



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

TO: Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission Chair Franklin and Commissioners

FROM: Rich Dalton, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: October 28, 2020

SUBJECT: VRE Monthly Update

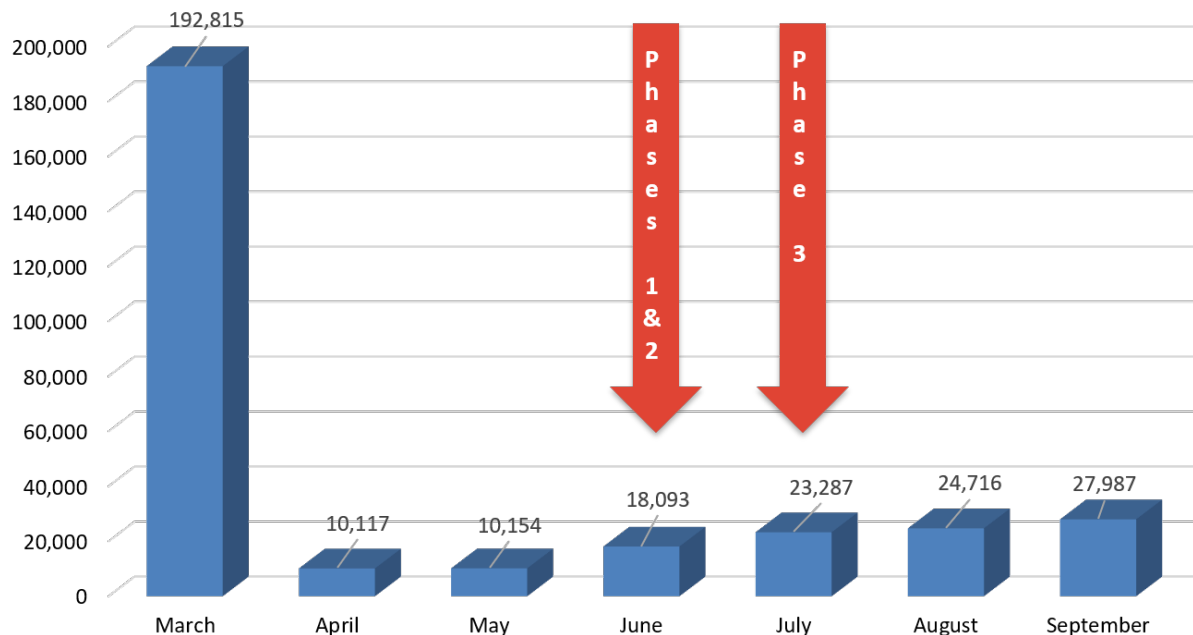
Ridership continues to increase slowly. On October 20, we exceeded 1,600 daily riders, the highest level since March 19. Ridership for the week ending October 23 was 3.5 times larger than the week ending April 10, when we experienced our lowest ridership. Here's what ridership looks like over the past four weeks compared to the same weeks in 2019.

Week Ending	2020 Ridership	2020 Average Daily Ridership	2019 Ridership	Numeric Difference	Percentage Difference
October 02	7,055	1,411	95,975	-88,920	-92.6%
October 09	6,815	1,363	94,527	-87,712	-92.8%
October 16*	5,614	1,405	77,009	-71,395	-92.7%
October 23	7,249	1,450	93,901	-86,652	-92.3%

*Four days of service

MONTHLY RIDERSHIP

March - September 2020



We continue to operate an S+ schedule and monitor ridership to allow for social distancing. Based on the ability to manage social distancing at current ridership levels, we have no immediate plans to add trains. We regularly update and improve our [train utilization web page](#), which is a great tool for riders looking to maximize their social distance.

Our multi-pronged ridership recovery campaign continues to evolve, as we emphasize the measures we have taken to protect the health and safety of our riders and train crews. We have been running targeted radio ads on WASH (97.1) and will begin sponsoring traffic reports on WTOP (103.5) in November. Streaming services are part of the campaign. Our 30-second video is playing on Smart TVs, Firesticks, Roku, etc. within a 10-mile radius of stations south of Lorton and Burke Centre. Traditional social media and partnerships are also part of the equation.

Work to finalize the fiscal year 2021 amended and fiscal year 2022 recommended budgets continues. Department and division leaders have had the opportunity to detail their needs and share their respective outlooks as we continue to navigate these unprecedented times.

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.

As an ex-officio member of the newly created [Virginia Passenger Rail Authority](#) (VPRA), I was pleased to join DRPT Director Jennifer Mitchell and other distinguished board members for an inaugural meeting on October 26. Once fully operational, VPRA will be responsible for promoting, sustaining and expanding passenger and commuter rail service in the commonwealth. The VPRA board will meet quarterly as it implements the [Transforming Rail in Virginia](#) program.