Director's Report

July 2025

DRPT

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



Next Stop: 2030
DRPT's Strategic Plan

Create a positive impact on the Commonwealth

- DRPT received its annual rail performance data.
  - In calendar year 2024, projects funded by DRPT's rail grants (Rail Industrial Access, Rail Preservation, and FREIGHT) transported nearly 4.8 million rail carloads of freight or the equivalent of 16.2 million truckloads.
  - Since 2017, DRPT's rail programs have transported the equivalent of 99.4 million truckloads of freight.
- The Virginia Breeze provided 5,210 trips in April 2025, up 12% over April 2024.
- April 2025 statewide transit ridership (including WMATA and VRE) was 13.7 million, up 14% from April 2024.
  - WMATA Virginia ridership in April 2025 was 8.0 million, a 17% increase over April 2024.
  - VRE ridership in April 2025 was 260,000, up 70% from April 2024.
  - Virginia Agency (non-WMATA and VRE) ridership in April 2025 was 5.4 million, up 7% from April 2024.
- In June, Hampton Roads Transit launched a quarterly newsletter. HRT reported that its Base Express reached 100,000 riders in just over two years - the service was originally projected to provide 25,000 trips over three years.
  - The Base Express is partially funded by a DRPT TRIP Regional Connectivity grant.
  - Additionally, HRT reported that its 757-Express services have seen major increases in ridership, as frequent service (15-minute headways) and fewer stops have attracted more riders.

Next Stop: 2030
DRPT's Strategic Plan

Foster innovative practical solutions

- On May 28, WMATA announced the launch of its "Tap. Ride. Go." contactless payment program on the Metrorail system. Riders can now use their credit or debit card, mobile wallet or smart watch to pay for fares. WMATA is planning to expand the feature to its buses in the future.
- On June 15, WMATA began Automatic Train Operation (ATO) on the Metrorail Blue, Orange, and Silver Lines, returning the whole Metrorail system to ATO, after receiving concurrence from the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission. WMATA also announced that along with the return to ATO, it will be returning to the original design speed of the Metrorail system, up to 75 mph. Starting June 22, Metrorail will reduce end-to-end travel times by about 3 minutes on all three of the aforementioned lines.

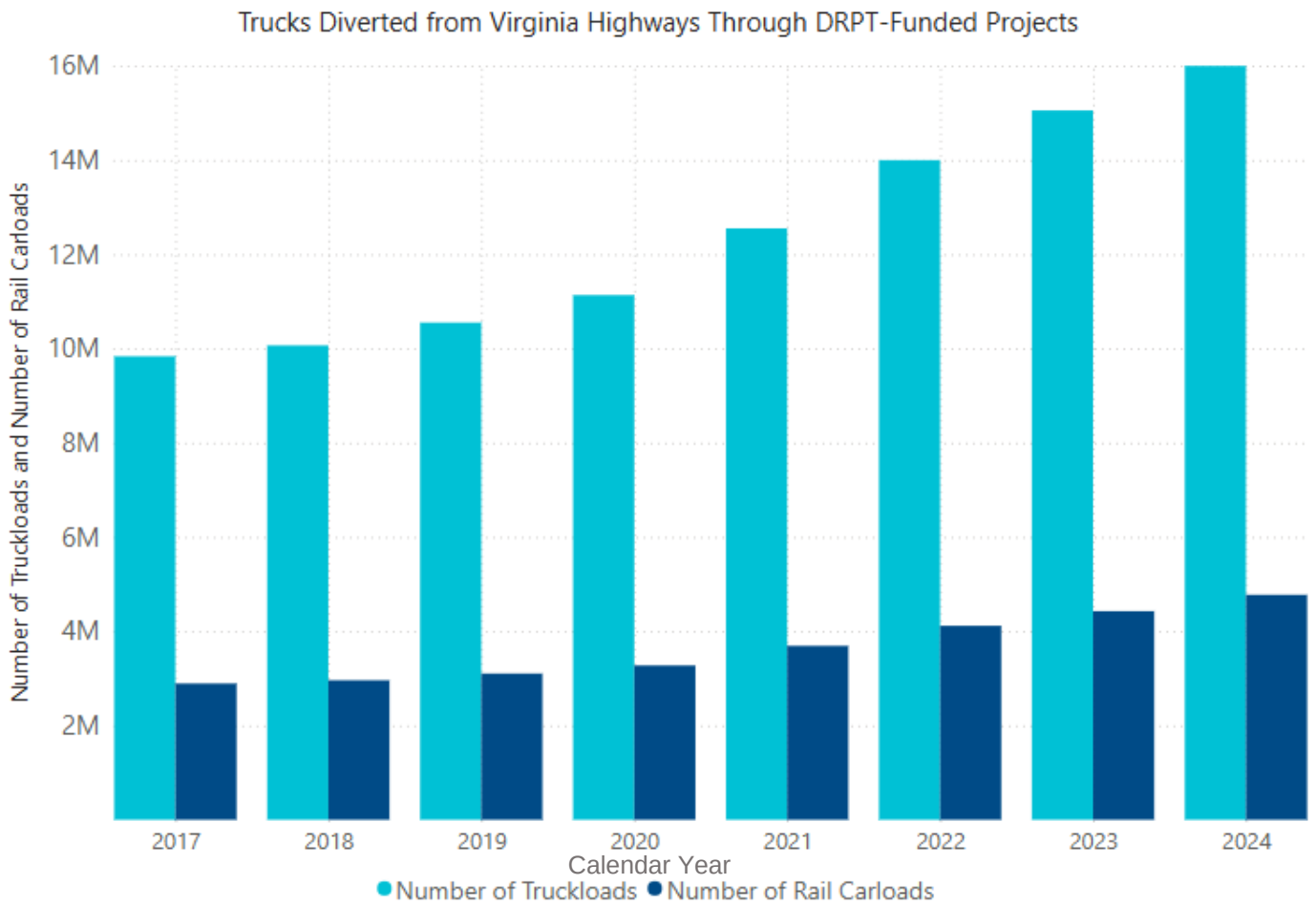
Cultivate a sustainable well-managed organization

- DRPT is finalizing an agreement to bring management of its GIS software in house. This will include managing data and servers internally. This process will reduce agency spending on software that previously went through VITA.
- DRPT Rail team completed a two-year process to shift all rail grant end dates to coincide with fiscal year-end or calendar year-end. This improves grant management efficiency for DRPT and grantees by streamlining progress checks to twice a year, rather than on an ad-hoc basis.

DRPT Freight Rail Programs

Truckloads diverted onto rail carloads, by calendar year

Rail Performance Data Dashboard



About

To gauge the performance of its Rail Programs, DRPT calculates the number of trucks diverted from Virginia's highways through funded projects. This measure is calculated using program agreement performance reported by the agency's rail partners annually. On average, one train carload removes the equivalent of 3.4 truckloads from the highway.
In 2024, 16,234,884 truckloads were diverted from Virginia highways.

Rail programs include the Rail Preservation Fund, FREIGHT Program, Rail Industrial Access, and Rail Enhancement Fund.

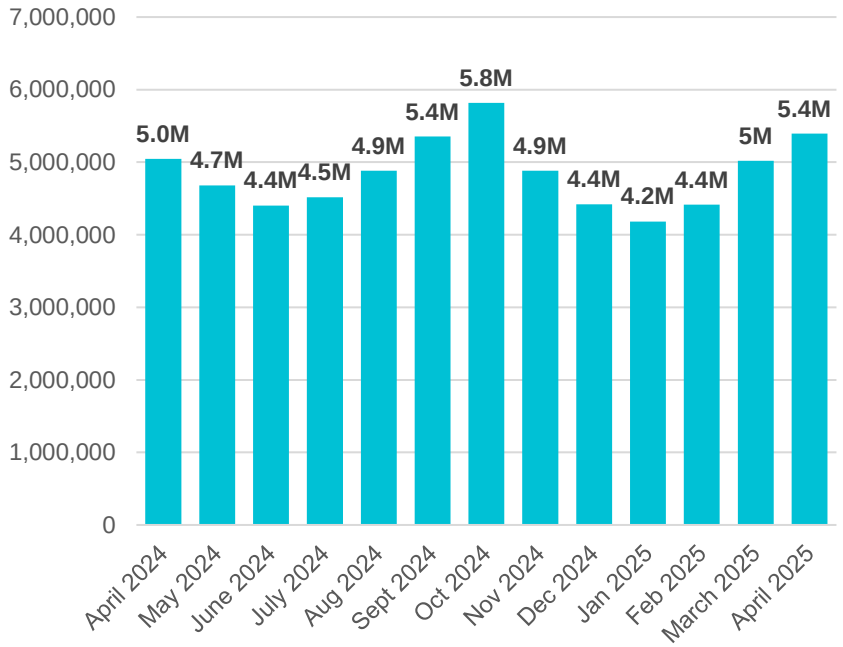
Data is reported on a fiscal year basis with the exception of legacy projects still reporting by calendar year as a requirement of the Rail Enhancement Fund. Data may change as rail partners review and revise reported figures.

99,431,558

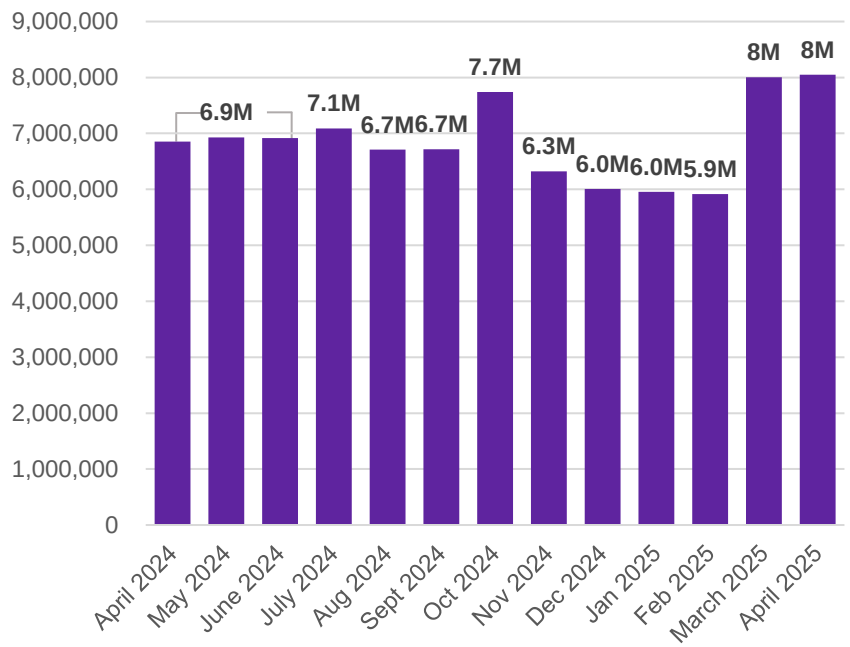
Total Trucks Diverted

Statewide Transit Ridership

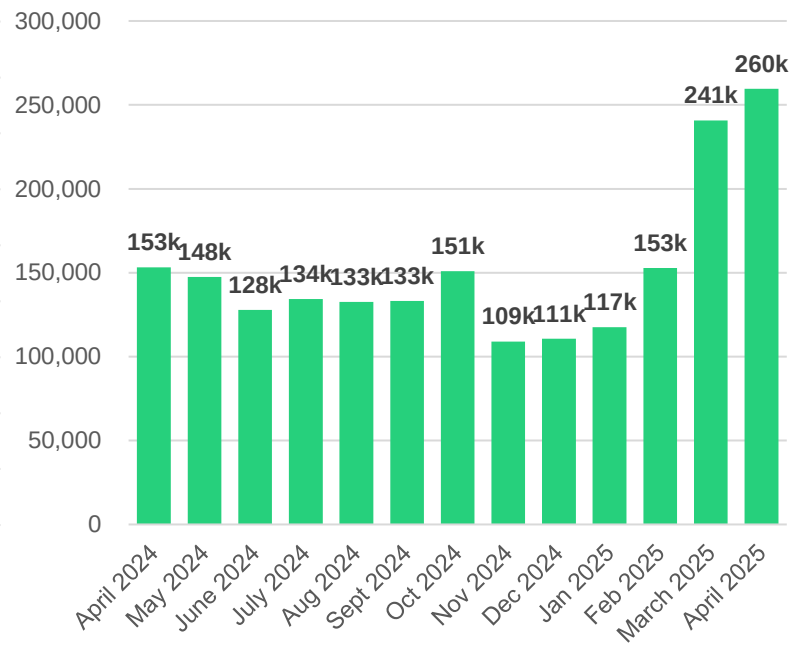
Statewide Transit Ridership – April 2024 to April 2025



Virginia Agencies



WMATA

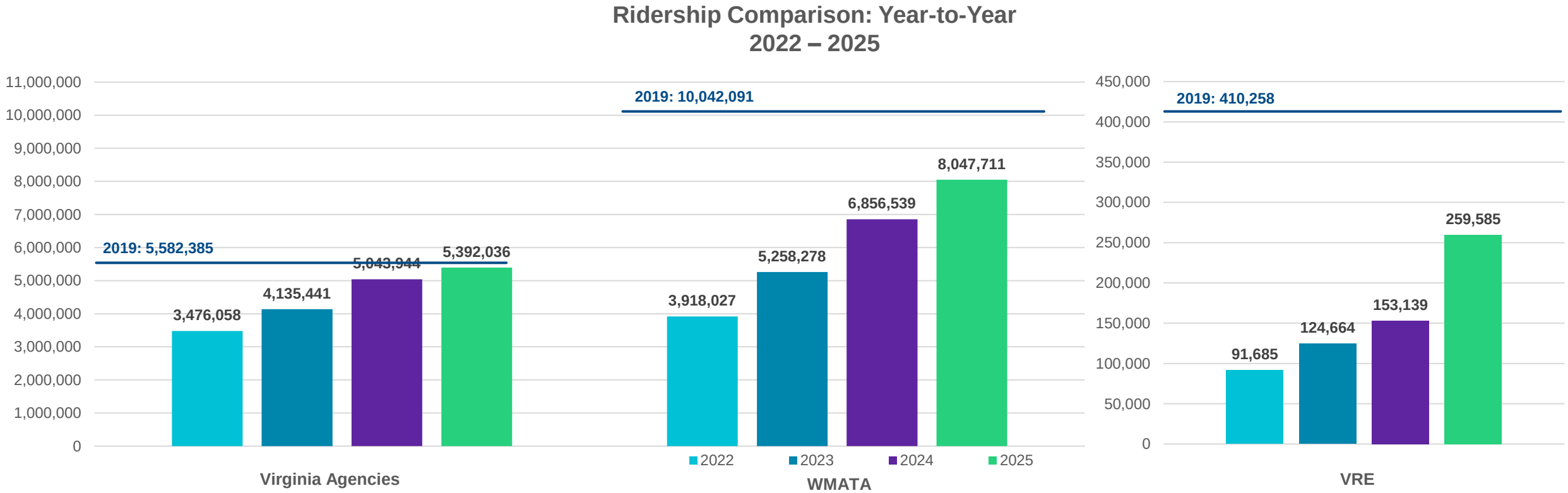


VRE

Agencies	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	March 2025	April 2025	Total*
Virginia Agencies	5,043,944	4,679,887	4,403,644	4,514,454	4,883,563	5,352,290	5,818,844	4,881,823	4,419,656	4,182,767	4,414,886	5,019,474	5,392,036	57,963,324
VRE	153,139	147,561	127,770	134,350	132,607	133,247	150,972	109,026	110,625	117,466	152,882	240,794	259,585	1,816,885
WMATA	6,856,539	6,930,758	6,916,793	7,089,451	6,710,201	6,717,554	7,742,372	6,320,579	6,005,122	5,957,138	5,915,679	8,001,329	8,047,711	82,354,687
All Agencies + VRE + WMATA	**12,053,622**	**11,758,206**	**11,448,207**	**11,738,255**	**11,726,371**	**12,203,091**	**13,712,188**	**11,311,428**	**10,535,403**	**10,257,371**	**10,483,447**	**13,261,597**	**13,699,332**	**142,134,896**

*Last 12 Months

Statewide Ridership Comparison: April Year-to-Year



Mode	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025 vs 2022	2025 vs 2023	2025 vs 2024
Virginia Agencies	3,476,058	4,135,441	5,043,944	5,392,036	55%	30%	7%
VRE	91,685	124,664	153,139	259,585	183%	108%	70%
WMATA	3,918,027	5,258,278	6,856,539	8,047,711	105%	53%	17%
All Agencies + VRE + WMATA	**7,485,770**	**9,518,383**	**12,053,622**	**13,699,332**	**83%**	**44%**	**14%**

Virginia Breeze Ridership – April

In April 2025, ridership on VA Breeze routes totaled 5,210 which was:

- 182% higher than original estimates, and
- 12% higher than April 2024

For the month of April 2025, the VA Breeze contributed to a reduction of 203 metric tons of CO_2 equivalent emissions.

Valley Flyer:

- Ridership – 9% higher than April 2024
- Farebox Rev. – 8% higher than April 2024

Piedmont Express:

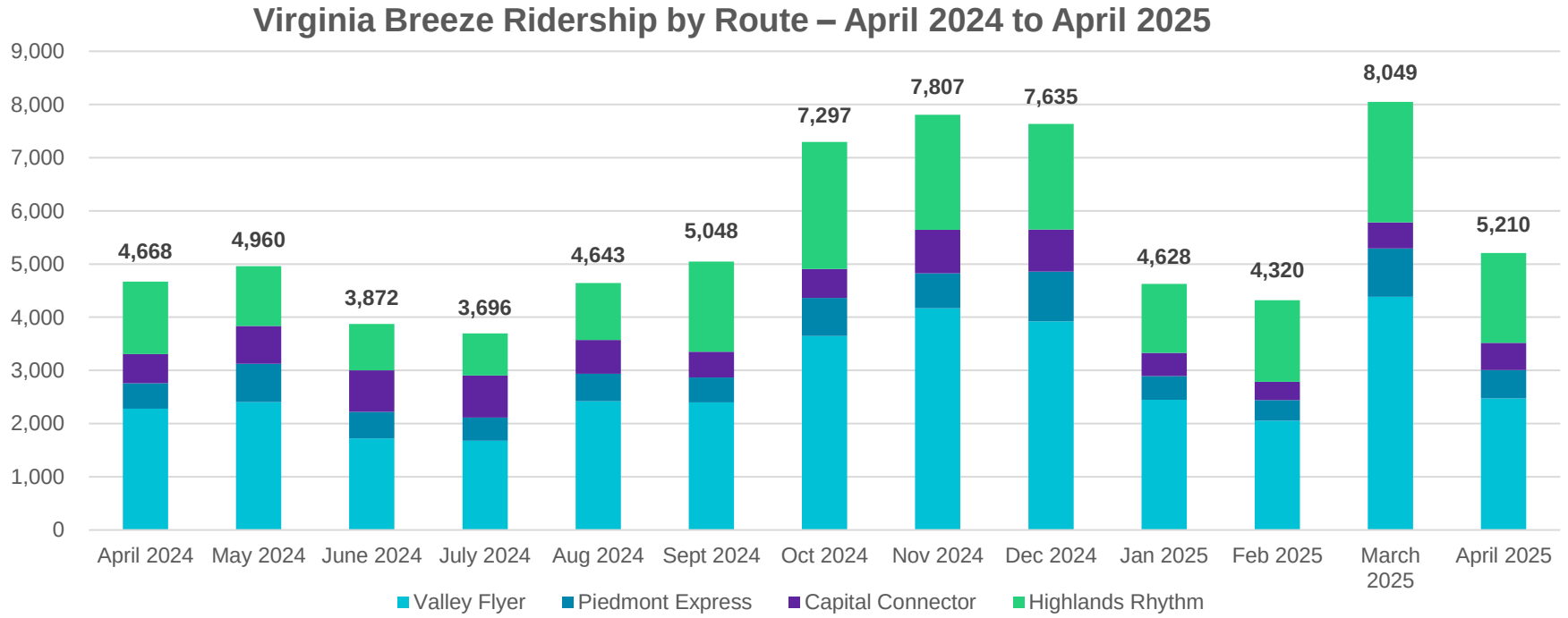
- Ridership – 12% higher than April 2024
- Farebox Rev. – 13% higher than April 2024

Capital Connector:

- Ridership – 7% lower than April 2024
- Farebox Rev. – 3% lower than April 2024

Highlands Rhythm:

- Ridership – 24% higher than April 2024
- Farebox Rev – 23% higher than April 2024



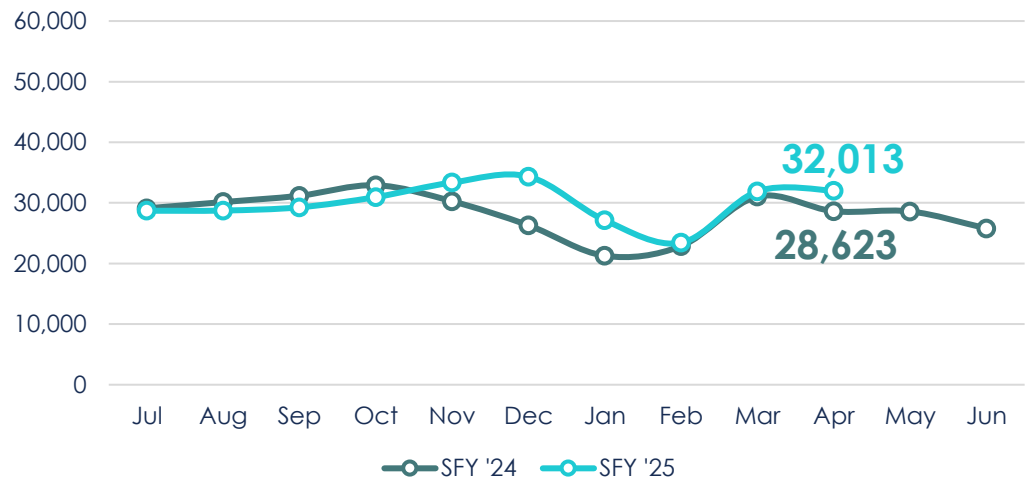
Route	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	March 2025	April 2025	Total
Valley Flyer	2,281	2,404	1,722	1,676	2,421	2,399	3,645	4,171	3,920	2,448	2,057	4,385	2,475	36,004
Piedmont Express	476	719	500	440	518	467	717	656	940	448	384	908	531	7,704
Capital Connector	551	714	781	789	631	483	545	816	790	432	345	490	513	7,880
Highlands Rhythm	1,360	1,123	869	791	1,073	1,699	2,390	2,164	1,985	1,300	1,534	2,266	1,691	20,245
All Routes	**4,668**	**4,960**	**3,872**	**3,696**	**4,643**	**5,048**	**7,297**	**7,807**	**7,635**	**4,628**	**4,320**	**8,049**	**5,210**	**71,833**

Virginia-Supported Amtrak Monthly Ridership by Route SFY '25 vs. SFY '24

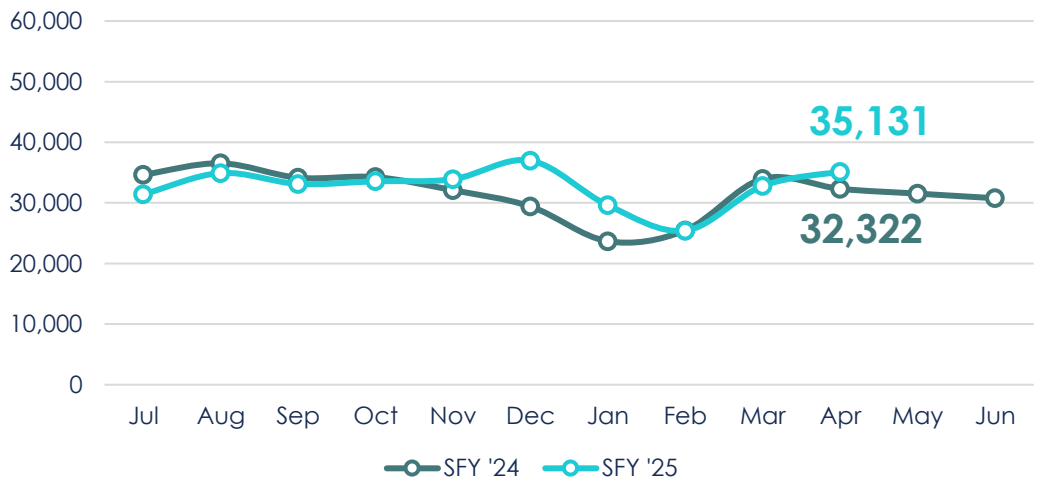
Friday – Sunday remain the most popular travel days.

Note: High travel Easter weekend occurred April this year vs. March last year.

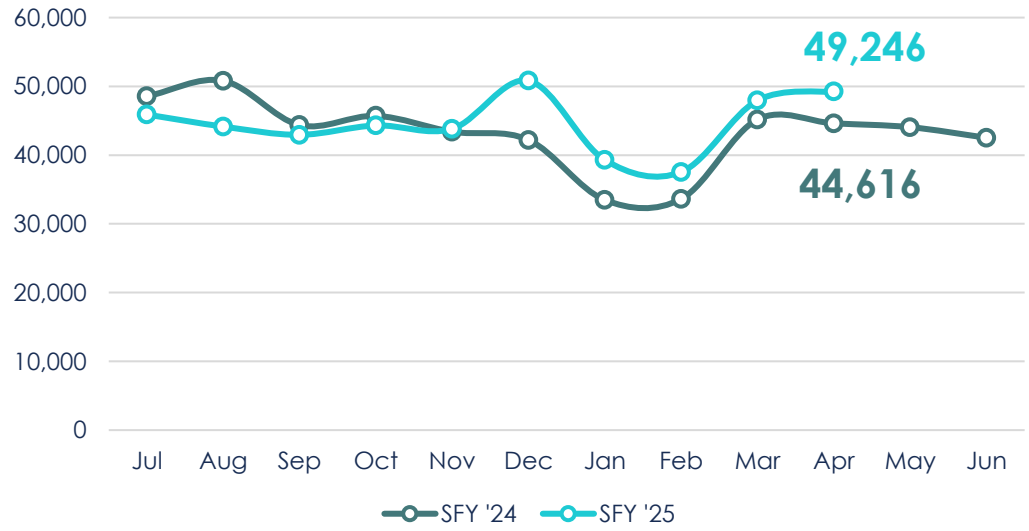
Route 46: Roanoke (+11.8%)



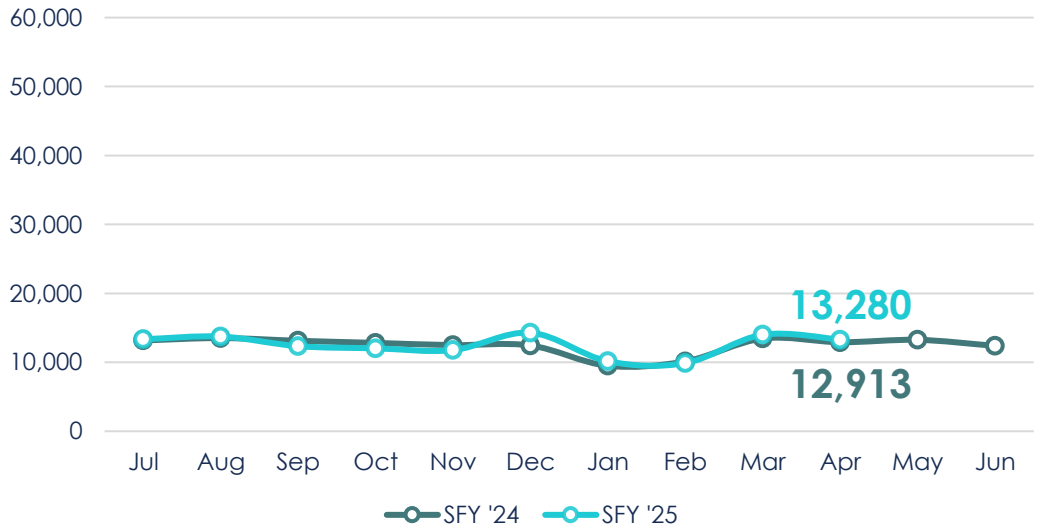
Route 47: Newport News (+8.7%)



Route 50: Norfolk (+10.4%)



Route 51: Richmond (+2.8%)



Virginia & Comparable State-Supported Amtrak Service Ridership

Normalized: Monthly Ridership ÷ Daily Trains

