Director's Report

December 2025

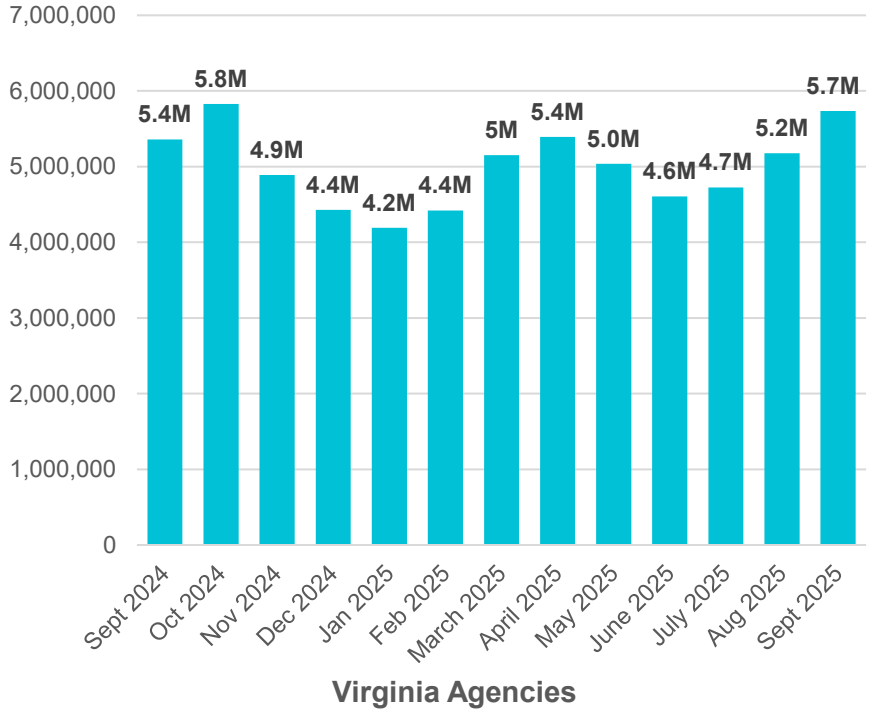
DRPT

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

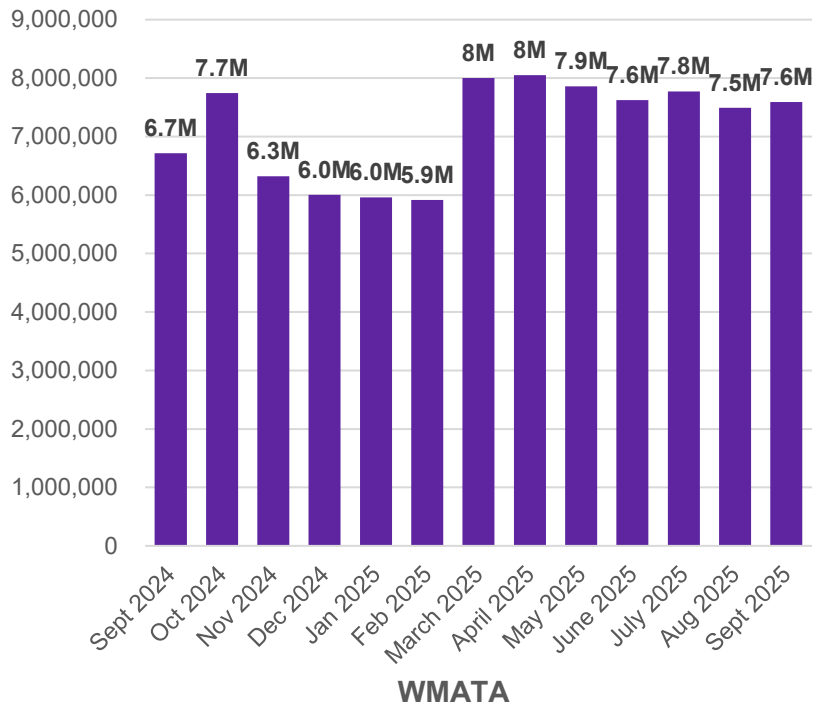


Statewide Transit Ridership

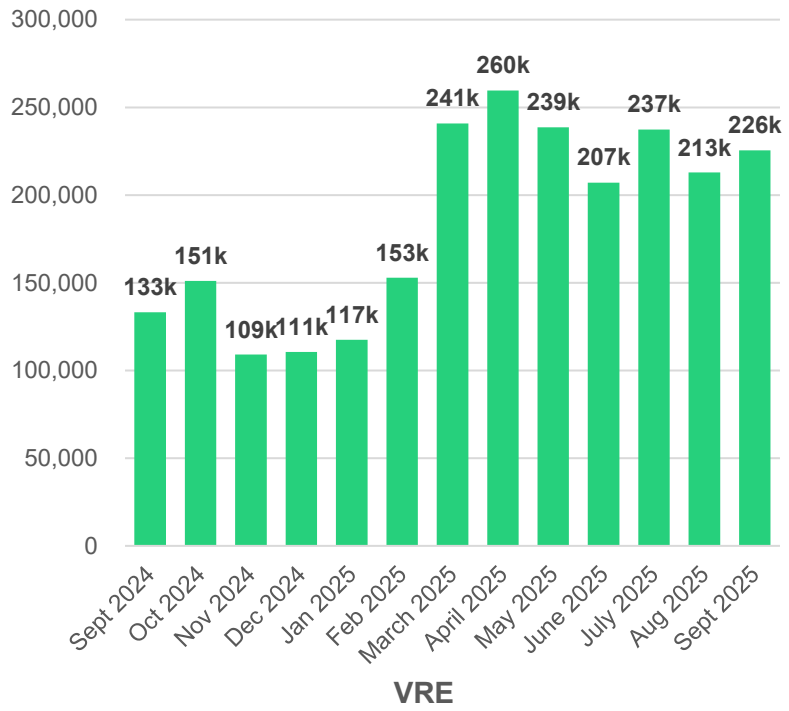
Statewide Transit Ridership – September 2024 to September 2025



Virginia Agencies



WMATA

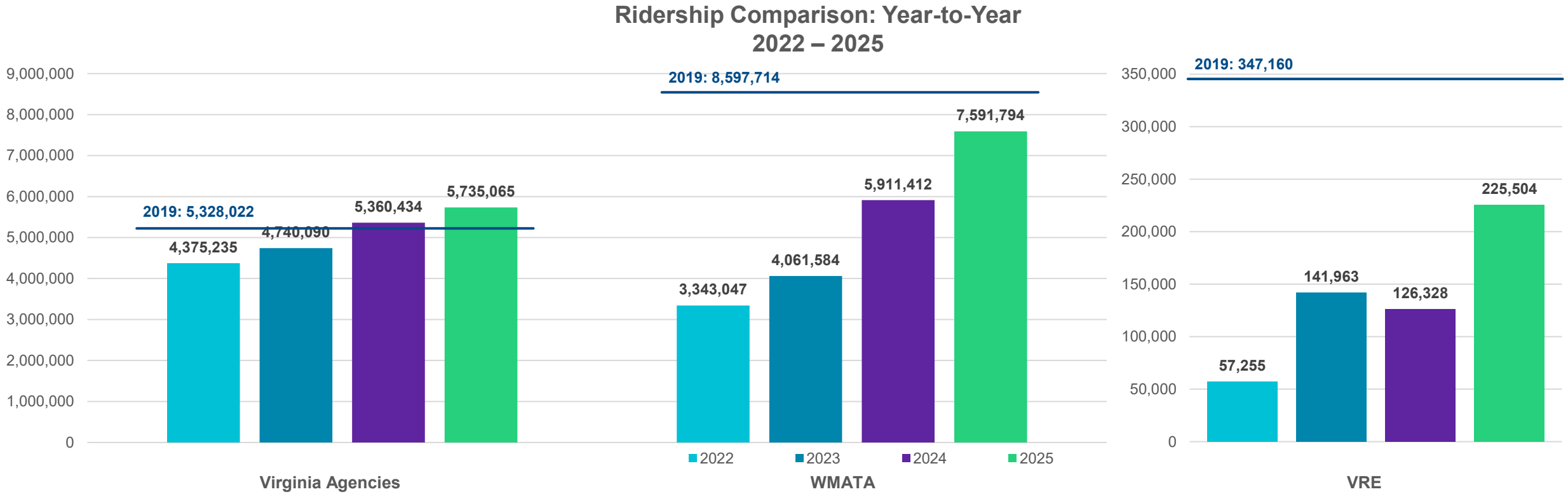


VRE

Agencies	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Total*
Virginia Agencies	5,360,434	5,828,176	4,889,995	4,427,193	4,190,344	4,422,095	5,149,919	5,392,036	5,038,705	4,605,627	4,726,900	5,178,330	5,735,065	59,584,385
VRE	133,247	150,972	109,026	110,625	117,466	152,882	240,794	259,585	238,518	207,130	237,363	212,798	225,504	2,262,663
WMATA	6,717,554	7,742,372	6,320,579	6,005,122	5,957,138	5,915,679	8,001,329	8,047,711	7,856,235	7,621,634	7,772,694	7,491,352	7,591,794	86,323,639
All Agencies + VRE + WMATA	**12,211,235**	**13,721,520**	**11,319,600**	**10,542,940**	**10,264,948**	**10,490,656**	**13,392,042**	**13,699,332**	**13,133,458**	**12,434,391**	**12,736,957**	**12,882,480**	**13,552,363**	**148,170,687**

*Last 12 Months

Statewide Ridership Comparison: September Year-to-Year



Mode	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025 vs 2022	2025 vs 2023	2025 vs 2024
Virginia Agencies	4,375,235	4,740,090	5,360,434	5,735,065	31%	21%	7%
VRE	57,255	141,963	126,328	225,504	294%	59%	79%
WMATA	3,343,047	4,061,584	5,911,412	7,591,794	127%	87%	28%
All Agencies + VRE + WMATA	**7,775,537**	**8,943,637**	**11,398,174**	**13,552,363**	**74%**	**52%**	**19%**

Virginia Breeze Ridership – September

In September 2025, ridership on VA Breeze routes totaled 5,316 which was:

- 186% higher than original estimates, and
- 5% higher than September 2024

In September 2025, the VA Breeze contributed to a reduction of 207 metric tons of CO_2 equivalent emissions.

Valley Flyer:

- Ridership – 12% higher than September 2024
- Farebox Rev. – 14% higher than September 2024

Piedmont Express:

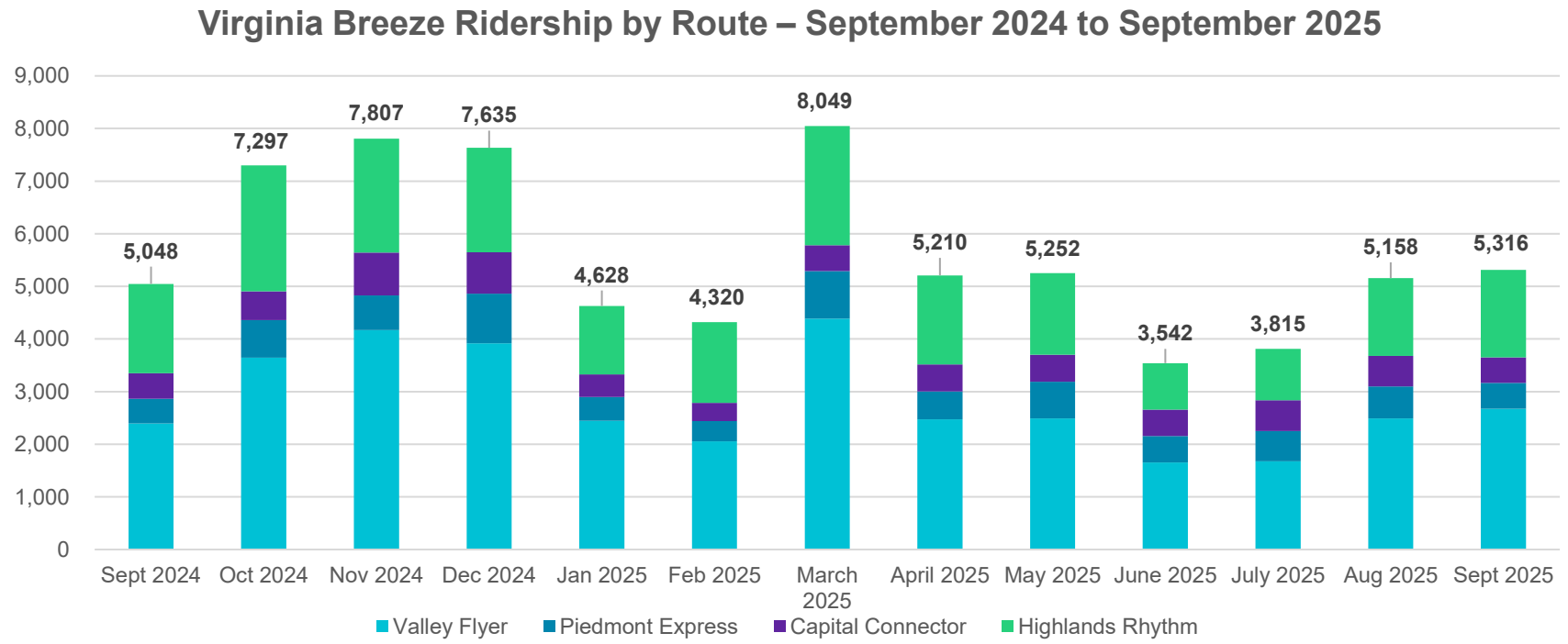
- Ridership – 5% higher than September 2024
- Farebox Rev. – 6% higher than September 2024

Capital Connector:

- Ridership – equal to September 2024
- Farebox Rev. – 7% higher than September 2024

Highlands Rhythm:

- Ridership – 2% lower than September 2024
- Farebox Rev – 2% lower than September 2024



Route	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Total*
Valley Flyer	2,399	3,645	4,171	3,920	2,448	2,057	4,385	2,475	2,489	1,655	1,675	2,493	2,676	34,089
Piedmont Express	467	717	656	940	448	384	908	531	702	499	577	606	490	7,458
Capital Connector	483	545	816	790	432	345	490	513	508	504	585	581	484	6,593
Highlands Rhythm	1,699	2,390	2,164	1,985	1,300	1,534	2,266	1,691	1,553	884	978	1,478	1,666	19,889
All Routes	**5,048**	**7,297**	**7,807**	**7,635**	**4,628**	**4,320**	**8,049**	**5,210**	**5,252**	**3,542**	**3,815**	**5,158**	**5,316**	**68,029**

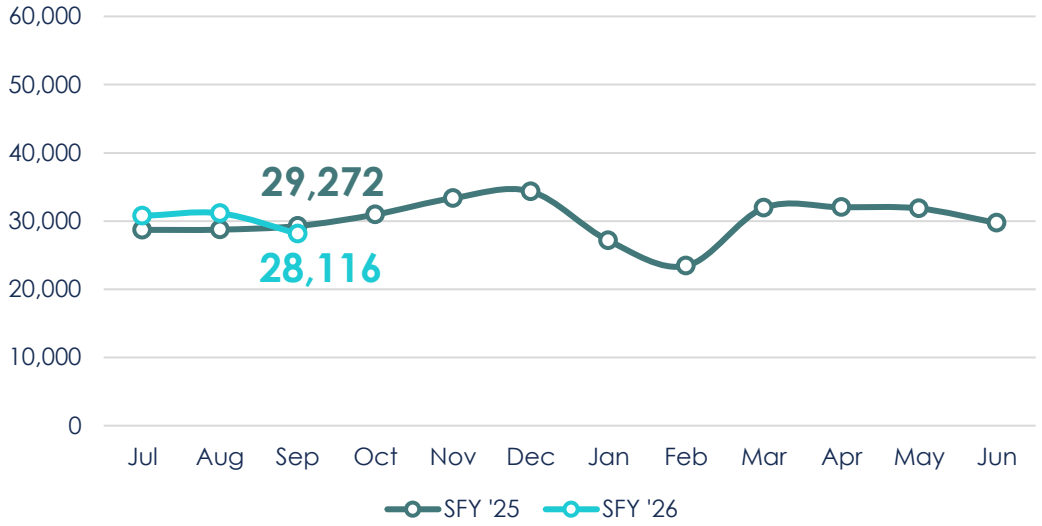
*Last 12 Months

Virginia-Supported Monthly Ridership by Route SFY ’26 vs. SFY ‘25

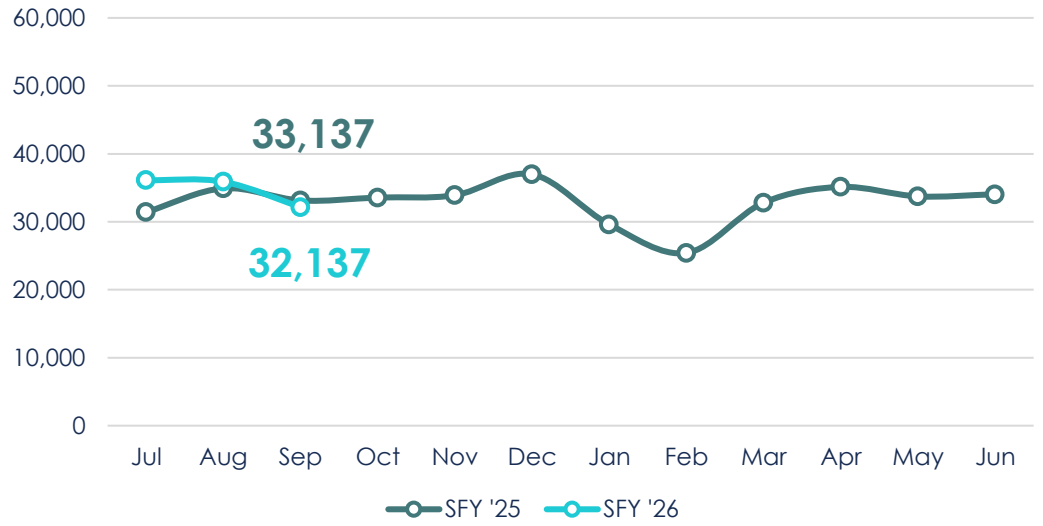
Four trains will be cancelled November 3rd due to freight partner trackwork outside of Norfolk.

All passengers were notified and rebooked on connector buses.

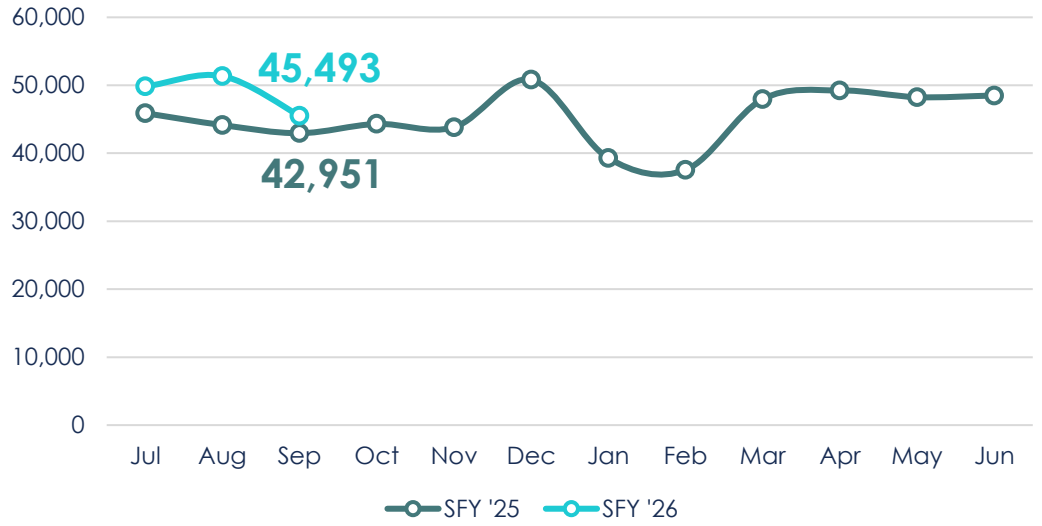
Route 46: Roanoke (-3.9%)



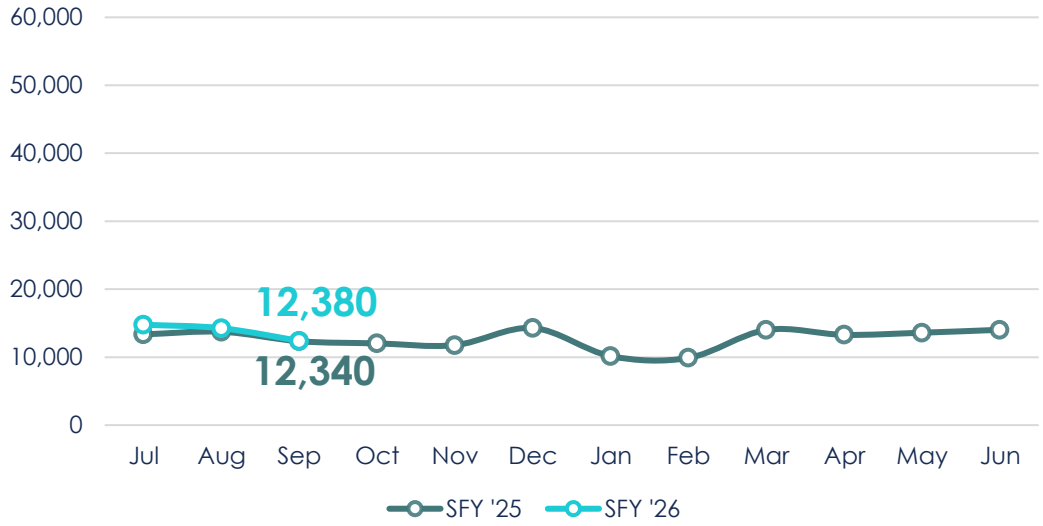
Route 47: Newport News (-3.0%)



Route 50: Norfolk (+5.9%)



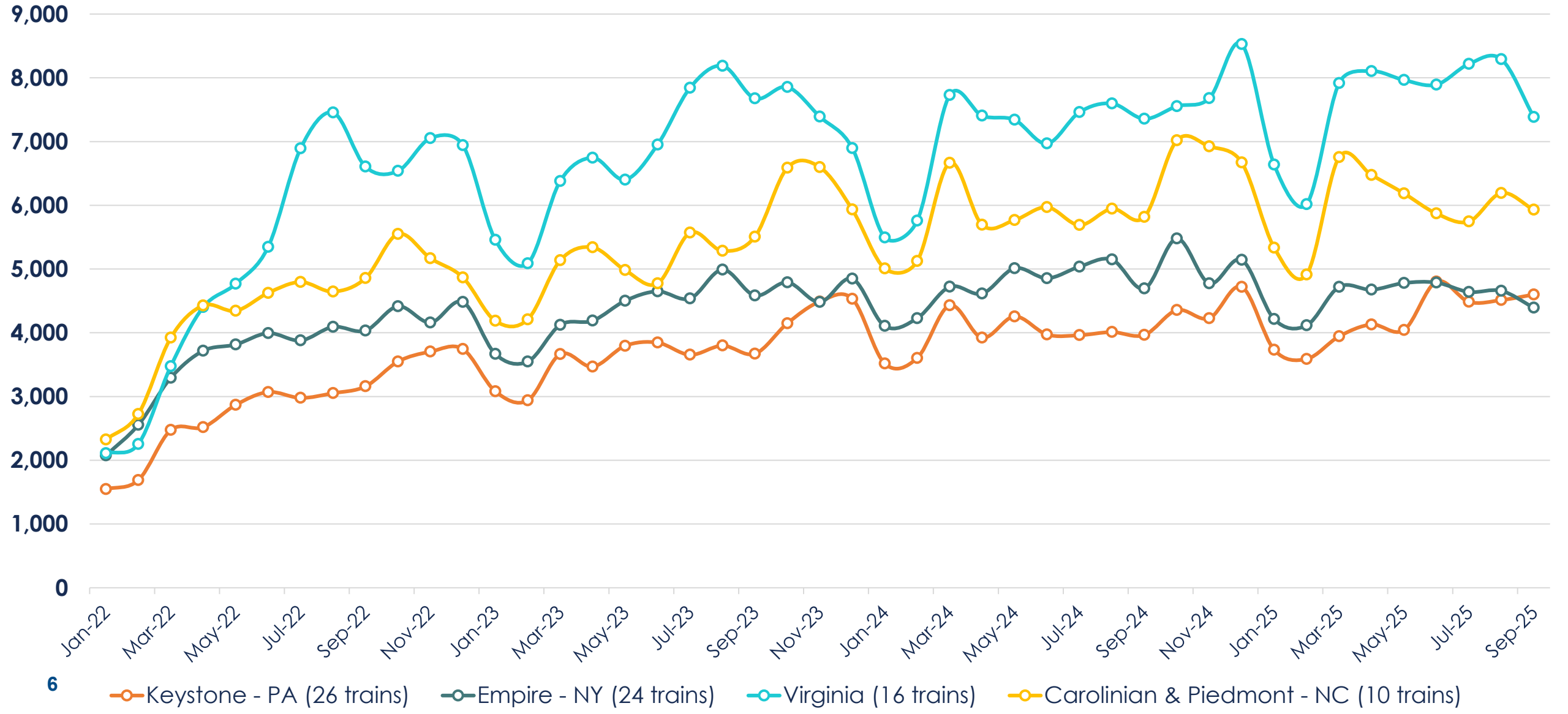
Route 51: Richmond (+0.3%)



VPRA

Virginia & Comparable State-Supported Service Ridership

Normalized: Monthly Ridership ÷ Daily Trains



DRPT Next Stop: 2030
DRPT's Strategic Plan

Create a positive impact on the Commonwealth

- Statewide transit ridership (including WMATA and VRE) in September 2025 was 13.6 million, up 19% from 11.4 million in September 2024.
- The Virginia Breeze transported 5,316 people in September 2025, up 5% from 5,045 in September 2024. Systemwide, the Virginia Breeze had a 76% On-Time Performance rate in September, its best rate in three years.
- DRPT will receive over $8M from the FTA Bus and Bus Facilities program to replace 78 rural transit buses and vans for 11 transit agencies. FTA made this announcement in November.
- DRPT has selected Academy as the operator for the new Tidewater Current intercity bus service, which will connect Hampton Roads to the Shenandoah Valley along the I-64 corridor. DRPT anticipates the service starting in Spring 2026.

Foster innovative practical solutions

- DRPT will participate in the HB2627 Autonomous Driving Systems Work Group, which will kick off the process to identify operational, technical, and legal issues presented by the operation of autonomous driving systems.
- On October 24, the Joint Commission on Healthcare (JCHC) met and received a report from its staff on strategies to address transportation barriers to health care, particularly in rural areas.
  - The report produced several findings and recommendations related to the FTA Section 5310 (enhanced mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities) that DRPT funds.
  - The report also provided several options for members of the JCHC to adopt, including, increasing DRPT's matching funding for human services, add funding for DRPT to provide technical assistance for section 5310 grantees, establish a grant for mobility management services and regional transportation hubs, and establish a rural microtransit grant program.

DRPT Next Stop: 2030
DRPT's Strategic Plan

Convene with partners and stakeholders

- From November 18-20, DRPT hosted several workshops for new and returning transit grant recipients ahead of the FY27 SYIP.
- On November 19, DRPT attended the WMATA West Falls Church Joint Redevelopment Project Groundbreaking.
- DRPT attended the I-495 NEXT Express Lanes Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on November 21.
- On November 24, DRPT hosted a TSDAC meeting for the Committee regarding the three-year MERIT review.

Cultivate a sustainable well-managed organization

- On November 6, DRPT Rail Capital Programs Manager performed site inspections in Portsmouth, Norfolk and Chesapeake for the following Norfolk Portsmouth Belt Line (NPBL) in-progress projects:
  - Port Norfolk Rail Transload Facility (FY25 FREIGHT Program Grant)
  - Berkley Yard Lead and Switches Project (FY24 Rail Preservation Program Grant)
  - Southern Branch Rehabilitation Project (FY24 Rail Preservation Program Grant)
  - Programmatic Rail Infrastructure Upgrades project (FY26 Rail Preservation Program Grant)