



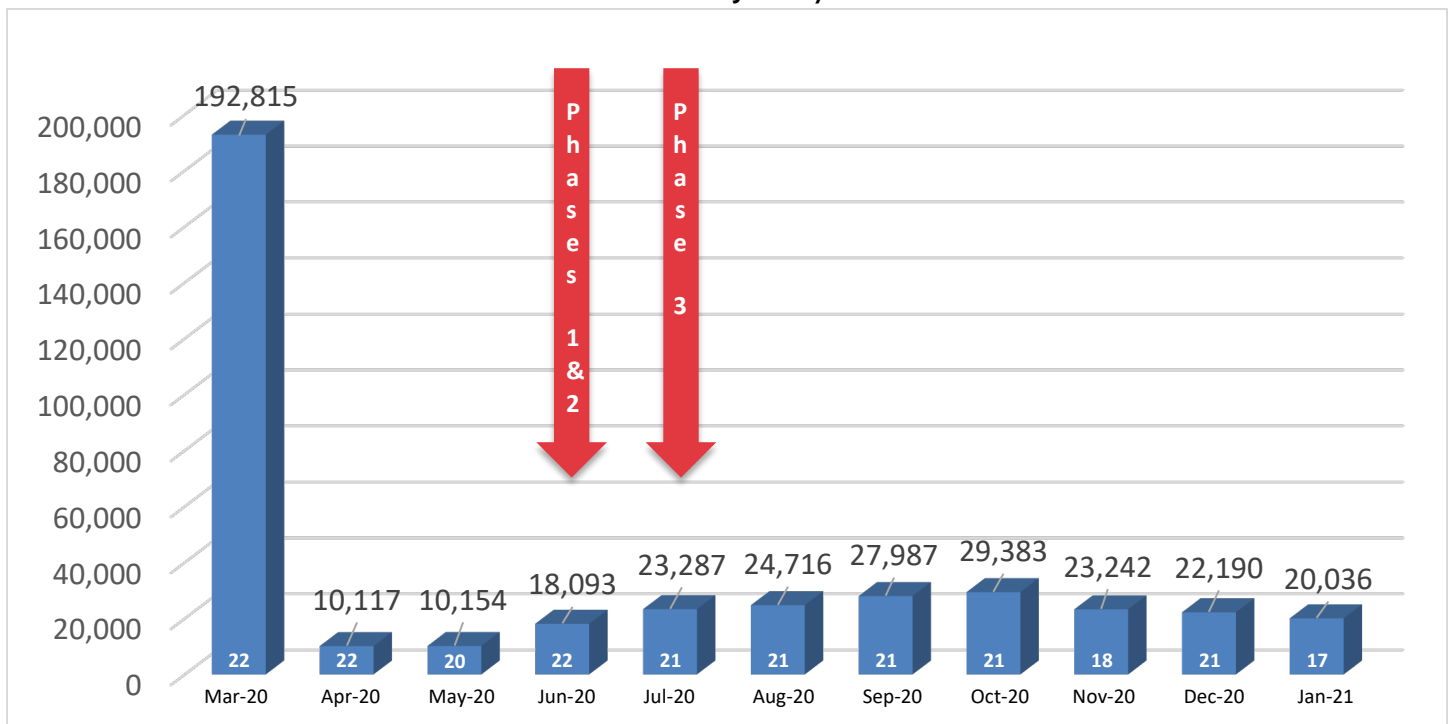
TO: Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission Chair Franklin and Commissioners
 FROM: Rich Dalton, Chief Executive Officer
 DATE: February 24, 2021
 SUBJECT: VRE Monthly Update

Between the pandemic and winter weather, ridership has remained below what we experienced in late fall. 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
January 29	5,891	1,178	93,744	-87,847	-93.7%
February 5	5,164	1,033	93,652	-88,488	-94.5%
February 12	5,893	1,179	91,113	-85,220	-93.5%
February 19*	3,799	950	74,499	-70,700	-94.9%

*Four days of service

Monthly Ridership March 2020 - January 2021



*Days of Service

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.

Additional COVID relief funding for public transportation has been the topic of several recent conversations I've had with federal officials. Earlier this month, I and other transportation leaders in the region had the opportunity to meet with the new Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg, to discuss our legislative priorities. At a media event, held on a platform at Union Station following the meeting, Sec. Buttigieg personally thanked front line workers, including four of our conductors, for their work during the pandemic.

A similar discussion with U.S. Senator Mark Warner took place last week at NVTC's offices. The senator is involved in negotiating the details of the pending COVID relief package now before Congress. He also urged the transportation leaders around the table, including Virginia Transportation Secretary Shannon Valentine, to think big and bold about ways to use transportation dollars in upcoming infrastructure legislation.

Between the two meetings, I spoke with Nuria Fernandez, the acting FTA administrator. We primarily discussed the health and safety of our transit workers and COVID-19 financial relief. She was interested in our projections for the return of ridership and the need for additional relief dollars. We briefly spoke about "opportunities" for transit in general and VRE specifically as well as what our business could look like in a post-COVID environment.

I look forward to seeing you at the Commission's March meeting. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.