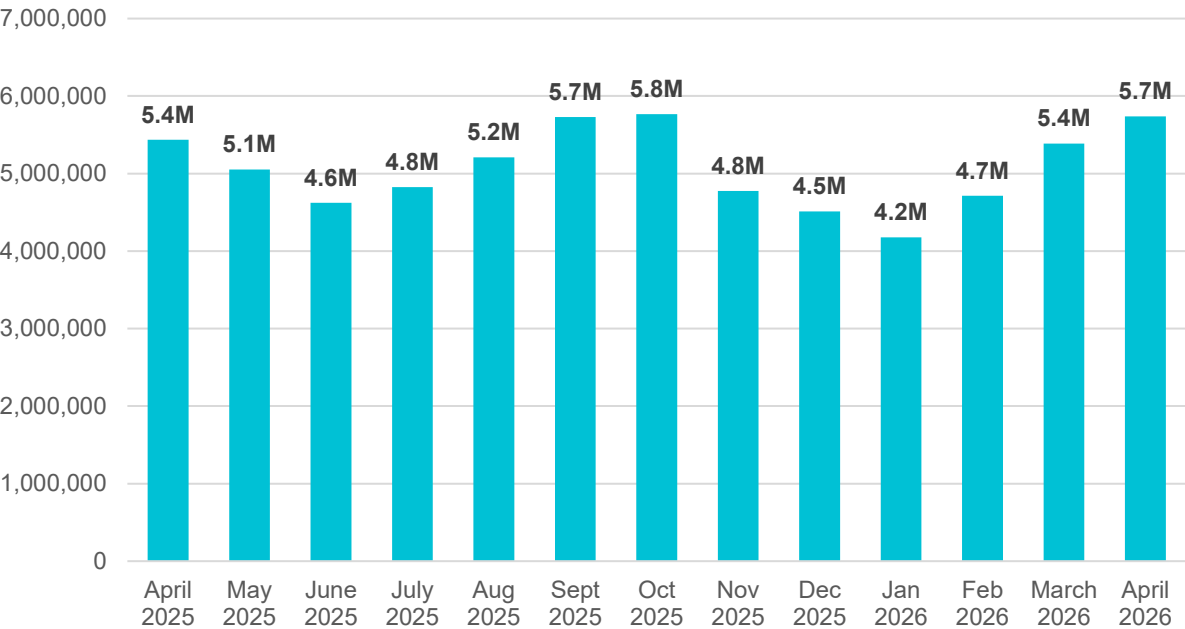
| Donor Project Number & Description                                                                               | Transfer Amount                        | Recipient Project Number & Description                                         | Recipient Original Allocation            | Recipient New Allocation                 | Change                                 | Comments                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (79427-00) I-495 Tolls FY2027 - Unobligated                                                                      | \$170,000                              | (60000-01) NVTC-Fairfax County 495 NEXT - Route 798 Operating Assistance -2025 | \$2,000,000                              | \$2,170,000                              | \$170,000                              | DRPT Director and Transit Team recommend approval. Increased costs are for approved operating expenditures. |
| (42025-95) 5311 ADTAP Capital De-Programmed VA-2024-040-03<br>(73121-98) Capital Projects FY2021 - De-Programmed | Federal = \$11,600<br>State = \$2,230  | (42025-38) Spare Parts/Capital Maintenance (Motors & Transmissions) - 2025     | Federal = \$39,200<br>State = \$7,840    | Federal = \$50,800<br>State = \$10,160   | Federal = \$11,600<br>State = \$2,320  | DRPT Program Director recommend approval. Increased costs for eligible expenditures.                        |
| (42525-09) 5311 Intercity Unobligated VA-2024-040-01                                                             | Federal = \$200,000                    | (42525-09) Valley Metro FY25 FTA 5311 Operating                                | \$580,932                                | \$780,932                                | \$200,000                              | DRPT Program Director recommend approval. Increased costs are for eligible operating expenditures.          |
| (73024-11) FRED - Replacement - Medium-size, medium-duty transit bus or BOC (4)                                  | Federal = \$51,961<br>State = \$10,392 | (73024-12) FRED Replacement Large-size, heavy-duty transit bus (2) - 2024      | Federal = \$880,000<br>State = \$176,000 | Federal = \$931,961<br>State = \$186,392 | Federal = \$51,961<br>State = \$10,392 | DRPT Program Director recommend approval. Increased costs for eligible expenditures.                        |
| 73222-99 Paratransit/Senior/MM FY2022 - De-Programmed                                                            | \$65,936                               | (73026-16) Replacement Light duty, small size transit bus or BOC (3) - 2026    | \$548,914                                | \$614,850                                | \$65,936                               | DRPT Program Director recommend approval. Increased costs for eligible expenditures.                        |
| <b>TOTAL SFY 2026 Transfers</b>                                                                                  |                                        |                                                                                |                                          |                                          | <b>\$512,209</b>                       |                                                                                                             |

*\*Transfers are all below the \$200,000 threshold and do not require CTB approval. DRPT is providing the CTB with a list of all transfers approved during State Fiscal Year 2026.*

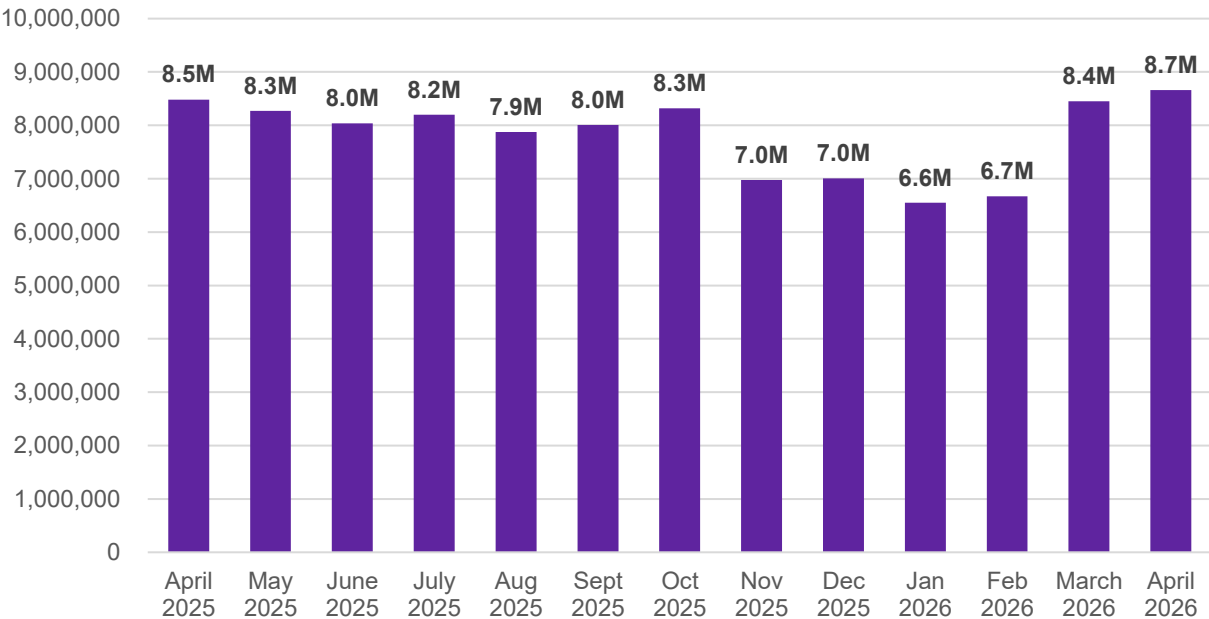


# Statewide Transit Ridership

Statewide Transit Ridership – April 2025 to April 2026



Virginia Agencies (incl. VRE)

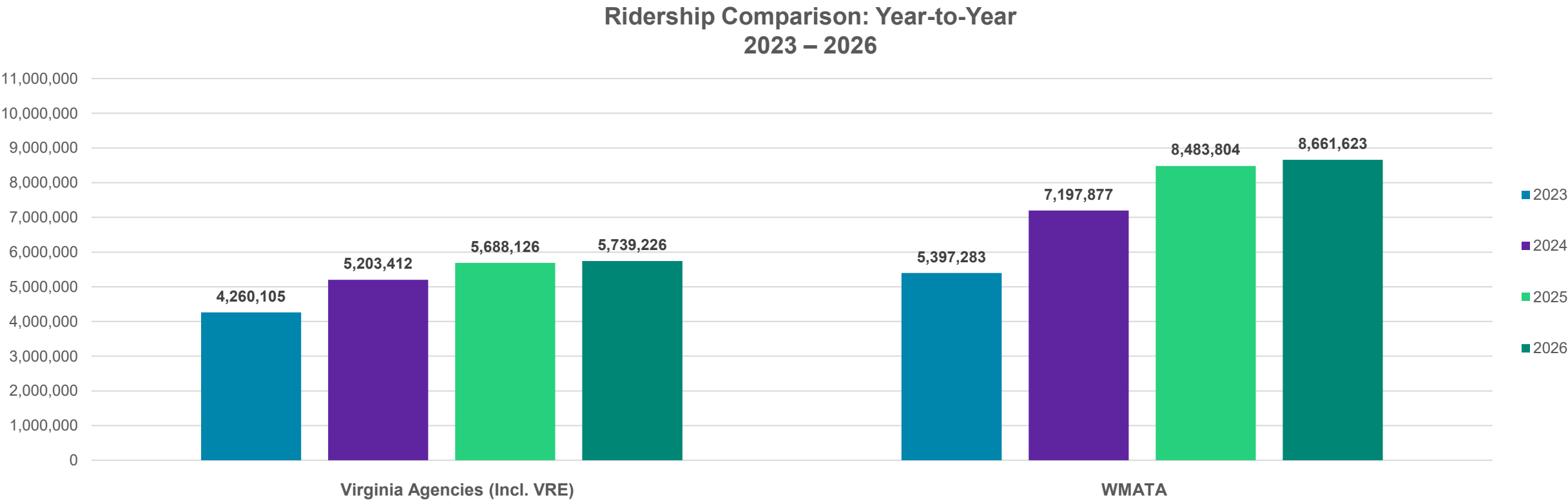


WMATA

| Agencies          | April 2025 | May 2025   | June 2025  | July 2025  | Aug 2025   | Sept 2025  | Oct 2025   | Nov 2025   | Dec 2025   | Jan 2026   | Feb 2026   | March 2026 | April 2026 | Total*      |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Virginia Agencies | 5,437,004  | 5,053,320  | 4,624,290  | 4,826,487  | 5,208,249  | 5,729,123  | 5,765,456  | 4,774,932  | 4,513,370  | 4,175,539  | 4,715,787  | 5,387,585  | 5,739,226  | 60,513,364  |
| WMATA             | 8,483,804  | 8,272,850  | 8,038,628  | 8,197,440  | 7,877,904  | 8,005,759  | 8,320,907  | 6,977,427  | 7,005,271  | 6,551,481  | 6,668,660  | 8,449,361  | 8,661,623  | 93,027,311  |
| Total             | 13,920,808 | 13,326,170 | 12,662,918 | 13,023,927 | 13,086,153 | 13,734,882 | 14,086,363 | 11,752,359 | 11,518,641 | 10,727,020 | 11,384,447 | 13,836,946 | 14,400,849 | 153,540,675 |

\*Last 12 Months

# Statewide Ridership Comparison: April Year-to-Year



| Mode              | 2023      | 2024       | 2025       | 2026       | 2026 vs 2023 | 2026 vs 2024 | 2026 vs 2025 |
|-------------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Virginia Agencies | 4,260,105 | 5,203,412  | 5,688,126  | 5,739,226  | 35%          | 10%          | 1%           |
| WMATA             | 5,397,283 | 7,197,877  | 8,483,804  | 8,661,623  | 60%          | 20%          | 2%           |
| Total             | 9,657,388 | 12,401,289 | 14,171,930 | 14,400,849 | 49%          | 16%          | 2%           |

# Virginia Breeze Ridership – April

In April 2026, ridership on VA Breeze routes totaled 5,685 which was:

- 132% higher than original estimates, and
- 9% higher than April 2025

In April 2026, the VA Breeze contributed to a reduction of 210 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions.

## Valley Flyer:

- Ridership – 7% higher than April 2025
- Farebox Rev. – 4% higher than April 2025

## Piedmont Express:

- Ridership – 15% higher than April 2025
- Farebox Rev. – 9% higher than April 2025

## Capital Connector:

- Ridership – 31% higher than April 2025
- Farebox Rev. – 10% higher than April 2025

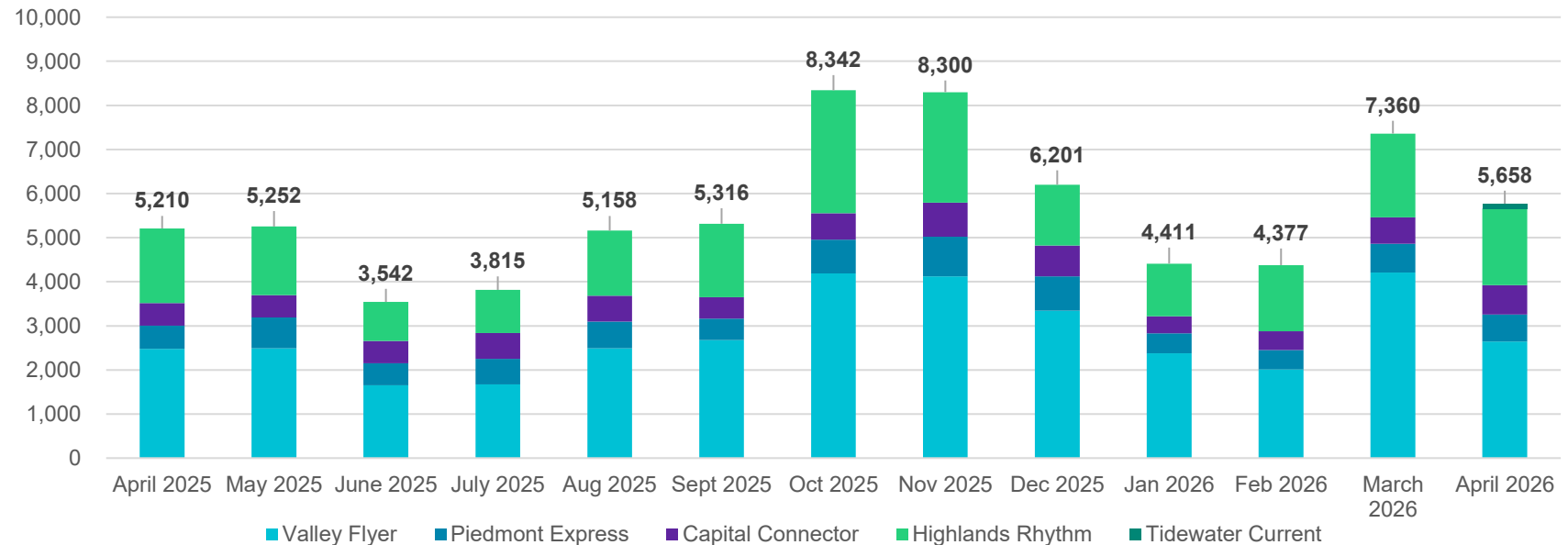
## Highlands Rhythm:

- Ridership – 3% higher than April 2025
- Farebox Rev – 1% lower than April 2025

## Tidewater Current:

- Ridership – N/A
- Farebox Rev – N/A

Virginia Breeze Ridership by Route – April 2025 to April 2026



| Route             | April 2025   | May 2025     | June 2025    | July 2025    | Aug 2025     | Sept 2025    | Oct 2025     | Nov 2025     | Dec 2025     | Jan 2026     | Feb 2026     | March 2026   | April 2026   | Total*        |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Valley Flyer      | 2,475        | 2,489        | 1,655        | 1,675        | 2,493        | 2,676        | 4,189        | 4,124        | 3,344        | 2,377        | 2,012        | 4,211        | 2,645        | 33,890        |
| Piedmont Express  | 531          | 702          | 499          | 577          | 606          | 490          | 767          | 895          | 781          | 451          | 440          | 650          | 609          | 7,467         |
| Capital Connector | 513          | 508          | 504          | 585          | 581          | 484          | 598          | 778          | 694          | 389          | 424          | 602          | 670          | 6,817         |
| Highlands Rhythm  | 1,691        | 1,553        | 884          | 978          | 1,478        | 1,666        | 2,788        | 2,503        | 1,382        | 1,194        | 1,501        | 1,897        | 1,734        | 19,558        |
| Tidewater Current | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | 113          | 113           |
| <b>All Routes</b> | <b>5,210</b> | <b>5,252</b> | <b>3,542</b> | <b>3,815</b> | <b>5,158</b> | <b>5,316</b> | <b>8,342</b> | <b>8,300</b> | <b>6,201</b> | <b>4,411</b> | <b>4,377</b> | <b>7,360</b> | <b>5,658</b> | <b>67,845</b> |

\*Last 12 Months

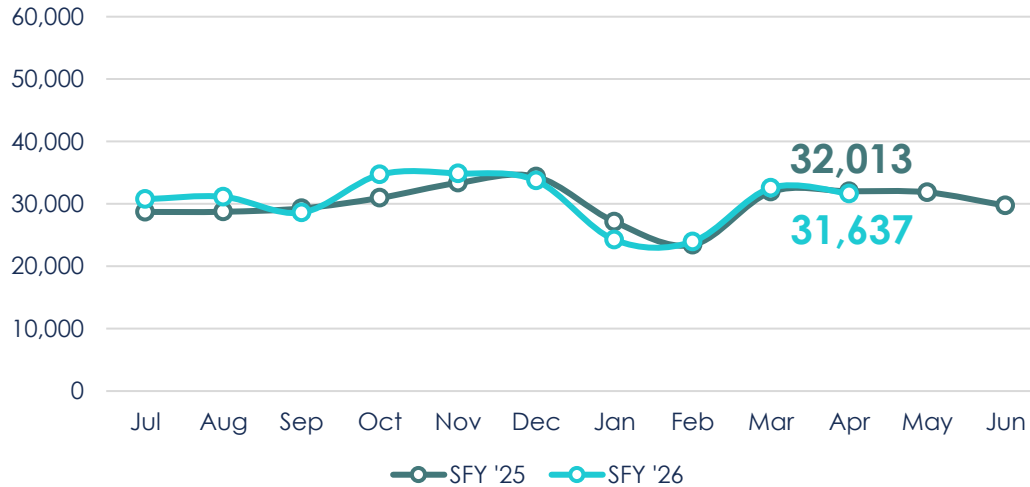
# Virginia-Supported Monthly Ridership SFY '26 vs. SFY '25

Newport News route recorded highest monthly ridership.

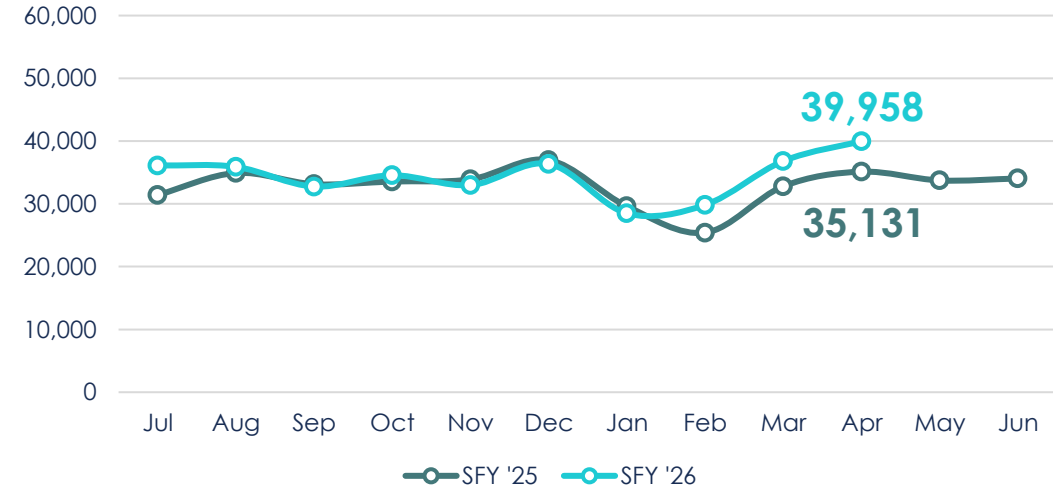
Express buses chart displays both Hampton Roads and Richmond area ridership.

Express bus ridership breakout on Slide 11.

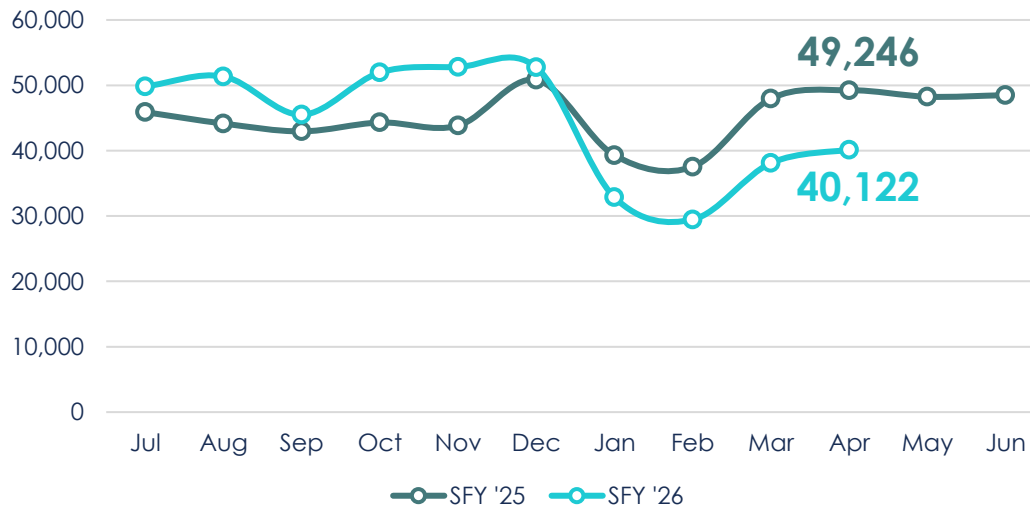
## Route 46: Roanoke (-1.2%)



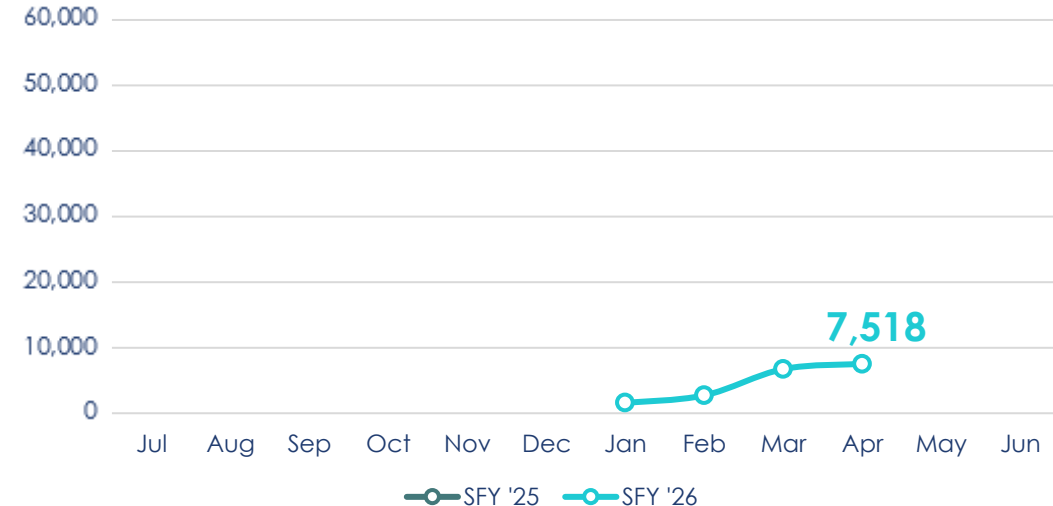
## Route 47: Newport News (+13.7%)



## Route 50: Norfolk (-18.5%)



## D.C. Express Buses





# Virginia & Comparable State-Supported Service Ridership

Normalized: Monthly Ridership ÷ Daily Trains

