



OMNI
RIDE

OmniNews

Passenger Newsletter

Commuter lot shuttles and flex vanpooling projects approved

A free on-demand shuttle service connecting western Prince William residents with nearby commuter lots, and a vanpooling program that will add more flexibility for commuters are two of OmniRide’s innovative approaches to ridesharing that have received funding approval.



The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) on June 20 approved \$12 million in funding for 15 projects that are designed to mitigate traffic and increase mobility on I-66. These 15 projects were recommended for funding by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC), which oversees the distribution of revenues generated by tolls on I-66 inside the Beltway.

OmniRide proposed three of the 15 approved projects that will receive funding. They are:

On-Demand Commuter Lot Shuttles (\$1.1 million) - Gainesville and Haymarket residents will be able to use an app to summon a free on-demand shuttle to nearby commuter lots where they can connect with transit, carpools or vanpools. The shuttle service will help resolve the lack of parking at area park and ride lots. It is expected to launch in summer 2019.

Flexible Vanpool Program

(\$318,000) - Commuters will have another option to fit their day-to-day needs, whether or not they are registered with a vanpool. Participants will use an app that will enable riders who are registered with one vanpool to ride with another, and will allow unregistered riders to catch a one-time ride. The program is expected to start in spring 2019.

Two additional trips on the Linton Hall Metro Direct route

(\$134,000) - OmniRide currently offers three weekday morning trips from Gainesville to the Tysons Corner Metro Station, and three return trips on weekday afternoons and evenings. This funding will enable OmniRide to add two trips to the schedule – one in the morning and one in the afternoon/evening to serve more riders. The new trips will likely be added in early 2019.

In 2016, during the program’s first round, NVTC funded OmniRide’s Gainesville-Pentagon bus route.

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OmniRide Spotlight

Marketing and Communications

Behind the scenes, our staff members are dedicated to improving the lives of area citizens by providing and promoting safe and reliable mobility services. Here's a quick look at our Marketing and Communications Department.

The Marketing and Communications Department is working to inform current riders as well as the general community about OmniRide's services and about the importance of having mobility options in our community.

Perhaps you've seen an OmniRide ad, visited the website, or picked up a printed schedule brochure—all these items are handled by the Marketing and Communications team.

Other department tasks include: sending Rider Express

email and text message notifications to subscribers; producing notices for use on-board buses and at bus stops; working with the media; and participating in community outreach, including teaching people the basics about using our services.

If you are part of a group that would benefit from a presentation about how to use our services, we're happy to help! Simply email Omni@OmniRide.com with your request!

The team recently accepted a new challenge: rebranding our



many transportation services under the name OmniRide. In order to be fiscally responsible, the rebranding isn't taking place all at once but is happening slowly as items are naturally replaced. For example, new schedule brochures printed for the Summer Service Change sport the new logo and service names.

Teen Summer Pass

The OmniRide Teen Summer Bus Pass is now on sale!

Teens ages 13-19 get unlimited rides through September 1 on all OmniRide Local buses and OmniRide Cross County Connector buses for \$30.



Visit OmniRide.com for more information!

New OmniRide buses coming soon

OmniRide is ordering 31 new MCI buses and three new Gillig buses, and expects most of the vehicles to arrive in late 2018.

The 45-foot MCIs will replace MCI Express buses that were built in 2002. These new buses, each costing about \$580,000, will enable OmniRide to run more reliable Express service on existing routes and for future expanded services along the Express Lanes on I-95/395 and I-66.

OmniRide also will purchase

three new 40-foot low-floor Gillig buses for use on Cross County and Metro Express routes.

The new Gilligs will have a second set of doors near the rear of the bus, enabling passengers to board at the front while other passengers exit from the rear, improving efficiency.

The cost for the Gilligs is about \$468,000 per bus.

Funding for the 31 new buses will come from a combination of state, federal and local sources.

Outstanding Employees

First Transit has a contract to provide bus operators and mechanics for OmniRide's transportation services. First Transit recognizes one outstanding operator each month, and an Operator of the Year is named annually. If you have a compliment about First Transit personnel, please tell us!

Operator of the Year 2017-2018

Milton Laing

The Operator of the Year is Milton Laing, who has been with OmniRide for more than 14 years. Mr. Laing is a Woodbridge resident who is originally from Jamaica. He currently operates trips on OmniRide Express routes serving Dale City, Tysons and Montclair and says that meeting people is what he likes most about his job. Mr. Laing is married with two children and enjoys cooking in his free time.



Operator of the Month

Jitendra Singh - April 2018

Originally from India, Mr. Singh has lived in the region for 26 years, and now calls Woodbridge home. He joined OmniRide in spring 2017 and currently operates trips on OmniRide Express routes serving Dale City and Manassas and the OmniRide Metro Express route serving Linton Hall. He's married and has two daughters. In his free time, he enjoys walking.



Patrice Brown - May 2018

Ms. Brown has been with OmniRide since 2003 and currently is assigned to trips on the OmniRide Local route serving Dumfries. A Washington, D.C. native, she now lives in Prince William and says that she enjoys being on the move for her work. She is a married mother of four, and in her spare time she enjoys watching sports, listening to music and doing word puzzles.



Incentives designed to ease I-66 commute

Passengers on OmniRide Express buses serving the Manassas and Gainesville areas are taking advantage of discounted fares during construction of Express Lanes on I-66.



Meanwhile those who want to start carpools or vanpools in the I-66 corridor also can take advantage of incentives to encourage ridesharing.

Riders are paying half-fares on OmniRide Express and OmniRide Metro Express buses that travel along I-66 for the duration of the construction, which is expected to last for four years. The discount applies to Manassas and Gainesville OmniRide Express buses serving points in Washington, D.C. and the Pentagon, as well as to OmniRide Metro Express buses to/from the Tysons Corner Metro Station.

Half-fares on those routes are funded by the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation to mitigate congestion during Express Lanes construction. The goal is to encourage commuters to use transit rather than driving alone.

One-way SmarTrip fares on OmniRide Express buses to the Pentagon and points in Washington, D.C. are \$3.45 instead of the regular \$6.90 fare, and on buses serving the Metro station are \$1.75 instead of the regular \$3.45 fare.

There are three primary commuter lots where passengers can board I-66 OmniRide Express buses, but riders are strongly encouraged to use the Portsmouth Road Commuter Lot, off Sudley Road in Manassas, because it has ample parking and adequate bus seating availability.

To learn more about ridesharing and transit, visit OmniRide.com or call (703) 730-6664.



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 Woodbridge, VA 22192
 703-730-6664
 OmniRide.com

Service Change on July 23

OmniRide’s Summer Service Change takes effect on Monday, July 23. Fares will remain unchanged. The modifications include:

- Retiming trips on OmniRide Express routes serving Dale City and Lake Ridge;
- Redistributing trips on OmniRide Express buses serving Dale City – Pentagon/Rosslyn/ Ballston;
- Extending additional Manassas – Washington OmniRide Express PM trips to the Cushing Road Commuter Lot to alleviate Gainesville overcrowding;
- Adding direct local service to neighborhood stops after 7 p.m. on Express routes serving Montclair and Dale City. As a result, the CLX trip will be eliminated; and
- Relocating the bus stop at Dale Boulevard and Glendale Road by 150 feet east.

New schedule brochures will be available in print and online by July 16.

During this service change, you’ll also notice that we’re changing the names of our services as part of our rebranding.

- PRTC becomes **OmniRide**. *(PRTC will still exist as an agency, but all of our bus and rideshare services will be known as Om-*

Did you see OmniRide on TV?



OmniRide visited Stonebridge at Potomac Town Center on July 6 and was part of the live audience for Fox 5’s morning news shows. We really enjoyed meeting our neighbors and informing them about their transportation options.

niRide.)

- OmniRide becomes **OmniRide Express**.
- Metro Direct becomes **OmniRide Metro Express**.
- OmniLink becomes **OmniRide Local**.
- Cross County Connector becomes **OmniRide Cross County Connector**.
- OmniMatch becomes **OmniRide Ridesharing Service**.