Director's Report

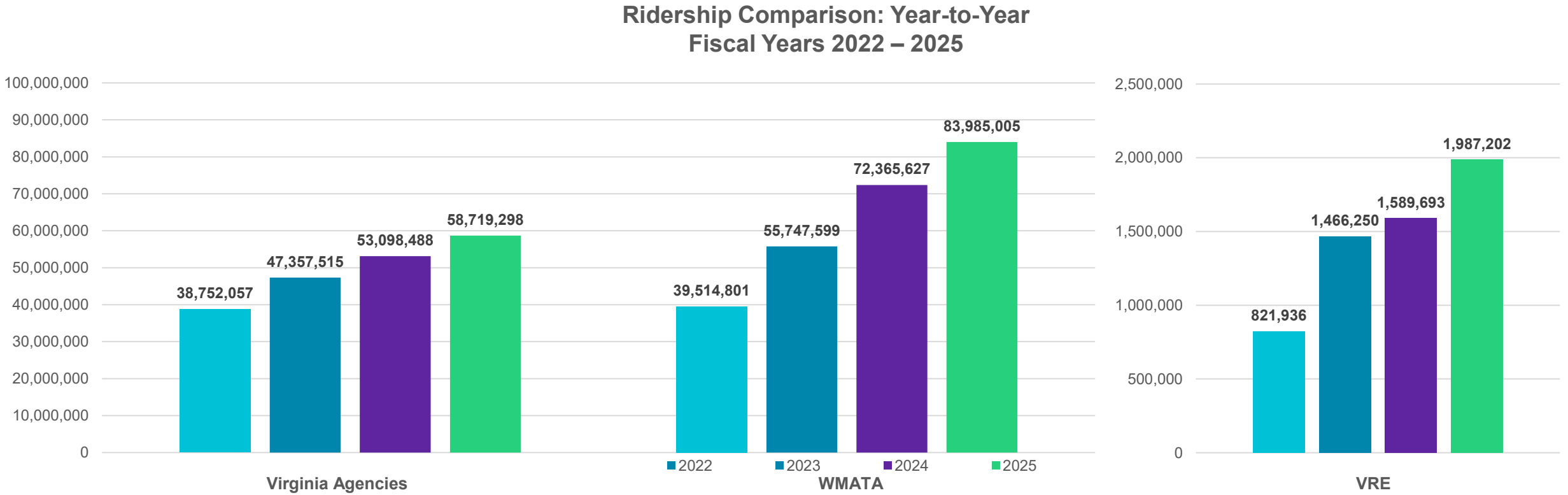
September 2025

DRPT

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

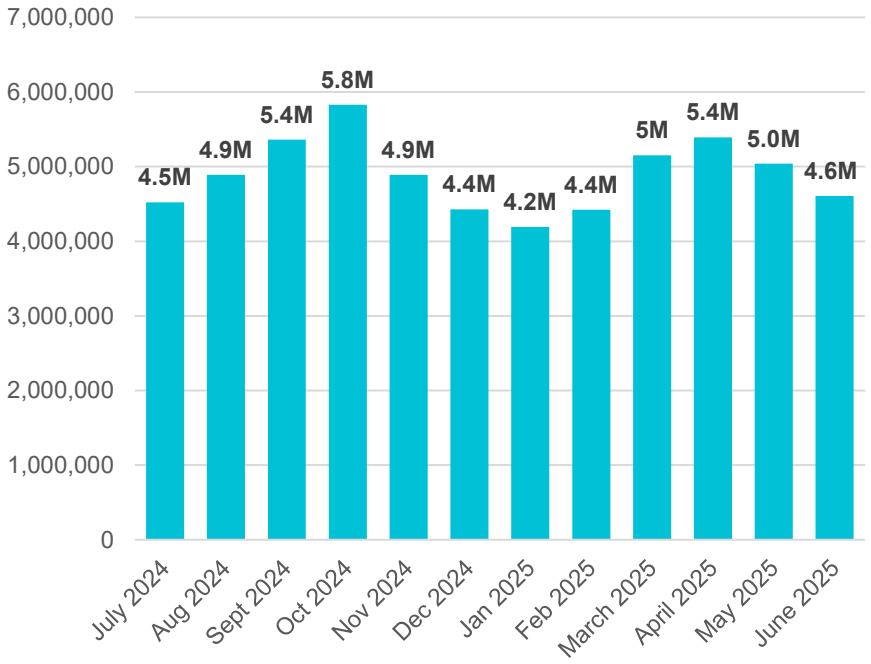


Statewide Ridership
Year-to-Year Comparison

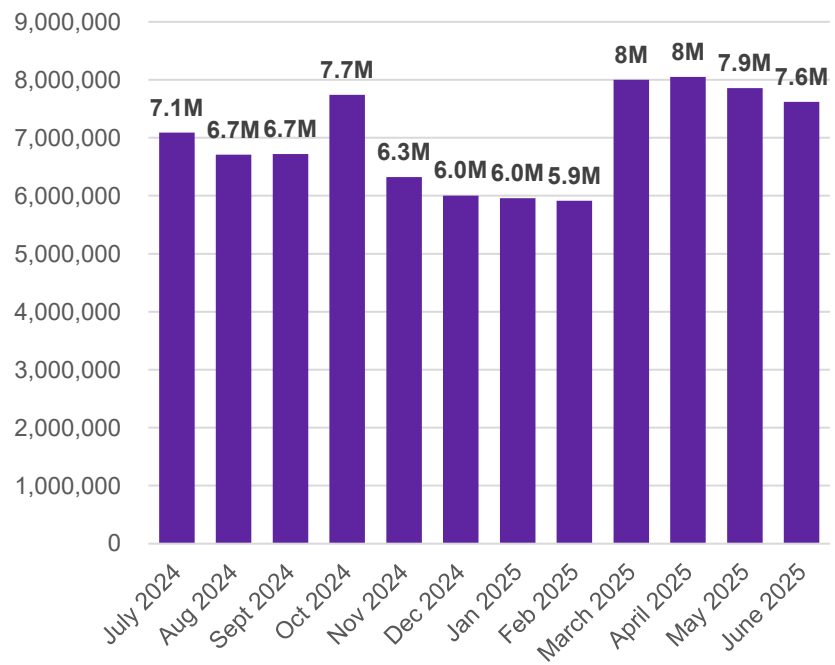


Mode	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025 vs 2022	2025 vs 2023	2025 vs 2024
Virginia Agencies	38,752,057	47,357,515	53,098,488	58,719,298	52%	24%	11%
VRE	821,936	1,466,250	1,589,693	1,987,202	142%	36%	25%
WMATA	39,514,801	55,747,599	72,365,627	83,985,005	113%	51%	16%
All Agencies + VRE + WMATA	**79,088,794**	**104,571,364**	**127,053,808**	**144,691,505**	**83%**	**38%**	**14%**

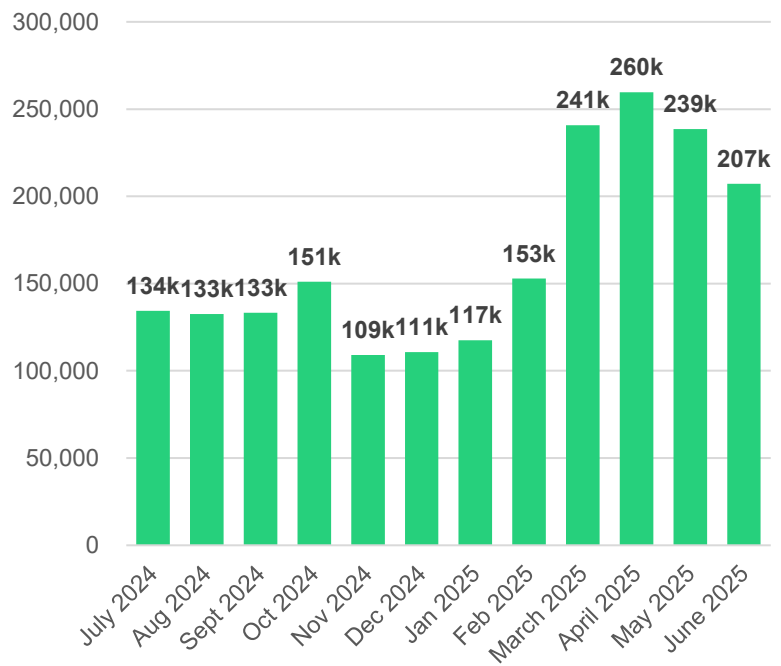
Statewide Transit Ridership
Fiscal Year 2025



Virginia Agencies



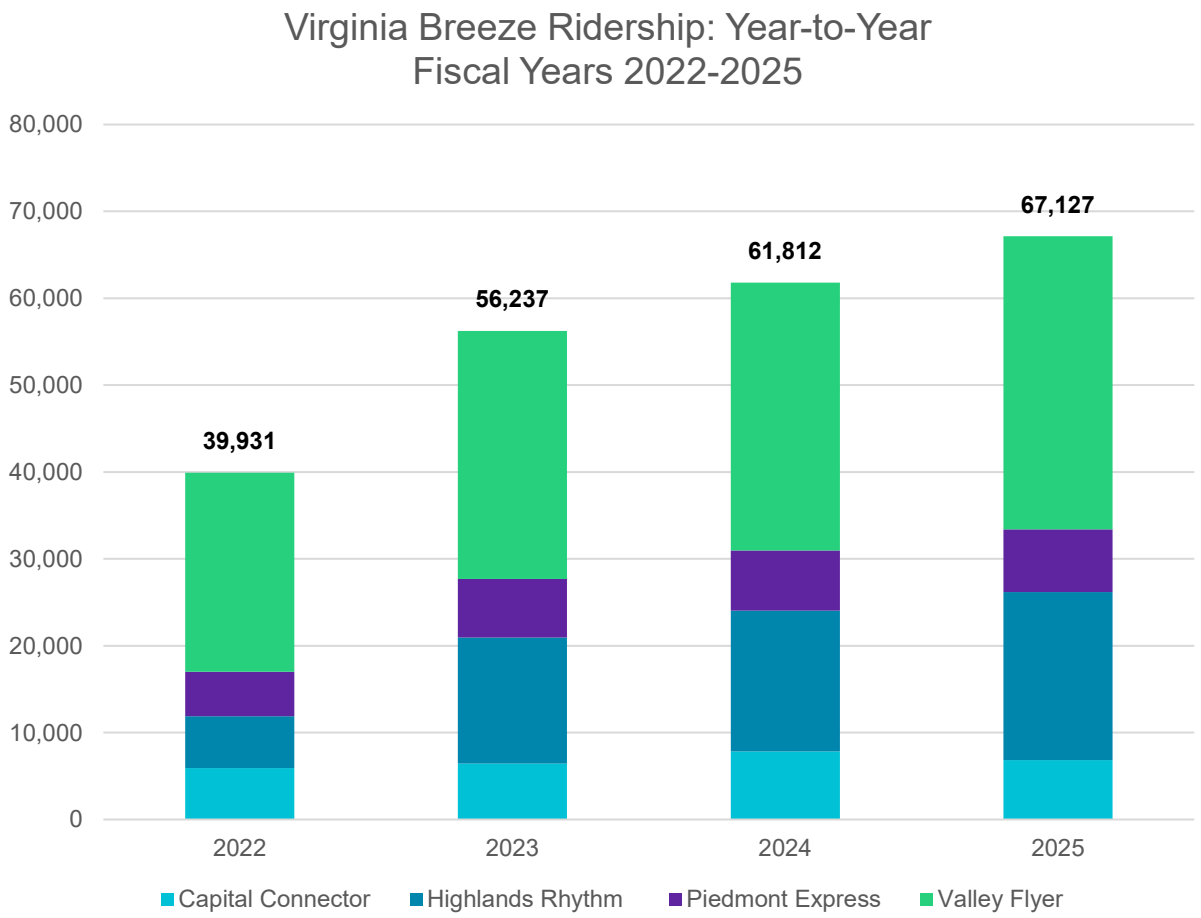
WMATA



VRE

Agencies	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	FY25 Total
Virginia Agencies	4,522,860	4,891,914	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	58,719,298
VRE	134,350	132,607	133,247	150,972	109,026	110,625	117,466	152,882	240,794	259,585	238,518	207,130	1,987,202
WMATA	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	7,856,235	7,621,634	83,985,005
All Agencies + VRE + WMATA	**11,746,661**	**11,734,722**	**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**	**144,691,505**

Virginia Breeze Ridership
Year-to-Year Comparison



Virginia Breeze Route	2022	2023	2024	2025
Capital Connector	5,930	6,444	7,823	6,846
Highlands Rhythm	5,960	14,523	16,237	19,330
Piedmont Express	5,129	6,740	6,926	7,210
Valley Flyer	22,912	28,530	30,826	33,741
Total	**39,931**	**56,237**	**61,812**	**67,127**

Virginia Breeze Ridership
Fiscal Year 2025

In June 2025, ridership on VA Breeze routes totaled 3,542 which was:

- 124% higher than original estimates, and
- 9% lower than June 2025

For the month of June 2025, the VA Breeze contributed to a reduction of 97 metric tons of CO_2 equivalent emissions.

Valley Flyer:

- Ridership – 4% lower than June 2024
- Farebox Rev. – 5% lower than June 2024

Piedmont Express:

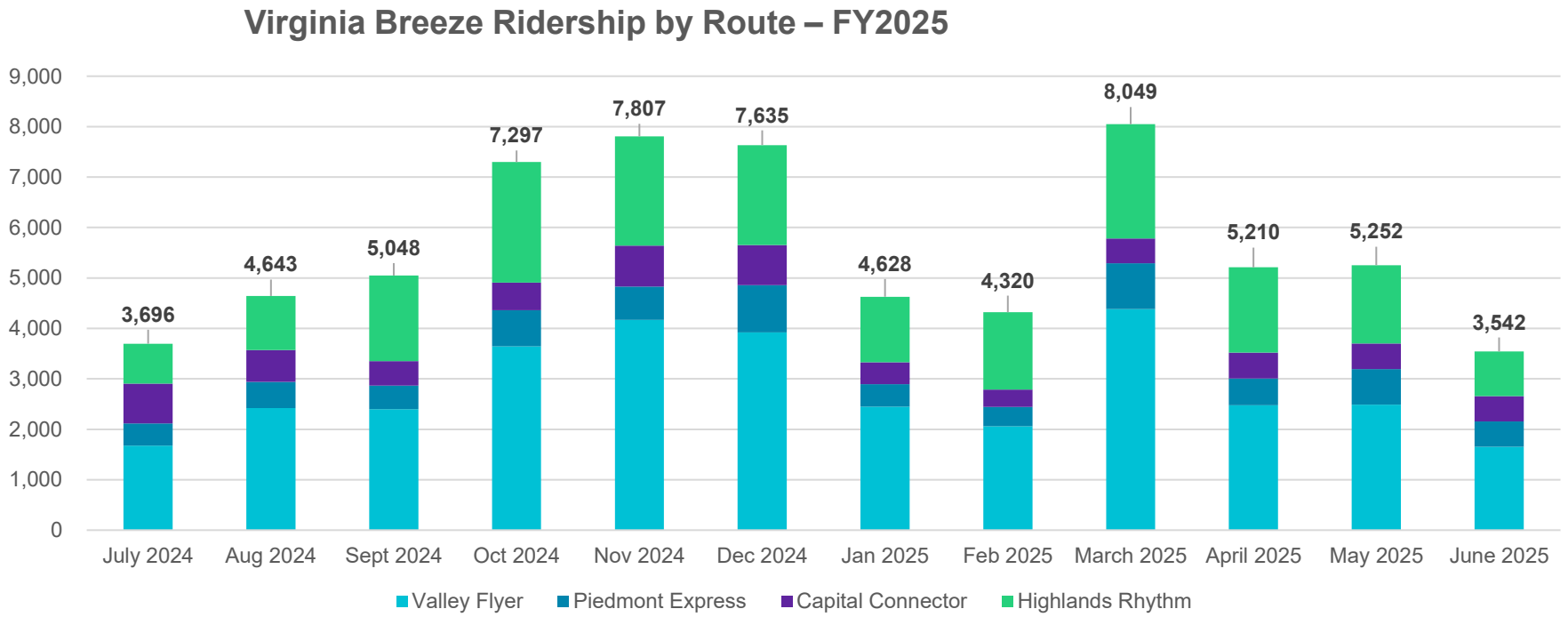
- Ridership – 0% change from June 2024
- Farebox Rev. – 2% higher than June 2024

Capital Connector:

- Ridership – 35% lower than June 2024
- Farebox Rev. – 31% lower than June 2024

Highlands Rhythm:

- Ridership – 2% higher than June 2024
- Farebox Rev – 0% change from June 2024



Route	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	Total
Valley Flyer	1,676	2,421	2,399	3,645	4,171	3,920	2,448	2,057	4,385	2,475	2,489	1,655	33,741
Piedmont Express	440	518	467	717	656	940	448	384	908	531	702	499	7,210
Capital Connector	789	631	483	545	816	790	432	345	490	513	508	504	6,846
Highlands Rhythm	791	1,073	1,699	2,390	2,164	1,985	1,300	1,534	2,266	1,691	1,553	884	19,330
All Routes	**3,696**	**4,643**	**5,048**	**7,297**	**7,807**	**7,635**	**4,628**	**4,320**	**8,049**	**5,210**	**5,252**	**3,542**	**67,127**

Summer 2025 Highlights

Create a positive impact on the Commonwealth

- On June 30, DRPT staff met with the Board Chair of the Franklin County Non-Emergency Transportation Services. This newly formed nonprofit is interested in exploring the feasibility of bringing public transportation to Franklin County for the first time.
- DRPT has reviewed final FY 2025 ridership numbers. Statewide ridership was 144.7 million for FY 2025, a 14% increase year-over-year.
  - WMATA transported 84 million people in Virginia in FY 2025, a 16% increase year-over-year.
  - VRE transported 2 million people in FY 2025, a 45% increase year-over-year.
  - Virginia Agencies (non-WMATA or VRE) transported over 58 million people in FY 2025, a 12% increase year-over-year.
- The Virginia Breeze transported 67,000 people in FY 2025, a 9% increase year-over-year.
  - Three of the four Virginia Breeze routes saw year-over-year increases and subsequently route ridership records.

Foster innovative practical solutions

- On July 21, DRPT Rail Division delivered two presentations at the American Planning Association – Virginia Chapter Conference in Portsmouth. Rail Planning and Data Manager Taylor Holden presented Next Stop: The 2026 Virginia Statewide Rail Plan, and Rail Programs Director Mike Todd presented Making Memorable PowerPoints.
- On August 13, DRPT hosted a compliance webinar, *Closing the Gaps in Compliance*, to provide an overview of nine recurring compliance issues identified during DRPT's recent reviews. Staff outlined targeted corrective actions to help improve our transit partners' audit readiness and strengthen overall program compliance
- DRPT Rail Programs division was recognized in the Office of Regulatory Management's July 2025 issue of *Regulatory Modernization Highlights* for consolidating three separate rail grant guidance documents into a single manual. This change allowed DRPT to cut the overall length of documents by 73% or 56 pages.
- On July 23, DRPT staff attended HRT's unveiling of their new "Smart Stop" bus signs that have been installed at more than 2,600 bus stops in the Hampton Roads region. The new signs include a QR code which, after scanning, displays real-time bus arrival information.

Summer 2025 Highlights

Convene with partners and stakeholders

- On July 23, Director Robinson presented a transit update to the Virginia Municipal League's Infrastructure Committee.
- From August 18 to 21, DRPT staff attended the Community Transportation Association of Virginia Annual Conference. Staff gave presentations on the underway Coordinated Human Services Mobility Plan update, the Rural Transit Program Strategy and addressing Section 5311 funding for rural transit providers, and updates for the Virginia Breeze intercity bus service.
- In July, the PRTC (July 10) and NVTC (July 17) boards approved the VRE 2050 System Plan, allowing VRE to officially adopt its vision and strategy for the next 25 years.
- On July 29 and August 27, DRPT hosted meetings of the Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee to review findings from the agency's MERIT analysis.

Cultivate a sustainable well-managed organization

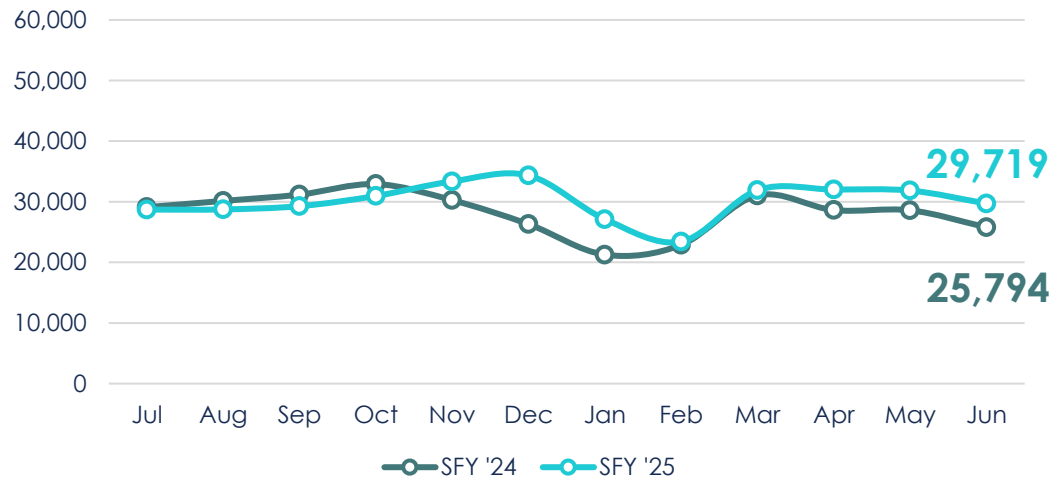
- On July 8, DRPT joined GRTC and others at Richmond Main Street Station for a ribbon cutting for the new articulated buses and the debut of the Transit Access Partnership. Director Robinson provided remarks during the ribbon cutting.
- DRPT's Rail Capital Programs Manager completed site visits and inspections for RIA grantee(s) Smyth County Economic Development Authority, Queen City Logistics Center in Staunton, and Hershey Chocolate of Virginia in Augusta County.

Virginia-Supported Monthly Ridership by Route SFY ’25 vs. SFY ‘24

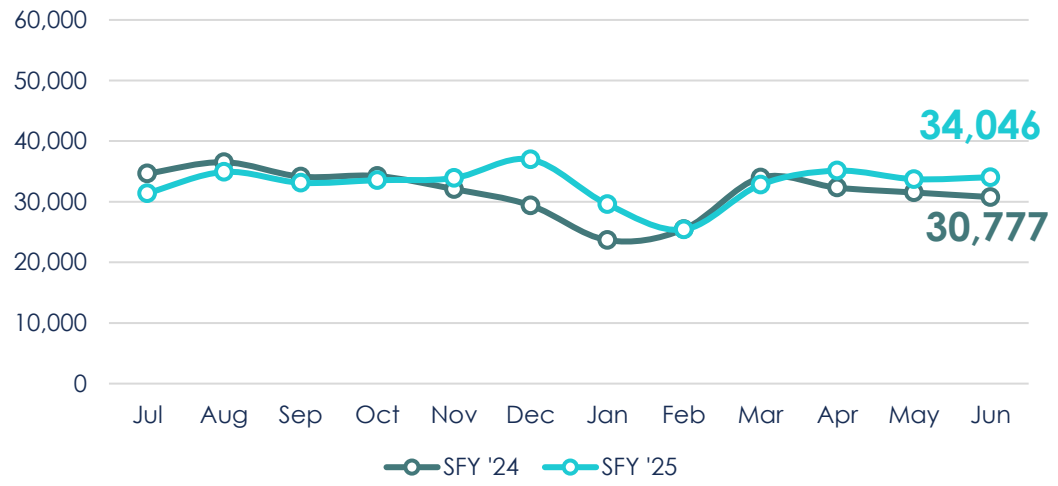
Eight trains were canceled due to track & infrastructure replacement in SW VA.

Two trains were canceled due to diesel engine shortages. Buses were secured to transport passengers on northbound train.

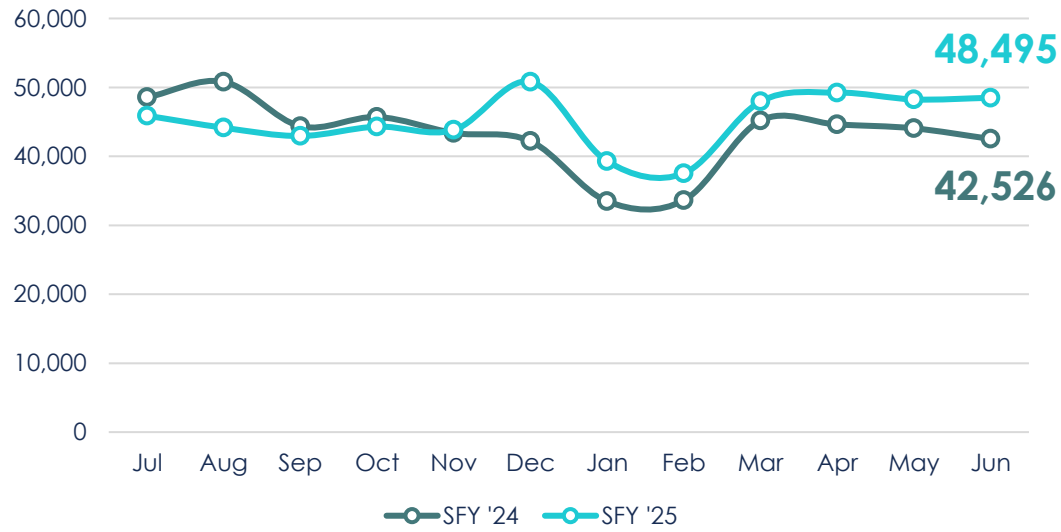
Route 46: Roanoke (+15.2%)



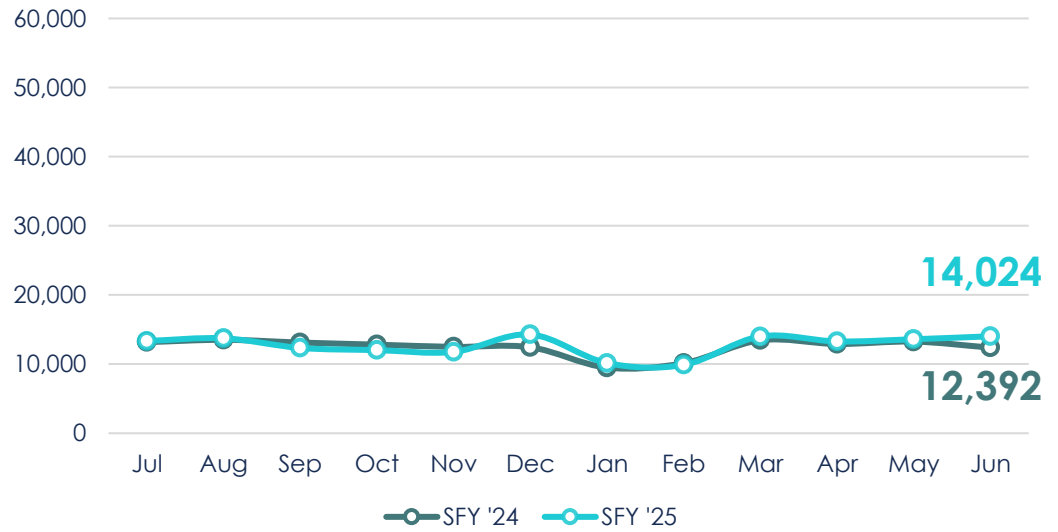
Route 47: Newport News (+10.6%)



Route 50: Norfolk (+14.0%)



Route 51: Richmond (+13.2%)



Virginia & Comparable State-Supported Service Ridership

Normalized: Monthly Ridership ÷ Daily Trains

