

M5 Mentees Graduated in December

In early December, five mentees graduated from the 2021 M5 OmniRide Mentoring Program: Nick Bauer, Rodalyn Canlas, Alyssa Ludwiczak, Vincent Walker, and Deborah Webb. The program is modeled on the simple idea of developing OmniRide employees as a team of positive, constructive leaders while also building a culture of mutual support and respect for one another.

The M5 group were assigned to read “Bring Your Whole Self to Work: How Vulnerability Unlocks Creativity, Connection, and Performance” by Mike Robbins. Each mentee and mentor received a copy of the book that was signed by the author.

The M5 group members and entire OmniRide staff were invited to Leadership Spotlights. These included presentations by Ross Snare, Prince William County Chamber of Commerce COO; and Victor Angry, Supervisor and Chairman of the PRTC Board. Mentees received a copy of Chair Angry’s book “Angry Leadership: My Seven Guiding Principles of Leadership.”

Since its inception, a total of 55 OmniRide/First Transit/Keolis employees have participated in the program as either a mentee or mentor. M5 mentors included Bonnie Doherty, Loren Hill, Kristy Lockhart, Perrin Palistrant, and Chris Terry.

For more information on participating in the next group, contact Morello at hmorello@omniride.com or Porter-Johnson at cporter-johnson@omniride.com.



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OmniRide and Keolis Stay in the Know

NVTC-PRTC Joint Legislative Briefing:

In December employees from both OmniRide and Keolis attended the NVTC-PRTC Joint Legislative Briefing in Springfield. It was an opportunity to hear from transit leaders about the latest developments at the state and federal level and to get an overview of federal and state issues affecting transit in Northern Virginia. Attendees heard about the financial health and future plans for OmniRide, VRE, and WMATA. The briefing was also attended by members of the PRTC Board of Commissioners.



VTA:

In September employees from both OmniRide and Keolis attended the VTA annual meeting in Tysons Corner. The two-day conference included remarks by former Governor Ralph Northam, DRPT Director Jennifer Mitchell, and FTA Administrator Nuria Fernandez. Remarks were also made virtually by Senator Mark Warner, Former Governor Terry McAuliffe, and current Governor Glenn Youngkin. OmniRide's Byren Lloyd, Perrin Palistrant, and Joe Stainsby also presented at individual roundtables.

At an Awards Luncheon the VTA honored OmniRide with the Exceptional Safety Award, which was accepted on behalf of the organization by Executive Director Bob Schneider and OmniRide Director of Safety and Security Byren Lloyd. The award recognizes innovation and success in the development, implementation, and measurement of a safety culture.



State of OmniRide

By Bob Schneider



As OmniRide has taken down the 2021 calendar to put up 2022's, it provides an opportunity to reflect on where we are, and where we are headed for the next year.

COVID has resulted in new thinking about community mobility as people now commute all day instead of at rush hours. OmniRide responded by adjusting service levels to match commuter demands so buses run less frequently but for extended periods of time. But we need to consider what other adaptations will be necessary:

- Is it time to model commuter services after fixed route operations with all-day service and increased frequency at peak levels?
- Do we need to consider operating those services later in the evening?
- If work-from-home is a larger part of life in the Capitol District, do we need more robust local service options for families who want to reduce their number of vehicles while still being able to shop and play?

Turning our attention to local service, we are proposing to replicate Saturday service on Sundays and expand our service footprint through micro-transit solutions in both the Manassas Park and Dumfries/Quantico areas. It's also time to realign our local services in eastern Prince William County and improve local transit options along the I-95 corridor, especially in Coles, Dale City, Dumfries, Hoadly, Lake Ridge, and Woodbridge.

Facilities and infrastructure are another focus of attention in 2022. Not only do we need to finish the full upfit of the new Western Maintenance Facility in Manassas, but it's time to invest in upgrading our Woodbridge facility. We've made piecemeal improvements there but the building itself needs significant attention. In FY23 we are focused on safety from an infrastructure and technology standpoint as well as upgrades to make the workplace more vibrant.

Our rolling stock is also receiving attention as we plan for the next generation of alternative fuels vehicles. One possibility we're examining is zero emissions buses, but it's vital that our service area have adequate fuel source infrastructure.

Finally, we are looking forward to continued progress in 2022 from three separate employee-driven programs that are helping to shape the individual, the team, and the community.

- The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group will bring its second formal report to the Board of Commissioners. This staff-driven team is creating opportunities for dialogue and helping to inform decision-making at the management and Commission levels.
- The Mentorship Program will continue to build relationships among staff members who wouldn't typically work together, bringing us closer as an organization.
- The newest staff-led group, the OmniRide Green Team, will focus on reducing our carbon footprint in the community through our business practices.

We have a lot on our plate for 2022, but this resilient and resourceful staff have already put OmniRide in the position to become the most innovative transportation system in all of Northern Virginia. Let's get to work...





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Thank You for Giving!

Thank you to all OmniRide and Keolis staff for giving so much back to the community we live and work in! As a result of your generosity, in 2021 we donated food/toys for local animals, toys for local children, and items for seniors.

Food/Toys for Local Animals – We donated over \$500 worth of items to ACTS, so recipients could provide for their pets. Items included food, toys, and beds for both dogs and cats.

Toys for Local Children/Senior Baskets – This year we had our BIGGEST donation to the area's Un-Trim-A-Tree program EVER! You donated nearly \$1,000 and five employees purchased gifts, allowing us to donate gifts for 18 children in eight families. Between additional funding and donations we provided nine senior baskets. You had a direct effect on the lives of 27 people in our community this season.

