



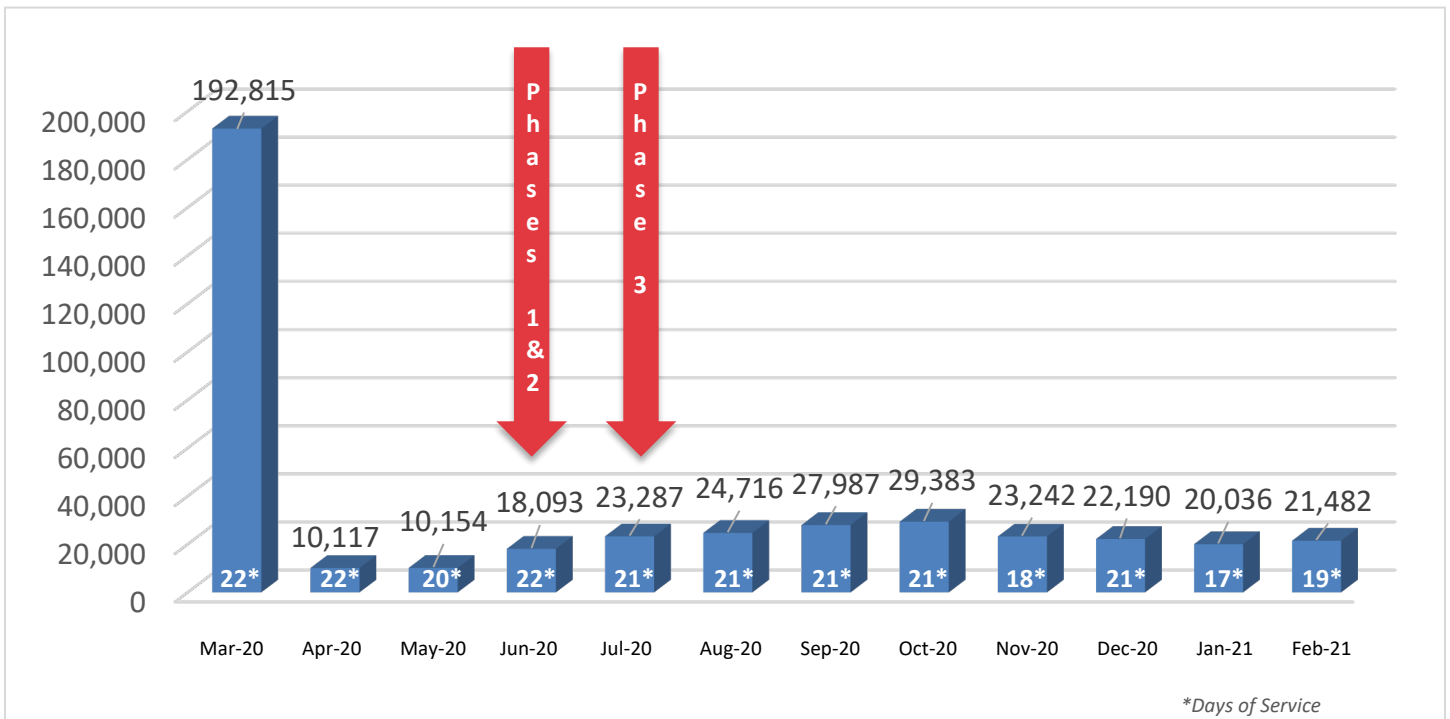
TO: Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission Chair Franklin and Commissioners  
 FROM: Rich Dalton, Chief Executive Officer  
 DATE: March 24, 2021  
 SUBJECT: VRE Monthly Update

Ridership rose slightly in February. The advent of spring and the increasing number of vaccinations being administered in the commonwealth should bolster ridership in the months ahead. Here’s what ridership looks like over the past four weeks compared to the same weeks in 2020.

Week Ending	2021 Ridership	2021 Average Daily Ridership	2020 Ridership	Numeric Difference	Percentage Difference
February 26	6,586	1,317	90,419	-83,833	-92.7%
March 5	6,810	1,362	81,886	-75,076	-91.7%
March 12	6,829	1,366	76,718	-69,889	-91.1%
March 19	6,682	1,336	15,553	- 8,871	-57.0%

### Monthly Ridership

March 2020 - February 2021



VRE continues to operate an S+ schedule and monitor ridership to allow for social distancing. We regularly update our [train utilization web page](#), which is a great tool for riders looking to maximize their social distance.

Our Continuity of Operations team meets virtually each day and is in constant contact. VRE's supply chain, staffing, business processes, and other functional areas remain in good shape.

The \$1.9 trillion coronavirus aid package, signed March 11 by President Biden, will provide transit agencies nationwide with \$30.5 billion. The infusion will be the third injection of federal aid that public transportation providers have received since the pandemic began last March. The Washington Post reports that the national capital region will receive \$1.4 billion. "While the bulk of those funds would go to Metro, other transit systems in the region, including the Virginia Railway Express and MARC commuter rail systems, also would receive funds," the paper noted. We are awaiting confirmation of the amount the region will receive and how the funds will be allocated.

The federal government's previous aid package - the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, which was signed into law on December 27, 2020 - allocated nearly \$831 million to Section 5307 recipients in the Washington, D.C. region. VRE anticipates receiving \$65-\$69 million. Staff recommended to Operations Board members at their March meeting that the funds be used to offset jurisdictional subsidies and the commonwealth's track access fee reimbursement for fiscal year 2022 and, potentially, fiscal year 2023. The use of these funds will be a topic of discussion at the board's April meeting.