

CEO REPORT

OCTOBER 2018



OUR MISSION

The Virginia Railway Express, a joint project of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and the Potomac Rappahannock Transportation Commission, will provide safe, cost-effective, accessible, reliable, convenient, and customer responsive commuter-oriented rail passenger service. VRE contributes to the economic vitality of its member jurisdictions as an integral part of a balanced, intermodal regional transportation system.



CEO REPORT | OCTOBER 2018

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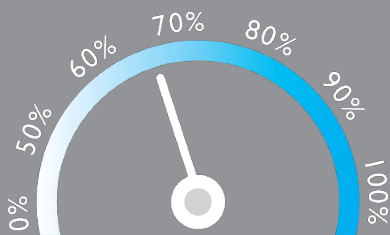
VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS
A better way. A better life.



SUCCESS AT A GLANCE

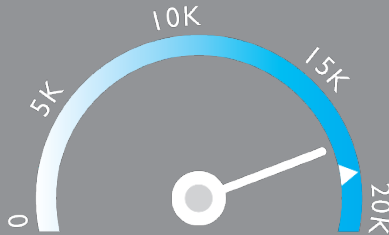
Data provided reflects August 2018 information.

S



PARKING UTILIZATION

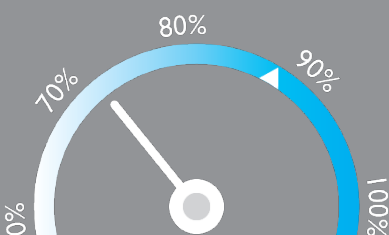
The total number of parking spaces used in the VRE system during the month, divided by the total number of parking spaces available.



AVERAGE DAILY RIDERSHIP

The average number of boardings each operating day inclusive of Amtrak Step-Up boardings but excluding "S" schedule operating days.

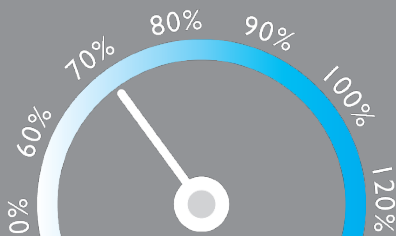
▲ Same month, previous year.



ON-TIME PERFORMANCE

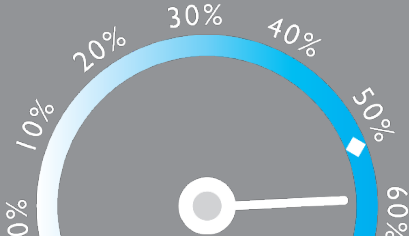
Percentage of trains that arrive at their destination within five minutes of the schedule.

▲ Same month, previous year.



SYSTEM CAPACITY

The percent of peak hour train seats occupied. The calculation excludes reverse flow and non-peak hour trains.



OPERATING RATIO

The monthly operating revenues divided by the monthly operating expenses, which depicts the percent of operating costs paid by the riders.

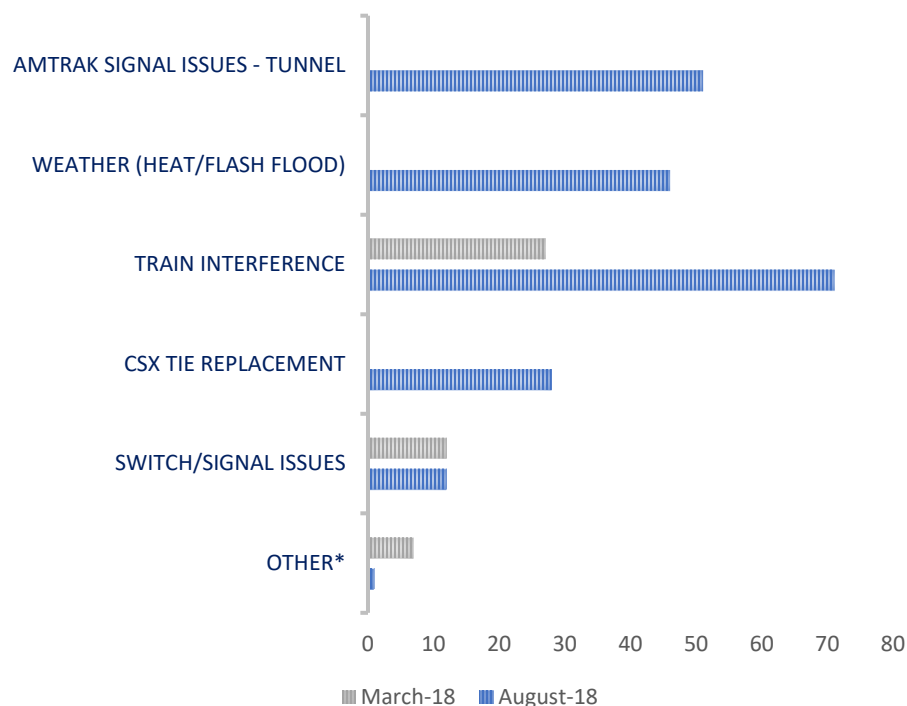
◆ Board-established goal.

ON-TIME PERFORMANCE

OUR RECORD

	August 2018	July 2018	August 2017
Manassas Line	62%	77%	92%
Fredericksburg Line	81%	75%	84%
System Wide	72%	76%	88%

REASONS FOR DELAYS



*Includes those trains that were delayed due to operational testing and passenger handling.

VRE operated 733 trains in August. Our on-time rate for August was 72%.

Two hundred ten of the trains arrived more than five minutes late to their final destinations. Seventy-two of those late trains were on the Manassas Line and one hundred thirty-eight of those late trains were on the Fredericksburg Line.

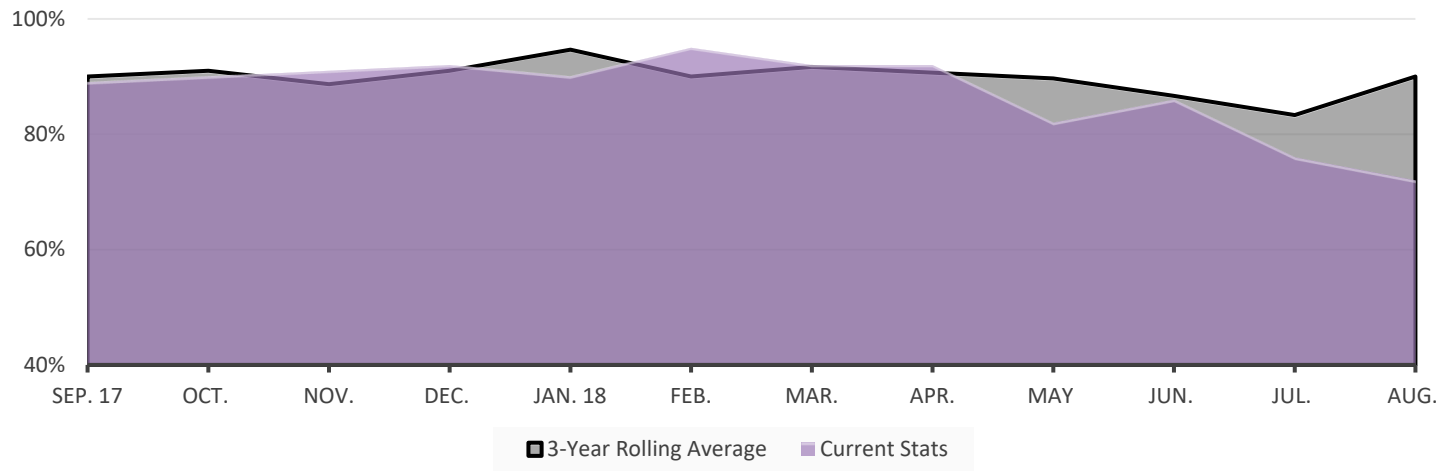
There were significant issues that negatively impacted August on-time performance (OTP). The chart contrasts March and August of this year. March represents a typical month with 92% OTP. With the chart, you can see what affected August performance. Amtrak signal issues in the tunnel, weather, and CSX tie replacement had a direct correlation to the lower OTP. These issues also caused congestion, which related to more instances of train interference. Please see page two of the attached October RIDE magazine for more information.

LATE TRAINS

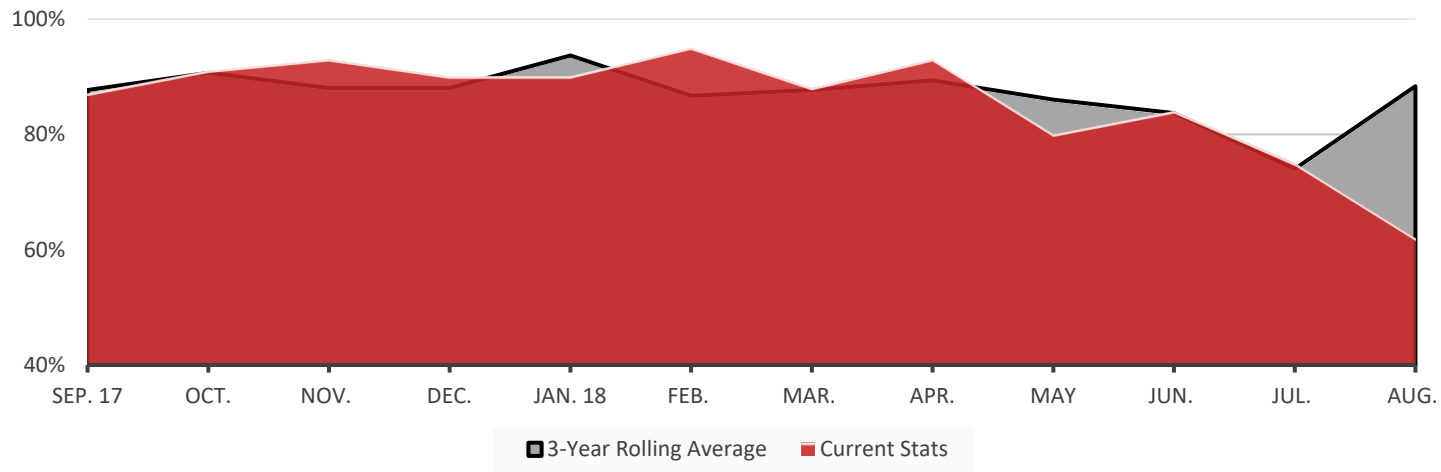
	System Wide			Fredericksburg Line			Manassas Line		
	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.
Total late trains	92	161	210	54	84	138	38	77	72
Average minutes late	14	21	21	15	19	21	13	23	21
Number over 30 minutes	4	40	31	1	19	22	3	21	9
Heat restriction days / total days	8/21	7/21	7/23						

ON-TIME PERFORMANCE

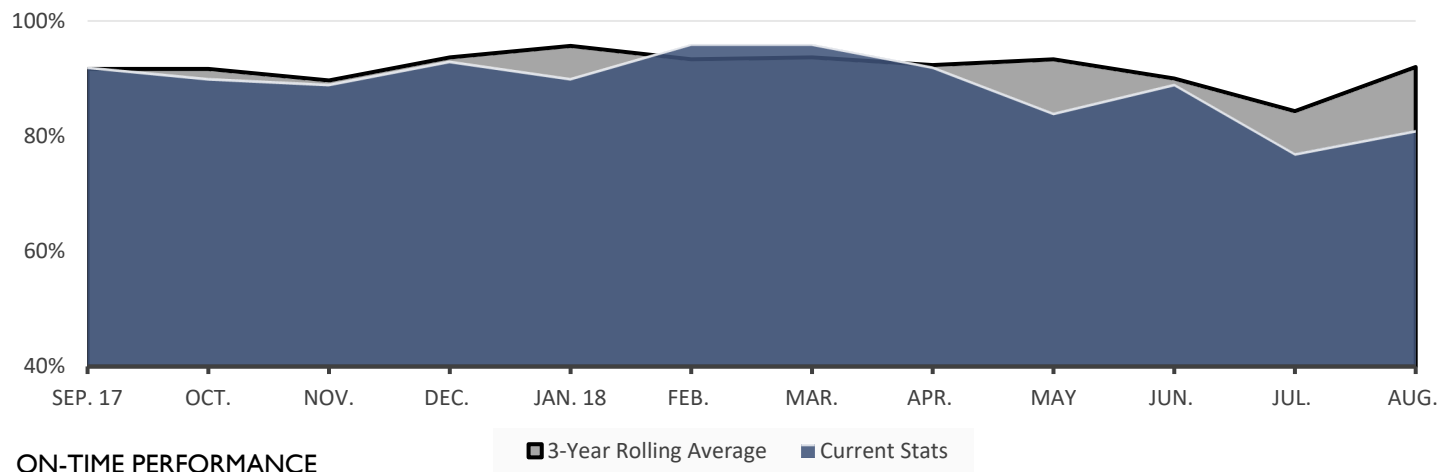
VRE SYSTEM



FREDERICKSBURG LINE

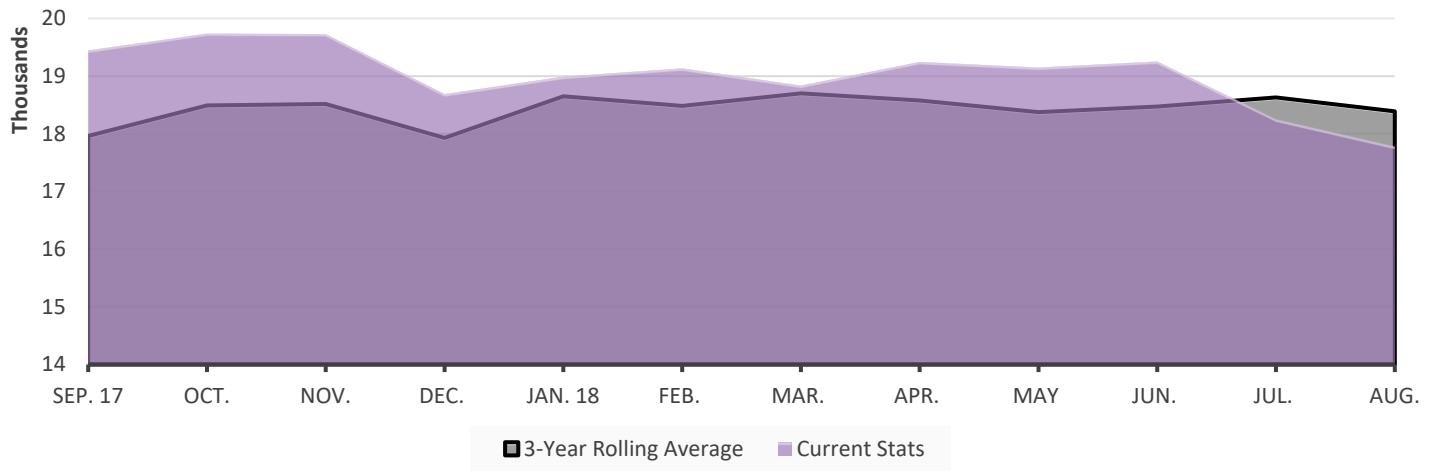


MANASSAS LINE

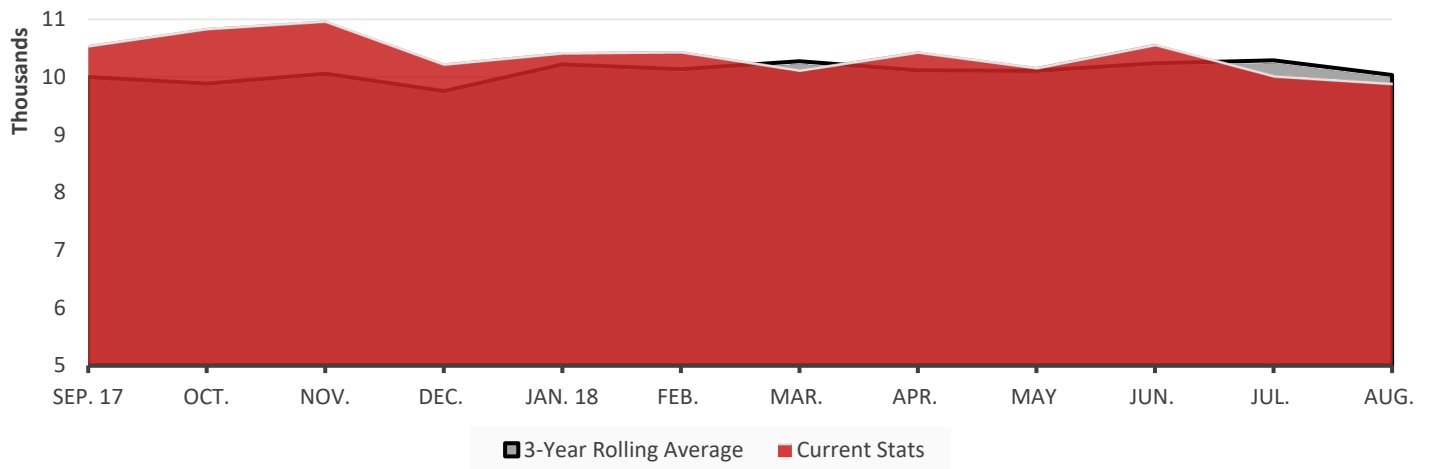


AVERAGE DAILY RIDERSHIP

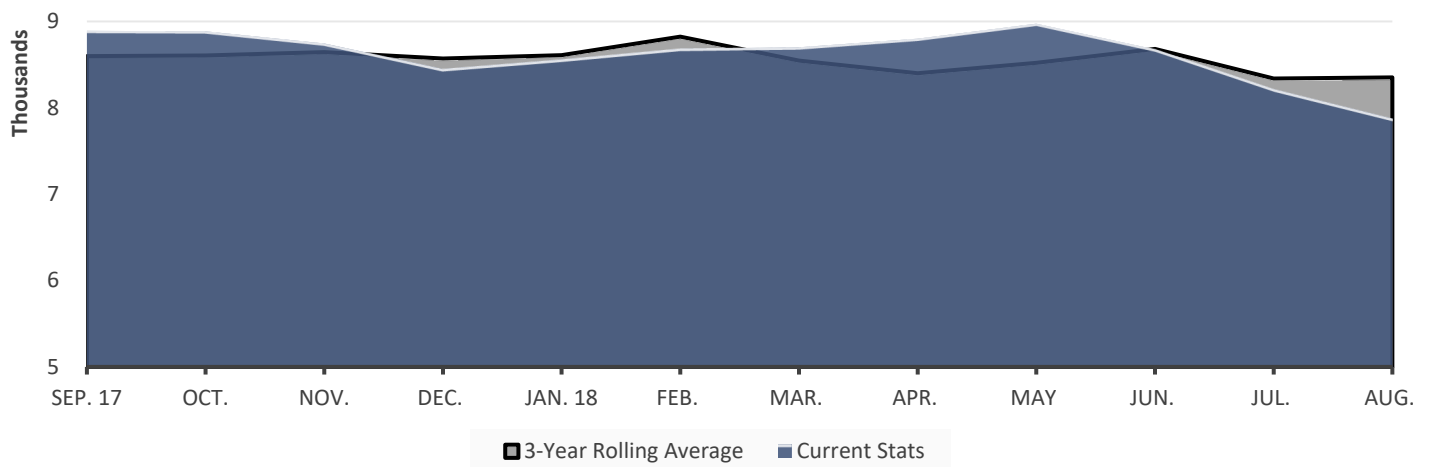
VRE SYSTEM



FREDERICKSBURG LINE



MANASSAS LINE



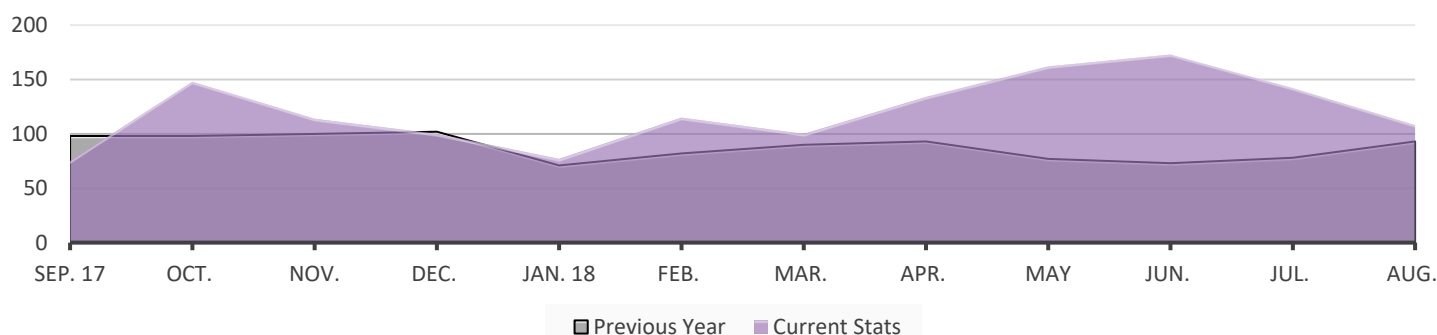
RIDERSHIP UPDATES

Average daily ridership (ADR) in August was approximately 17,780.

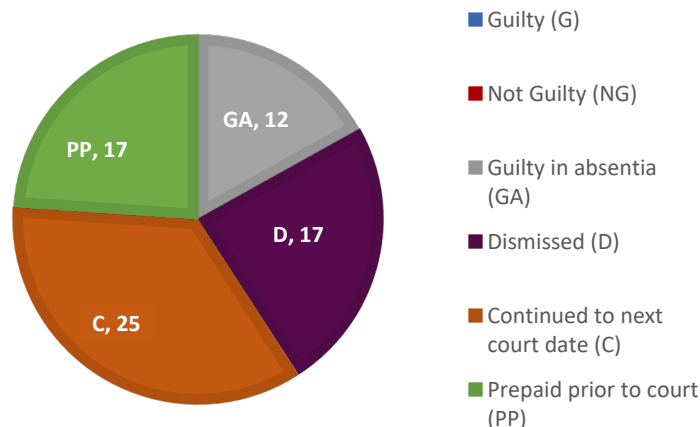
	August 2018	July 2018	August 2017
Monthly Ridership	414,912	388,306	435,839
Average Daily Ridership	17,779	18,251	18,950
Full Service Days	23	21	23
"S" Service Days	0	0	0

SUMMONSES ISSUED

VRE SYSTEM

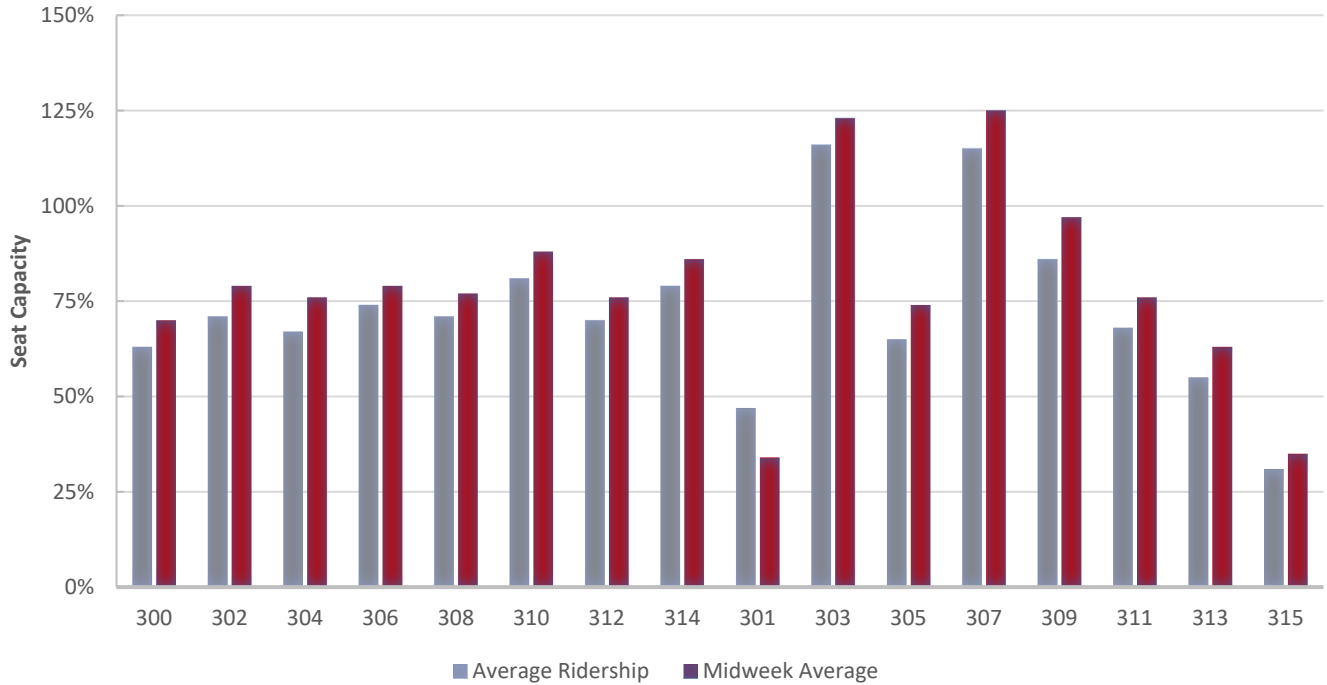
SUMMONSES WAIVED
OUTSIDE OF COURT

Reason for Dismissal	Occurrences
Passenger showed proof of a monthly ticket	15
One-time courtesy	6
Per the request of the conductor	34
Defective ticket	0
Per Ops Manager	1
Unique circumstances	0
Insufficient information	5
Lost and found ticket	0
Other	1
Total Waived	62

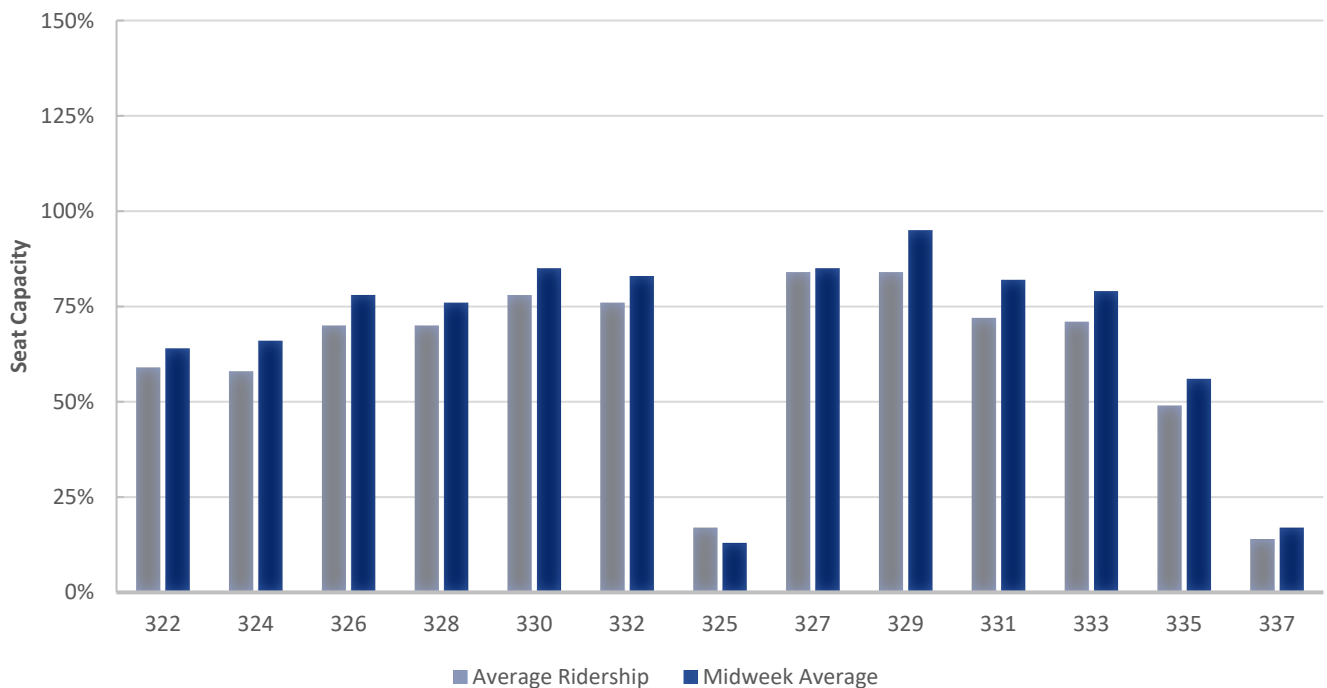
MONTHLY SUMMONSES
COURT ACTION

TRAIN UTILIZATION

FREDERICKSBURG LINE

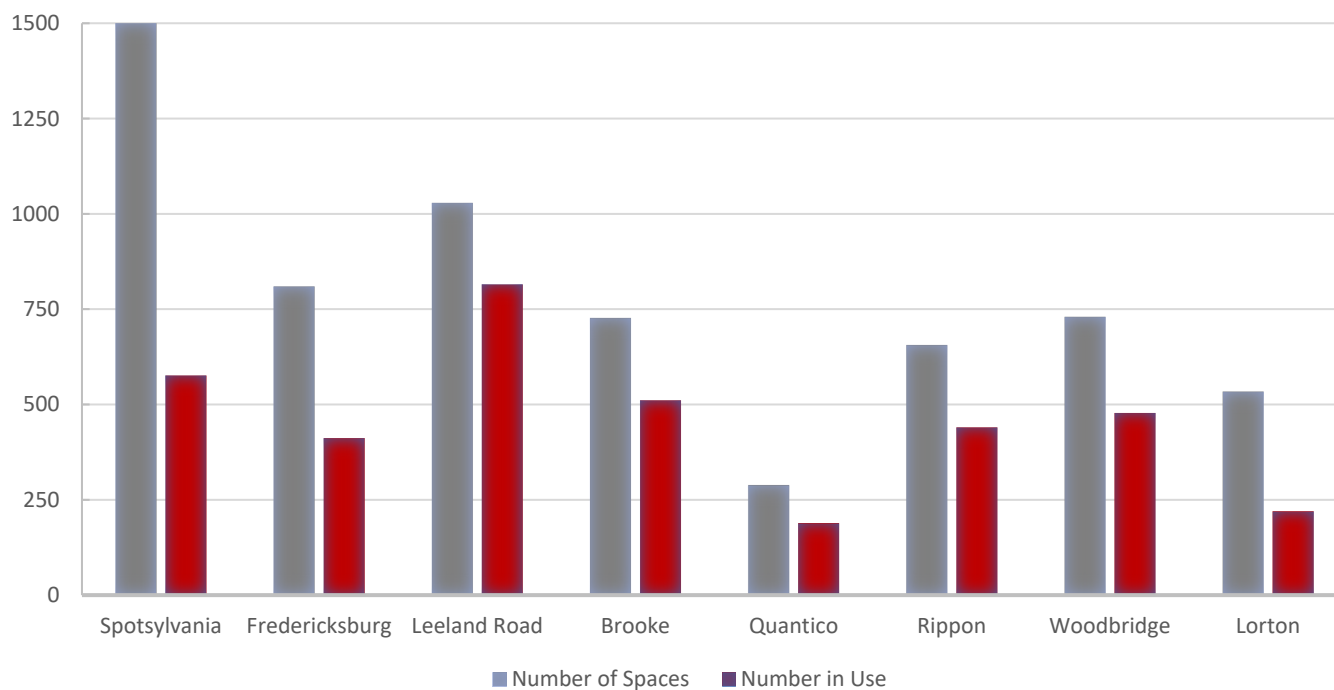


MANASSAS LINE

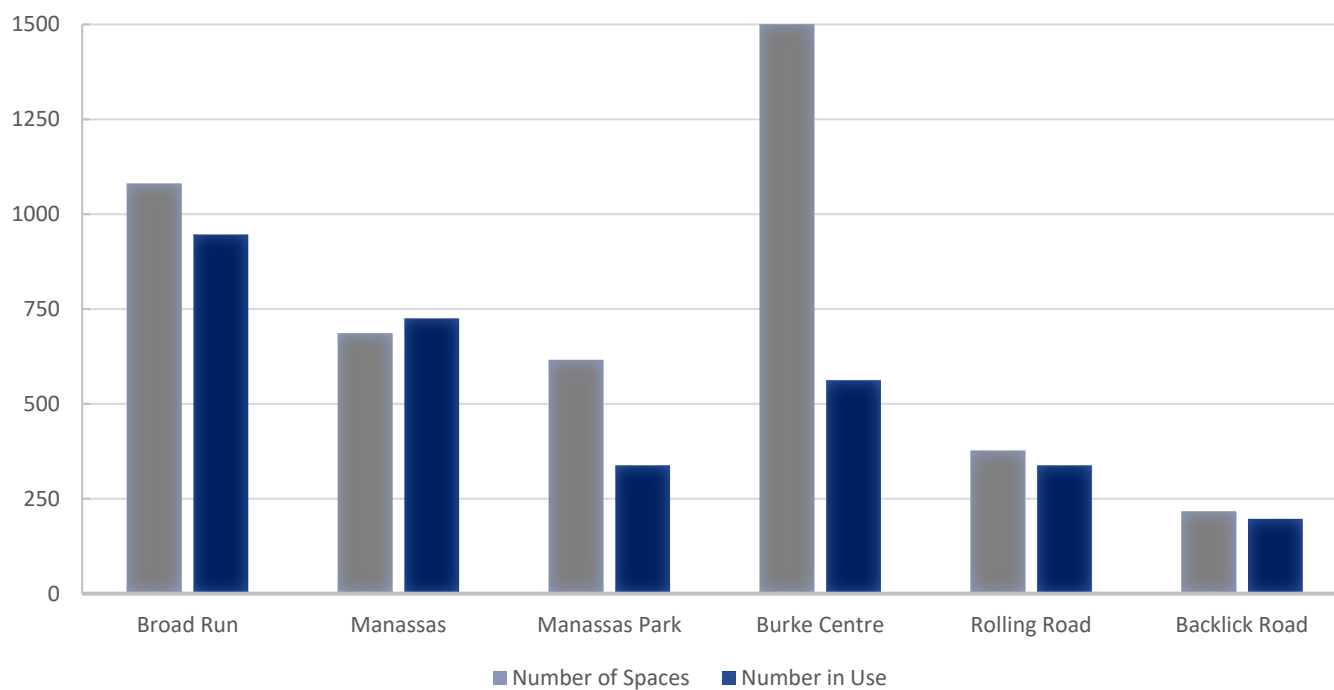


PARKING UTILIZATION

FREDERICKSBURG LINE



MANASSAS LINE



FINANCIAL REPORT

Fare revenue through the second month of FY 2019 is approximately \$275,000 below budget (an unfavorable variance of -3.7%) and is up 1.0% compared to the same period in FY 2018.

VRE's annual liability insurance premium was accounted for in full in July, resulting in an actual operating ratio of 45%. Absent this premium, the operating ratio would have been 59%. VRE's budgeted operating ratio for the full twelve months of FY 2019 is 52%.

A summary of the FY 2019 financial results through August follows, including information on the major revenue and expense categories. Please note that these figures are preliminary and unaudited.

FY 2019 Operating Budget Report							
Month Ended August 31, 2018							
	CURR. MO. ACTUAL	CURR. MO. BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD \$ VARIANCE	YTD % VARIANCE	TOTAL FY19 BUDGET
Operating Revenue							
Passenger Ticket Revenue	3,542,477	3,900,800	7,187,427	7,462,400	(274,973)	-3.7%	42,400,000
Other Operating Revenue	6,100	20,700	8,405	39,600	(31,195)	-78.8%	225,000
Subtotal Operating Revenue	3,548,577	3,921,500	7,195,832	7,502,000	(306,168)	-4.1%	42,625,000
Jurisdictional Subsidy (1)	-	-	9,119,260	9,062,209	57,051	0.6%	13,336,628
Federal/State/Other Jurisdictional Subsidy	2,666,821	2,678,051	5,240,489	5,254,210	(13,721)	-0.3%	31,371,051
Appropriation from Reserve/Other Income	-	91,080	-	174,240	(174,240)	0.0%	990,000
Interest Income	93,437	18,400	182,215	35,200	147,015	417.7%	200,000
Total Operating Revenue	6,308,835	6,709,031	21,737,796	22,027,859	(290,063)	-1.3%	88,522,679
Operating Expenses							
Departmental Operating Expenses	6,056,419	6,936,750	15,886,290	17,208,222	1,321,932	7.7%	81,761,809
Debt Service	518,776	559,573	1,037,442	1,119,145	81,703	7.3%	6,714,870
Other Non-Departmental Expenses	43	4,232	11,737	8,096	(3,641)	0.0%	46,000
Total Operating Expenses	6,575,238	7,500,555	16,935,469	18,335,463	1,399,994	7.6%	88,522,679
Net income (loss) from Operations	(266,403)	(791,523)	4,802,327	3,692,396	1,109,931		0
Operating Ratio							
			45%	44%		Goal	50%

(1) Total jurisdictional subsidy is \$17,767,748. Portion shown as budgeted is attributed to Operating Fund only.

FACILITIES UPDATE

The following is a status update of VRE facilities projects:

Completed projects:

1. Brush clearing at Lorton Station
2. Removal and replacement of pedestrian grade crossings at Rippon, Quantico, Brooke and Leeland Road Stations to accommodate CSX tie replacements

Projects scheduled to be completed this quarter:

1. Replacement of tactile warning strip at L'Enfant Station
2. Repairs to fascia and soffit at Woodbridge Station east building
3. Painting of Woodbridge Station
4. Cleaning of glass at Woodbridge Station elevator/stair towers
5. Striping of Rolling Road Station parking lot
6. Upgrades to electrical power supply for new communication cabinet at Burke Centre Station
7. Repairs to potholes at Manassas Park Station
8. Repairs to platform lighting and replacement of electrical and communications conduits at Manassas Park Station
9. Repairs to platform concrete at Manassas Station
10. Installation of automated parking count system at stations with parking lots

Projects scheduled to be initiated this quarter:

1. Design of platform widening at L'Enfant Station
2. Replacement of signage at additional stations (locations TBD)
3. Replacement of parking lot entrance signs at majority of stations
4. Replacement of waste and recycling receptacles throughout VRE system



Lorton Station Before Brush Clearing



Lorton Station After Brush Clearing



Woodbridge Station Painting and Glass Cleaning

Ongoing projects:

1. Renovations to Alexandria Headquarters (leased Suite 201, adjacent to current VRE offices)
2. Weed control at L'Enfant storage track
3. Development of specifications for modernization of Woodbridge Station east elevator
4. Development of IFB for Canopy Roof Replacement at the Backlick Road Station and second station (TBD)
5. Replacement of station posters throughout VRE system

UPCOMING PROCUREMENTS

- Purchase of Passenger Elevators
- Construction of the Lifecycle Overhaul and Upgrade Facility
- Construction Management Services for the Lifecycle Overhaul and Upgrade Facility
- Program Management Services
- Graphic Design Services
- Canopy Roof Replacement at the Backlick and Rolling Road Stations
- Modernization of VRE Woodbridge Station East Elevator
- Repair and Overhaul of Passenger Car HVAC Assemblies
- Passenger Car Wheelchair Lift Assemblies
- Seat Bottoms for Passenger Cars
- Construction of Benchmark Road Slope Stabilization
- Construction of Rolling Road Platform Extension
- Platform Lighting Installation Services
- Construction of L'Enfant South Storage Track Wayside Power
- Variable Messaging System Replacement

CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATES

AS OF September 5, 2018

Broad Run Expansion Study (BRX)

- Preliminary engineering (PE) design underway for maintenance and storage facility (MSF) expansion, platform modifications, 3rd track and tunnel
- VRE Operations Board selected “North” parking alternative as preferred location for Broad Run Station parking expansion on July 20th
- Meeting with Prince William County and VDOT staff on August 31st to discuss the Residency Rd. VRE parking lot design and trail connection between Route 28 and the proposed parking lot
- Draft agreement between VRE and Prince William County regarding Broad Run parking expansion funding and other responsibilities under development
- Bi-weekly Project Management Team (PMT) meetings with BRX consultant
- Weekly schedule review meetings with BRX consultant

Crossroads Real Estate Acquisition

- Appraisals under review and reconciliation

Long Bridge Expansion Study

- Facilitated internal discussions and response to Department of Rail and Public Transportation's (DRPT) Long Bridge Governance paper
- Conceptual engineering to start and expect to be completed late Summer

Rolling Road Platform Extension

- Final plans pending Host Railroad review and approval
- VRE Operations Board authorized Invitation for Bids (IFB) for construction, pending completion of final design package
- Construction Management (CM) GEC task order pending notice to proceed (NTP)

Quantico Station Improvements

- Progress Meeting held at Quantico Station July 10th
- Potomac Avenue signal coordination meeting held with CSX July 25th
- Monthly Arkendale to Powells Creek conference call held August 7th

Franconia-Springfield Station Improvements

- Preliminary engineering/30% design plans and environmental documents are currently under review by CSXT

Lorton Station Improvements (Second Platform)

- Preliminary engineering/30% design plans and NEPA documents are currently under review by CSXT

Rippon Station Improvements

- Draft preliminary engineering/30% design plans and NEPA documents have are complete for review by CSXT pending a final design review agreement

Leeland Road Station Improvements

- Continued development of 30% Design Plans and Environmental Documents
- Continued coordination with CSXT concerning the Design Review Force Account Estimate

Brooke Station Improvements

- Continued development of 30% Design Plans and Environmental Documents
- Continued coordination with CSXT concerning the Design Review Force Account Estimate

Alexandria Pedestrian Tunnel Project

- Investigating alternative construction strategies
- Coordinating with FRA

Crossroads Lifecycle Overhaul & Upgrade Facility (LOU)

- Property negotiations continue to acquire property needed to the east and south of existing Crossroads Yard
- Continue Spotsylvania County permit extensions

L'Enfant (South) Storage Track Wayside Power

- Final design has been completed
- Invitation for Bids (IFB) for construction of wayside power approved June 2018
- IFB package is being prepared
- Pending amended agreement with CSX

Slaters Lane/Alexandria Track 1 Access

- Construction pending assignment of CSXT resources

Manassas Park Station Parking Expansion

- Received revised proposal and estimate for final design, procurement support and construction administration services
- Internal meeting held to discuss recommendations of Value Engineering study and given direction to proceed
- Coordinated with CenturyLink/L3 about fiber optic lines in the project vicinity. Identified 5 potential lines that we will have to be aware of for the project
- Received and reviewed PHAs on 30% Design Engineering from K&J

Crystal City Station Improvements

- Concept Design briefing to be provided to Arlington County Transportation Commission and Arlington County Board at their September 2018 meetings
- Comments received and VRE responses posted to the project website
- Cost estimate is being updated

L'Enfant Track and Station Improvement

- Phase I: Background Information technical memorandum is being finalized
- Scope of Work for continued project development, including preliminary engineering and environmental review, under development
- Task Order to conduct additional right-of-way and background research being prepared
- Initiation of additional work pending REF grant agreement

VRE Transit Development Plan Update

- Bi-weekly progress meetings with TDP consultant
- Service Plan analysis presentation to VRE staff
- Performance Measures being developed to comprehensively show progress towards TDP Goals and Objectives
- TDP document in progress

NOTES

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Projects Progress Report to Follow

PASSENGER FACILITIES

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	PHASE					
		CD	PD	EC	RW	FD	CN
Alexandria Station Improvements	Eliminate at-grade track crossing, and pedestrian tunnel to METRO.	◆	◆	◆	N/A	●	
	Modify Slaters Lane Interlocking for passenger trains on Track #1.	◆	◆	◆	N/A	●	
	Extend and widen East Platform and elevate West Platform.	◆	◆	◆	N/A	●	
Franconia-Springfield Station Improvements	Extend both platforms and widen East Platform for future third track. ◆	◆	●	●	N/A		
Lorton Station Improvements	Construct new second platform with pedestrian overpass. ◆	◆	●	●	N/A		
Rippon Station Improvements	Extend existing platform, construct new second platform with pedestrian overpass. ◆	◆	●	●	N/A		
Potomac Shores Station Improvements	New VRE station in Prince William County provided by private developer.	◆	●	◆	N/A		
Quantico Station Improvements	Extend existing platform, construct new second platform with pedestrian overpass.	◆	◆	◆	N/A	●	
Brooke Station Improvements	Extend existing platform, construct new second platform with pedestrian overpass. ◆	◆	●	●	N/A		
Leeland Road Station Improvements	Extend existing platform, construct new second platform with pedestrian overpass. ◆	◆	●	●	N/A		
Manassas Park Parking Expansion	Parking garage to increase parking capacity to 1,100 spaces.	◆	●	●	N/A		
Rolling Road Station Improvements	Extend existing platform.	◆	◆	◆	N/A	●	
Crystal City Station Improvements	Replace existing side platform with new, longer island platform.	◆	●	●	N/A		
L'Enfant Track and Station Improvements	Replace existing platform with wider, longer island platform. Add fourth track (VA-LE)	◆			N/A		

PHASE: CD - Conceptual Design PD - Preliminary Design EC - Environment Clearance RW - Right of Way Acquisition FD - Final Design CN - Construction

STATUS: ◆ Completed ● Underway ■ On Hold ◆ part of the "Penta-Platform" program

¹Total project cost estimate in adopted FY2018 CIP Budget

² Does not include minor (< \$50,000) operating expenditures

* \$2,181,630 authorization divided across five "Penta-Platform" program stations

Total ¹	ESTIMATED COSTS (\$)			Expended ²	COMPLETION		STATUS
	Funded	Unfunded	Authorized		Percent	Date	
26,674,365	26,674,365	-	1,814,559	1,714,242	60%	4th QTR 2020	60% design complete. Investigating alternative construction strategies.
7,000,000	7,000,000	-	467,500	90,749	30%	4th QTR 2018	Construction start pending assignment of CSXT resources.
2,400,000	400,000	2,000,000	-	-	5%	4th QTR 2020	Design work on East Platform only. West Platform elevation funded.
13,000,000	13,000,000	-	*	337,165	25%	4th QTR 2021	Preliminary engineering plans under review by CSXT and anticipated to be complete in 4th QTR 2018.
16,150,000	16,150,000	-	*	414,788	25%	4th QTR 2021	Preliminary engineering plans under review by CSXT and anticipated to be complete in 4th QTR 2018.
16,632,716	16,632,716	-	*	328,521	20%	4th QTR 2022	Preliminary engineering is anticipated to be complete in 2nd QTR 2019.
No costs for VRE. Private developer providing station.					10%	TBD	Design resumed after resolution of DRPT/CSXT/FRA track project issues.
18,350,745	18,350,745	0	-	-	30%	TBD	Completion of FD & construction pending excution of IPROC grant by DRPT.
23,390,976	23,390,976	-	*	259,910	20%	4th QTR 2022	Completion of PD & EC pending excution of REF grant by DRPT.
15,527,090	15,527,090	-	*	258,881	20%	4th QTR 2022	Completion of PD & EC pending excution of REF grant by DRPT.
25,983,000	25,983,000	0	665,785	606,411	30%	4th QTR 2022	Preliminary engineering plans complete. Awaiting proposal for final design.
2,000,000	2,000,000	-	442,900	320,562	50%	3rd QTR 2020	Invitation for Bids (IFB) for construction pending completion of final design package
41,810,000	5,410,000	36,400,000	370,285	373,396	10%	2nd QTR 2023	Completion of PD & EC pending excution of REF grant by DRPT.
70,650,000	3,226,000	67,424,000	2,980,000	58,793	10%	2nd QTR 2023	Completion of PD & EC pending excution of REF grant by DRPT.

TRACK AND INFRASTRUCTURE

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	PHASE					
		CD	PD	EC	RW	FD	CN
Hamilton-to-Crossroads Third Track	2¼-miles of new third track with CSXT design and construction of signal and track tie-ins.	◆	◆	◆	N/A	◆	◆

MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE FACILITIES

L'Enfant South Storage Track and Wayside Power	Conversion of CSXT Temporary Track to VRE Storage Track (1,350 feet) and Associated Signal Work	◆	◆	◆	N/A	●	●
Lifecycle Overhaul and Upgrade Facility	New LOU facility to be added to the Crossroads MSF.	◆	◆	◆	N/A	◆	■
Crossroads Maintenance and Storage Facility Land Acquisition	Acquisition of 16.5 acres of land, construction of two storage tracks and stormwater retention and new	◆	N/A	N/A	●	N/A	N/A
Midday Storage	New York Avenue Storage Facility: Planning, environmental and preliminary engineering.	◆	●	●	●		

ROLLING STOCK

Passenger Railcar Procurement	Acquisition of 29 new railcars.	◆	N/A	N/A	N/A	◆	◆
Positive Train Control	Implement Positive Train Control for all VRE locomotives and control cars.	◆	N/A	N/A	N/A	◆	●

PLANNING, COMMUNICATIONS AND IT

Broad Run Expansion (was Gainesville-Haymarket Extension)	NEPA and PE for expanding commuter rail service capacity in Western Prince William County	◆	●	●	-	-	-
Mobile Ticketing	Implementation of a new mobile ticketing system.	◆	N/A	N/A	N/A	◆	●










PHASE: CD - Conceptual Design PD - Preliminary Design EC - Environment Clearance

RW - Right of Way Acquisition FD - Final Design CN - Construction

STATUS: ◆ Completed ● Underway ■ On Hold

¹ Total project cost estimate in adopted FY2018 CIP Budget

² Does not include minor (< \$50,000) operating expenditures

Total ¹	ESTIMATED COSTS (\$)				COMPLETION		STATUS
	Funded	Unfunded	Authorized	Expended ²	Percent	Date	
32,500,000	32,500,000	-	33,285,519	30,578,003	100%	3rd QTR 2018	 Close-out pending repair of storm damage to embankment.
3,965,000	3,965,000	-	2,937,323	1,672,293	50%	3rd QTR 2018	 Invitation for Bids (IFB) for construction of wayside power approved June 2018.
38,183,632	38,183,632	-	3,176,039	2,126,399	90%	TBD	 Design 100% complete. On hold pending property acquisition.
2,950,000	2,950,000	-	2,950,000	139,154	95%	TBD	 FTA approved appraisal; offer package under legal review.
89,666,508	89,666,508	-	3,588,305	1,491,586	25%	4th QTR 2018	 Site survey underway to confirm conceptual layout; Conrail appraisal completed and under legal review.
75,264,693	75,264,693	-	69,457,809	47,915,644	95%	4th QTR 2020	 All cars received. Completion date reflects end of warranty period.
10,553,000	10,553,000	-	10,294,079	7,984,451	80%	4th QTR 2018	 Onboard installations ongoing.
137,230,000	83,825,501	53,404,499	5,208,845	3,990,226	22%	4th QTR 2022	 PD for expansion of existing Broad Run complex and 3rd main track is underway, including preliminary engineering and NEPA review.
3,510,307	3,510,307	-	3,510,627	2,168,462	65%	2nd QTR 2019	 Rate My Ride is live in app. Big Commerce/Moovel collaboration underway for web based ticketing portal.

VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE

RIDE

OCTOBER 2018

IN THIS ISSUE:

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PUBLIC HEARINGS (p7)



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FUTURE ON-SITE VRE STATION



FEATURES AND PRODUCTS VARY BY COMMUNITY. PRICE, OFFERS,
FINANCING AND AVAILABILITY ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

Brookfield
Residential

NVHomes

Pulte
Homes

Ryan
Homes

SunCal

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09 | PUZZLES & CARTOON



ATTENTION NEW RIDERS

New to VRE? Welcome aboard! This magazine is distributed on our trains monthly, and offers our riders insight on our current projects as well as information on area happenings. In addition to signing up for Train Talk alerts at vre.org, please use this magazine to stay informed.



ADVERTISING IN RIDE MAGAZINE

ADVERTISING REVENUE COVERS
PRODUCTION AND PRINTING COSTS.



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Editor in Chief: Cindy King

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Access RIDE online at
VRE.org/RIDE



FROM THE CEO

YES, WE ARE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



DOUG ALLEN
Chief Executive Officer

We are public transportation, and as such, we actively work with and receive regulatory oversight from several Federal agencies including the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Much of our work with these agencies is focused on safety and security, and is supported by a two-way dialogue. Sometimes we are responsible for reporting information to an agency, as with the FTA's National Transit Database (NTD). The NTD serves as the American transit system's repository of financial data including funding source information, as well as the repository of data pertaining to agency operating and asset conditions. NTD Data Reports – Agency Profiles and Summaries and Trends – are available at transit.dot.gov/ntd. NTD's reports provide a great level of visibility and in pertaining to VRE, offer a snapshot of our annual passenger miles, weekday trips, and more.

As we are public transportation, we follow many standardized procedures and you have visibility into our activities. Coupling our team's strong belief in customer service and transparency of performance results – we serve you, the rider. We're always available for questions, and encourage you to reach out to us through our website, on our monthly Online Forum, or by giving us a call.

Sincerely,

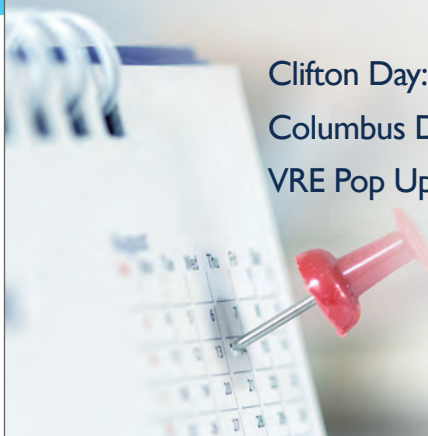
DOUG ALLEN
Chief Executive Officer
Virginia Railway Express

DATES TO REMEMBER

Clifton Day: October 7th

Columbus Day (No VRE Service): October 8th

VRE Pop Up Event at Quantico: October 17th



THIS SUMMER'S ON-TIME PERFORMANCE CHALLENGES

As all VRE riders are aware, we have faced some major challenges in maintaining our high standard of On Time Performance (OTP) for the past few months. The environment in which we operate presents some unique conditions and we have built a reputation on being able to navigate those conditions and deliver a safe trip, while getting passengers to their destinations on time. We understand the frustration of our riders and continue to work with our host railroads to manage some of the causes of these delays.

On September 21st, we presented a summary of the delays along with the primary causes to the VRE Operations Board. The intent was not to make excuses, but to share the information simply to keep everyone better informed. We fully understand our riders generally do not care about the reasons why we are late, they just want to get to and from work on time. However in the interest of full disclosure, we thought sharing this information here may be beneficial.

We looked at March 2018 as an example of an average month. We had 47 delayed trains in March (delayed meaning more than five minutes late to their final destinations), resulting in a system OTP of 92%. The delayed trains were a reflection of the normal things we see on the railroad including some train interference from Amtrak and freight trains, a few signal and switch issues, and a few other minor routine issues.

Contrasting an average month (March) with July and August, we see the summer months with a spike in train interference, major issues with signals getting through the Amtrak tunnel into and out of Union Station, weather related delays, and speed restrictions due to track work. Please see the full list of delay causes below, and the number of corresponding late trains.

Cause of Delays	# Trains Delayed		
	March	July	August
Amtrak Signal Issues-Tunnel	0	67	51
Weather (Heat/Flash Flood)	0	36	46
Train Interference	27	35	71
Switch/Signal Issues	12	13	12
Brush Fire	0	7	0
CSX Tie Replacement	0	0	28
KRSV (Keolis)	1	2	1
Medical/Police	1	1	1
Testing	2	0	0
Passenger Handling	4	0	0
Total Trains Delayed	47	161	210
On Time Performance	92%	76%	71%



Once again, this information is being provided simply as information. VRE continues to work daily with our host railroads to help minimize these delays and get back to the reliability we have all come to expect. We would like to thank all of our riders for their patience and understanding as we work through these issues.

Amtrak Signal Issues

The summer's storms led to saturated electrical and signal equipment in the tunnel leading to Union Station. The water caused improper Track Occupancy Lights to appear in the signal system. Those improper indications simulated the presence of a train, which required trains to be given permission by the signals, and to proceed at an extremely slow speed. This resulted in delays and congestion coming in and out of Union Station. Amtrak is working to solve the issue with the signal system.

Weather

Speed restrictions due to heat are not unusual during the summer, but this year has also seen multiple occurrences of flash flood speed restrictions, and high wind warnings which require trains to stop completely.

Train Interference

As mentioned previously, there will always be some level of interference from other trains. However, the delays VRE has experienced recently are largely attributable to two factors.

First, is the ongoing impact of a CSX derailment south of Alexandria back in May. While the loss of track one south of Alexandria to Springfield does not directly impact VRE's ability to operate, the railroad's inability to put freight trains on track one in Springfield has meant freight trains crossing in front of VRE trains at the Alexandria/Franconia (AF) interlocking. AF is also the point where VRE's Fredericksburg and Manassas Lines merge. Adding the freight trains to the mix there has added to congestion and has limited the railroad's ability to recover from disruptions which do occur. CSX continues to work on restoring track one and the bridge which was damaged by the derailment, and anticipates having work completed at the end of the year.

The second factor in the summer's raised train interference numbers was the derailment in the Amtrak tunnel on August 2nd. The incident occurred just prior to our afternoon service, and impacted nearly every VRE train because we were unable to get the trains from the storage yard north of Union Station and pass to head south. We were also unable to stop most trains at the platforms in Union Station, so many riders who typically board at Union had to get to L'Enfant. The number of trains delayed and the length of those delays combined to make August 2nd VRE's worst day ever for total delay minutes.



Image: Damage from CSX's freight train derailment near Alexandria in May.

CSX Tie Replacement

Fredericksburg riders have seen the many ties stacked along the railroad. This particular project is much larger than most we have seen, with CSX replacing over 30,000 ties in a 30 mile stretch of railroad. Once the ties and ballast are replaced, speed restrictions are placed on the specific track until a set tonnage passes over the area to allow the area to settle properly. The work is completed overnight so the tracks are available for VRE trains in the morning, but the speed restrictions remain in place until enough traffic can be routed over those tracks. The challenge for VRE is most of our platforms are on track 2, and the initial phase of the project was done on track 2, requiring VRE trains to abide by the speed restrictions. That's why some passengers may have seen other trains running on Track 3 at regular speed.

2018 CLIFTON DAY FESTIVAL

One of Northern Virginia's favorite fall events, the Clifton Day Festival, will take place on Sunday, October 7th from 9 am to 5 pm in the scenic town of Clifton.

Vendors & Activities

Under the theme "Small-town charm, big-time fun," the 2018 festival will feature a marketplace with around 150 artisans, antique dealers, vintage sellers and other vendors. Live music, children's activities, pony rides, a beer & wine garden and other delicious food and beverage choices will add to the fun.

This year's festival will also include a display of LOVEwork letters provided by the Virginia Tourism Corporation. Visitors can take selfies with the eight-foot-tall LOVE letters, which will be located on Ayre Square at the corner of Main Street and Chapel Road.

Festival History

The Clifton Day Festival, hosted by the Clifton Betterment Association (CBA), arose from a 1960s revitalization effort for the historic town of Clifton, which had fallen into a state of disrepair since its incorporation in 1902. Residents decided to hold a festival in 1967 as a way to attract the public to the place they called home. The annual festival, now in its 51st year, has been going strong ever since on the Sunday before Columbus Day.

Each year, Clifton Day raises funds for the Girl and Boy Scouts, Clifton Lions Club, Acacia Lodge, the Clifton Presbyterian Church and other nonprofit groups. Sponsors for 2018 include F.H. Furr Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning & Electrical; Norfolk Southern; Ourisman Fairfax Toyota; Peterson Companies; Republic; United Bank; Villagio Hospitality Group; and VRE.

Admission & Getting There

Admission is free. Parking starts at five dollars per car. VRE will provide roundtrip train service to Clifton from all stops between Manassas and Rolling Road. The train ride to Clifton is free, and the return trip costs \$5 per person (children under age two ride free).

For more information about Clifton Day, visit cliftonday.com or the festival's Facebook page.



Clifton Day is the only day of the year when the VRE stops in the town.



Like the festival on Facebook for more great pictures.



BURKE VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Each Wednesday, Regular BINGO sessions start at 7:45pm
9501 Old Burke Lake R, Burke, VA 22015

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and Early Bird games begin at 7:00 p.m. The Regular session follows and typically begins between 7:45 pm – 8:00 pm. In addition to 10 Early Bird games and 21 regular session bingo games during the evening, the department also plays a Progressive game, Pick 7, and a end of the night, cover-all Jackpot for \$1,000.

36TH ANNUAL MANASSAS FALL JUBILEE

October 6, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Historic Downtown Manassas
Center Street, Manassas, VA 20110

This year's Jubilee will include an assortment of fun for both kids and adults with over 100 crafter and community booths, live music and entertainment, and more! The Fall Jubilee is free to the public. Bring the family out for a day of fun – play games, shop at unique crafter booths, and so much more!

23RD ANNUAL ART SAFARI

October 13, 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

An Alexandria tradition for more than two decades, Art Safari returns for a day of hands-on activities for kids and families. Dozens of artists lead budding arts enthusiasts in hands-on projects throughout the building. Children should wear clothing that can get a little dirty. Most activities are appropriate for ages 5 – 11. Some parental participation may be required.

UMW PHILHARMONIC FIDDLESTIX INSTRUMENT PETTING ZOO

October 27, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Dodd Auditorium, 1301 College Ave
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401

The Fiddlestix Instrument Petting Zoo will be a Halloween event on Saturday, Oct 27, 2018 from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm in Dodd Auditorium. Kids and families will meet the principal players of the Philharmonic orchestra up close and personal. The musicians will demonstrate each instrument for the kids, who will get a chance to try them out. Dr. Bartram will also be giving conducting lessons on stage! There will be games and lots of fun. The event will conclude with a brief concert for the kids. No reservation or tickets required.



Manager – Safety and Security

Warehouse Specialist

Warehouse Intern

PRTC is also hiring! Visit omniride.com for more on the following:

Graphic & Web Designer

Sr. VanPool Program Associate



Fiddlestix Halloween "SPOOKTACULAR"

Concert and Instrument Petting Zoo

Meet the instruments of the orchestra starting at 3pm followed by a Halloween concert at 4pm!

Saturday, Oct. 27 from 3 - 5 pm
Dodd Auditorium

FREE and Open to the Public!

COSTUMES ARE ENCOURAGED!

umwphilharmonic.com 540-654-1324

Voters Who Commute on Election Day:

Commuters are eligible to vote by absentee ballot in advance of Election Day. Commuters can use Reason Codes 1C, 1D, or 1E.
www.vote.virginia.gov

Vote by Mail: You can vote in the comfort of your own home by having a ballot mailed to you. In order to have a ballot mailed to you, voters must fill out and submit an application to the Office of Elections. Apply for your mail ballot online at the Virginia Department of Elections > Ways to Vote > Vote Absentee by Mail.



This voting information was prepared as a public service by the Prince William County Office of Elections for the citizens and voters of Prince William County. This information is not affiliated with any political party or candidate.

Phone: 703-792-6470
 Email: pwcvote@pwcgov.org
 Website: www.pwcvotes.com

Text PWCVOTES to 94253
to get Voting Updates and Election Reminders!



-or-

Vote at a Prince William County Absentee Vote Center: Voters who plan to visit an Absentee Vote Center do not need to submit an application online beforehand. Simply show up at the Vote Center most convenient for you with your Photo ID. All Vote Centers are open 8:30am to 5:00pm. **Visit pwcvotes.com for a complete schedule including Saturday hours.**

Prince William County Absentee Vote Center Locations:

Main Office of Elections

9250 Lee Avenue, Suite 1, Manassas, VA 20110

DMV Office of Elections

2731 Caton Hill Road, Woodbridge, VA 22192

Haymarket Gainesville Community Library

14780 Lightner Road, Haymarket, VA 20169

LAST DAY TO VOTE ABSENTEE

Saturday November 3

All Vote Centers open 8:30am to 5:00pm

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NEXT SUMMER'S PROPOSED FARE INCREASE

Each summer, we begin preparing the budget for the following fiscal year based on known factors and educated forecasts. In order to sustainably and equitably support the costs of providing our service, the VRE Operations Board has directed that passenger fares and jurisdictional subsidy contributions should be increased in alternating years. Following a jurisdictional subsidy increase in Fiscal Year 2019, we are proposing a 3% average fare increase for Fiscal Year 2020. This proposed increase will help VRE continue to meet its requirement of covering at least 50% of our operating costs through ticket sales.

Any increases will not go into effect before July 1, 2019, which is the beginning of our next fiscal year.

50% FAREBOX RECOVERY

VRE must maintain a 50% farebox recovery ratio in accordance with our Master Agreement. This means that fare revenues must cover at least 50% of all operating costs. The remaining operating costs are covered by jurisdictional subsidies and other grants.

OPERATING BUDGET & OUTSIDE FACTORS

We carefully develop our budget each year and look for ways to reduce costs while still delivering safe and reliable service. However, there are factors beyond our control that tend to increase our costs each year. These factors include implementation of the federally-mandated Positive Train Control (PTC) system as well as contractual increases in track access fees and train operations.

WHAT WILL A FARE INCREASE LOOK LIKE?

For most riders, the proposed fare increase over a one month period equates to less than the cost of one fast food meal.

For the complete proposed fare chart, visit: vre.org/proposedfares



PUBLIC COMMENTS PROCESS

VRE HOLDS PUBLIC HEARINGS.

VRE COLLECTS PUBLIC COMMENTS.

VRE COMPILES ALL COMMENTS.

VRE PRESENTS TO THE OPERATIONS BOARD.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

VRE will hold a series of public hearings starting this month on the proposed 3% average fare increase. VRE staff will review the proposed fare increase in the context of VRE's preliminary Fiscal Year 2020 budget, and members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments. These public comments will be compiled along with written comments that VRE receives. The members of the VRE Operations Board will be provided the comments prior to a decision on the final Fiscal Year 2020 budget in December. A full date and location list is available on our website at: vre.org/publiccomment

For those who are unable to attend a public hearing but would like to learn more, a copy of the presentation is also available on our website.

Written comments will be accepted through Friday, November 23, 2018. Mail written comments to: Public Comment, 1500 King Street, Suite 202, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. Comments may also be submitted to: publiccomment@vre.org or via fax at (703) 684-1313.

Example Ticket	Current	Proposed	Difference
Monthly Pass: Spotsylvania to Union	\$327.60	\$336.80	\$9.20
Monthly Pass: Broad Run to Union	\$268.60	\$277.20	\$8.60
Monthly Pass: Backlick to Union	\$209.60	\$216.20	\$6.60
Single Ride: Spotsylvania to Union	\$11.90	\$12.15	\$0.25
Single Ride: Broad Run to Union	\$9.80	\$10.00	\$0.20

BACKPACK, OR SMACK-ATTACK?

Backpacks are common with commuters as backpacks naturally make it easy to carry everything needed for the ride. You may be surprised however that while your backpack is convenient for you, it may be inconvenient for your fellow riders at times.

We receive requests each month to remind riders to be mindful of their backpacks. It seems too often, unsuspecting riders are bumped and knocked by a backpack being hurriedly thrown on or quickly spun around.



Additionally, backpacks and other bags should not be placed in empty seats while new riders are boarding, unless there is a corresponding (second) validated ticket.

Please note we appreciate you and your backpack, and appreciate that you have chosen us for your commute ... but we do ask that all backpack wearers make sure they are considerate of fellow riders.



Ideas, Likes, Critiques?
RIDE Magazine Online Survey:
vre.org/ridesurvey

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Reach our passengers with advertising opportunities on our platforms, in our trains and through our award-winning RIDE Magazine. 70 percent of passengers have an annual household income of more than \$100,000.

For more information, visit:
vre.org/advertising

Contact:
advertising@vre.org
(703) 838-5417

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



3	2	7	5	6	4	8	1	9
1	5	4	3	9	8	6	7	2
8	9	6	1	2	7	5	4	3
2	1	9	6	4	3	7	8	5
4	6	8	9	7	5	3	2	1
7	3	5	2	8	1	4	9	6
9	7	2	4	3	6	1	5	8
5	8	3	7	1	2	9	6	4
6	4	1	8	5	9	2	3	7

RAIL TIME PUZZLES

ACROSS

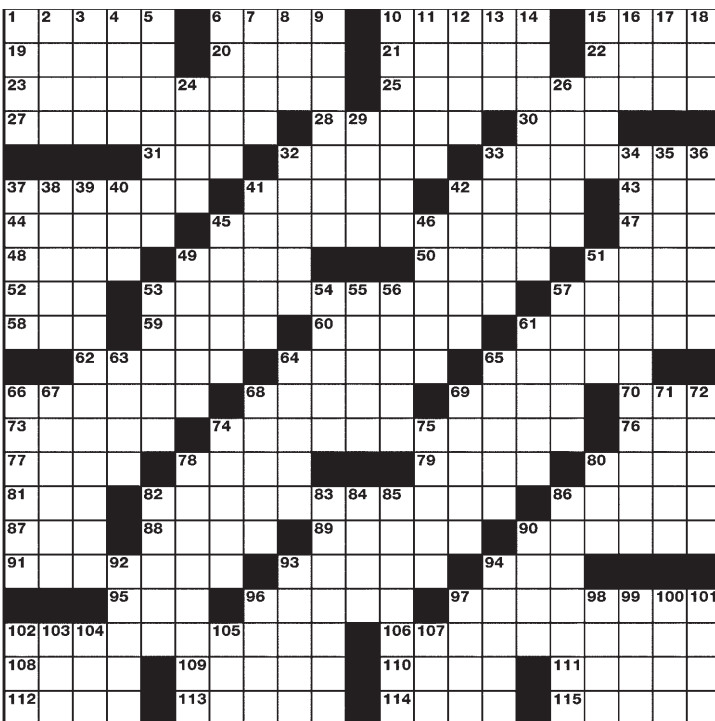
- 1 Elegant quality
6 Six-Emy Alan
10 Socially unacceptable
15 Poet Angelou
19 Strive for
20 County of Hawaii
21 Online payment option
22 Highest level
23 Scott Adams job before *Dilbert*
25 John Adams' new home in 1800
27 One way to leave the airport
28 Sunshade
30 Musical talent
31 Telltale sign of a shark
32 Building supports
33 They're essential to email addresses
37 Aggregated
41 Cuban "line" dance
42 HS exam
43 "Alley _!"
44 Construction 32 Across
45 Ansel Adams' field
47 Wall St. takeover
48 Squarish
49 "Mötley" rock group
50 Is in debt
51 Middle of the fifth century
52 Unrefined
53 John Quincy Adams' post-presidential job
57 Shape of some cheeses
58 Eroded
59 Betting stats
60 Citi Field player
61 Ctr. of many small towns
62 Flatten
64 Congestion setting
65 On the way out
66 Had discussions

DOWN

- 68 Preliminary races
69 Very much
70 _ cit. (footnote notation)
73 Lois Lane colleague
74 "Audience" for Douglas Adams' . . . *Guide to the Galaxy*
76 Yoko _
77 Two state trees
78 Innate talent
79 Four and five
80 Genesis shepherd
81 Relaxing resort
82 Edie Adams' spouse and partner in comedy
86 Unhandy
87 Vb. designation
88 Obscure, with "up"
89 Written permanently
90 Twitches
91 Curt denial
93 Thug
94 "Mamma _!"
95 Harry Potter pal
96 _ nova (Brazilian dance)
97 Library endower
102 _ Institute (Patch Adams medical facility)
106 Character in John Adams' opera *Nixon in China*
108 Metal in magnets
109 Be melodramatic
110 Just hanging around
111 Smoothie flavor
112 Stare (at)
113 Poet Mark Van _
114 Auction signals
115 Beasts of burden

ACROSS

- 5 Attacks from above
6 Mideast capital
7 Mary follower
8 Expected soon
9 Circulation aid
10 *Time*, for one
11 Spanish figure-skating figures
12 India-born director
13 Winter hrs. in Oregon
14 Spotted speedsters
15 New Zealand native
16 *Simpsons* shopkeeper
17 "May I help you?"
18 Firefighting tool
24 Corrosive
26 Too fast
29 Shakespearean schemer
32 Unhappy spectator
33 Rocky Mountain resort
34 Two film awards won by Amy Adams
35 Bluebloods
36 Went bad, in Britain
37 Only inanimate zodiac sign
38 WWII sub
39 Don Adams' TV spy role
40 Be too interested
41 Steam engine sounds
42 Handle roughly
43 Gearshift letters
46 Apples for baking
49 Needing deciphering
51 Facial feature
53 Assembly of witches
54 1940s computer
55 Electronic instrument, for short
56 Crumple up, so to speak
57 Bides one's time
61 "And to all a good-night!" poet



- 63 Scrapes (out)
64 Number of hills of Roma
65 Secluded valleys
66 Hammers at an angle
67 NFLer's honor
68 Stereo systems
69 Get _ out of (savor)
71 Early afternoon
72 Stallions-to-be
74 Depend (on)
75 Making no sense

- 78 Sensible and well-balanced
80 Santa _, CA
82 Actor Zac
83 New York senator
84 Gillibrand
84 Difficult duty
85 Thiamine, for instance
86 Beach of Rio
90 Gents
92 Main stem of a sycamore
93 Nightclub

- 94 Matching socks
96 "To _ not to . . ."
97 How gazpacho is served
98 Pilot projections
99 Revs
100 *Bus Stop* dramatist
101 What flattery feeds
102 Band's date
103 Span of history
104 Farm female
105 Managed care grp.
107 Fuss

SUDOKU

		1		5			3	
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8	9		1					
		4			8	6		2
	2			6		8		



"Fine, have it your way. About your mother tell me."

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