



Director's Report

July CTB Meeting



DRPT Next Stop 2030

Next Stop: 2030

DRPT's Strategic Plan

- **Create a positive impact on the Commonwealth:** Provide support and solutions to positively impact the lives of Virginians, the economy, and the environment
- **Foster innovative practical solutions:** Challenge the status quo, creating solutions while sharing new ideas and innovative practices that contribute to better transportation outcomes
- **Convene with partners and stakeholders:** Bring together the right people at the right time to leverage resources, address important transportation issues, and create the best solutions collaboratively
- **Cultivate a sustainable well-managed organization:** Deliver exceptional service with an engaged workforce that effectively manages public assets and promotes transparency

Create a positive impact on the Commonwealth

- **Improve access to reliable transportation.**

- On June 24, the Town of Wytheville approved a resolution supporting the relocation and construction of its Virginia Breeze bus stop at a more central location. DRPT has funding secured for the project and has moved into the design phase. Once designed, DRPT will work with DGS to construct the shelter. This may likely be DRPT's first construction project.
- DRPT initiated work on the FTA Areas of Persistent Poverty grant to develop a Comprehensive Operational Analysis and Accessibility GAP Assessment for the City of Petersburg/Petersburg Area Transit. This effort supports the Partnership for Petersburg initiative through the analysis of non-emergency medical transportation and the improvement of efficiencies in the current service area.

- **Increase throughput of people and goods.**

- WMATA reported 22 million passengers in May, including non-Virginia passengers. That is a 12% increase year-over-year. Metro is on track to reach its FY24 target of 19.9 million average monthly customers. WMATA Virginia ridership was 6.9 million in April. DRPT will have May Virginia ridership at the next CTB meeting.
- Statewide transit ridership was 4.9 million in April, the busiest month since the pandemic and an 18% increase year-over-year

- **Promote factors driving economic vitality and development.**

- A new report from WMATA highlights its economic impact on the Northern Virginia area. The report estimates that 40% of the region's jobs are in areas immediately around a WMATA rail station and 70% are within a half mile of a WMATA rail or bus stop. Buildings near WMATA stations generate around \$3.2 billion in property tax revenue.

Foster innovative practical solutions

- **Be the ‘go-to’ organization for best practices, technical assistance, and implementation of innovative transportation solutions.**
 - On May 24, Buckingham Branch Railroad submitted a 2024 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements (CRISI) federal grant application for its Piedmont Tie Replacement project. On May 28, the Town of Bedford submitted a CRISI application for design/environmental for a Bedford passenger rail stop. Both applications received technical assistance from DRPT. Award announcements are expected from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in October 2024.
 - DRPT assisted in the design of numerous rail and transit projects across the Commonwealth. Below are a few highlights of recent progress:
 - CAT: Belmont Park transit stop, the first DRPT-designed transit stop, has reached 100% design, and the plan has been submitted to the City of Charlottesville.
 - GRTC (Richmond): Pulse West Extension and North-South BRT: NEPA underway.
 - PAT (Petersburg): The NEPA process has begun for the Arlington Street maintenance/operations facility.
 - Suffolk Transit: The NEPA process has begun for a new maintenance/operations facility.
 - The Blacksburg Transit multimodal transfer facility went into service the week of June 24th
- **Minimize complexities and facilitate pragmatic solutions.**
 - On June 10, DRPT moved its Open Data Portal from a third-party site to the DRPT website. This will make the information easier for members of the public to find.
 - DRPT’s Chief of Rail Transportation met with a VEDP site selection team to review potential rail-served sites or transload facilities in the Lynchburg region, and with a Lynchburg Business Alliance roundtable to discuss how freight rail is used in the region. She also conducted a site visit at the Buckingham Branch RR Transload Facility in Doswell. These meetings will factor into the Central Virginia Rail Economic Development Study.

Convene with partners and stakeholders

- **Collaborate proactively with partners and stakeholders.**

- On June 18, DRPT joined GRTC (Richmond) and various elected, government, business, and community leaders in hosting the Regional Transportation Alliance, a regional business leadership group in the metropolitan Research Triangle area of North Carolina. The representatives visited Richmond to learn about the improvements the City has made to public transportation. DRPT will brief Durham officials on the Pulse Bus Rapid Transit and its impact on the community.
- The General Assembly appointed two new members to the Virginia-North Carolina Interstate High-Speed Rail Compact, Senator Sturtevant and Delegate Taylor. DRPT has reached out to both individuals offering a briefing with DRPT and VPRA. No meetings have been scheduled yet. DRPT is working with its partners at the North Carolina Department of Transportation to schedule a Compact meeting over the summer.

- **Engage with partners and stakeholders at the right time to maximize DRPT's influence.**

- Staff from DRPT attended the annual conference of the Virginia Transit Association in Harrisonburg VA on May 22-23. Staff gave conference presentations on transit technology, construction of transit facilities, and reporting of performance data.
- On June 6, the American Public Transportation Association announced WMATA as the recipient of this year's Gold Safety Award for Heavy Rail Systems. WMATA received the award for its Station Overrun/Just Culture Pilot program.

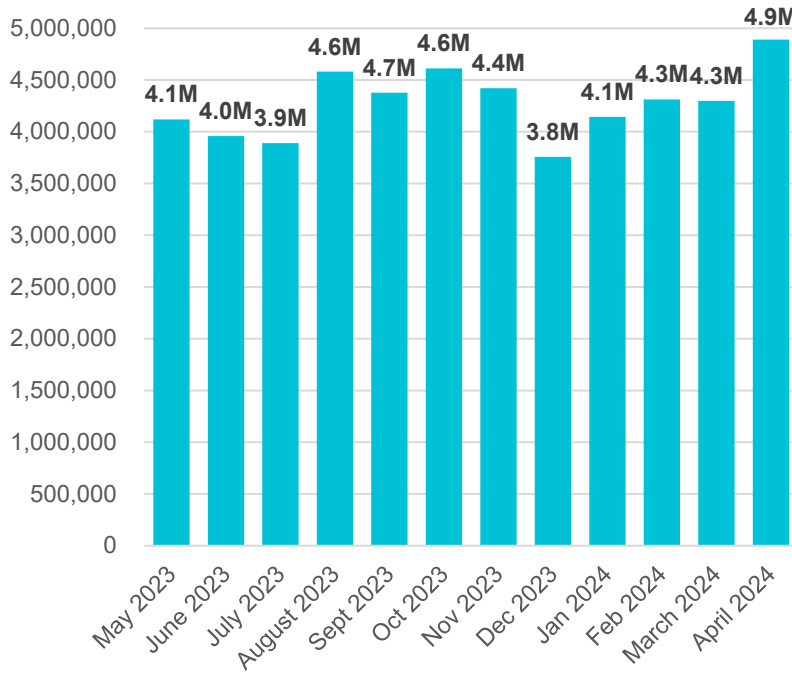
Cultivate a sustainable well-managed organization

- **Attract, develop, and retain a diverse and engaged workforce focused on customer service.**
 - DRPT has hired Adriana Fiscella to be the agency's executive assistant.
 - Aaron Clark has joined DRPT to serve as a transit programs manager.
 - DRPT's Rail Team has brought on Spencer Warner as an intern for the summer.
- **Promote DRPT's compelling story and valuable contribution with internal and external stakeholders.**
 - On May 21, DRPT representatives attended an event to mark the completion of a rehabilitation of the Fredericksburg VRE station. The \$14.1 million project extended existing platforms, built a new stairway for direct access from the commuter lot, improved access to elevators for people with disabilities, and added new signage, sidewalks and lighting, and a fresh coat of paint.
 - On June 21, Grace Stankus and Dan Sonenklar presented a DRPT/Virginia Transit Association lunch and learn on the agency's open data portal to transit partners.
 - Two more staff members joined them on June 24 to present on the open data portal at the meeting of the American Planning Association of Virginia.
- **Be good stewards of public resources.**
 - DRPT staff are engaged in an effort in the Northern Virginia area called DMVMoves that is a joint initiative by the Metro Washington COG and WMATA to develop a sustainable funding model for public transit in the region

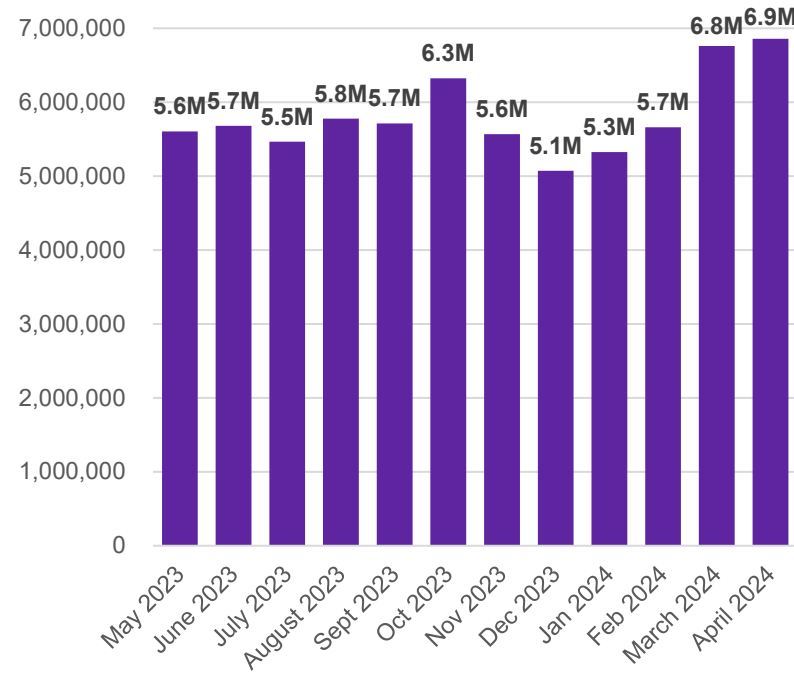
Performance Measures

Statewide Transit Ridership

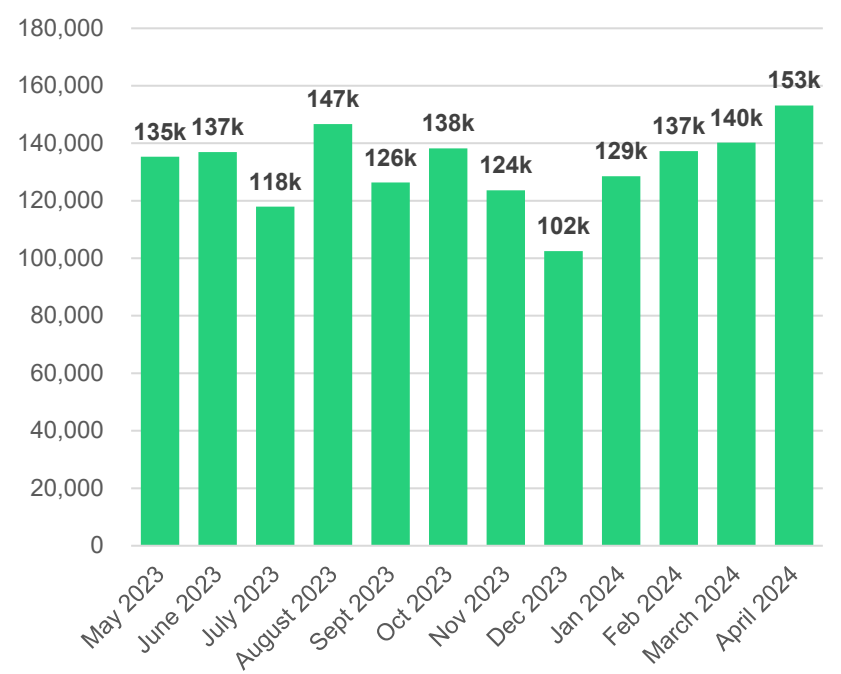
Statewide Transit Ridership – May 2023 to April 2024



Virginia Agencies



WMATA



VRE

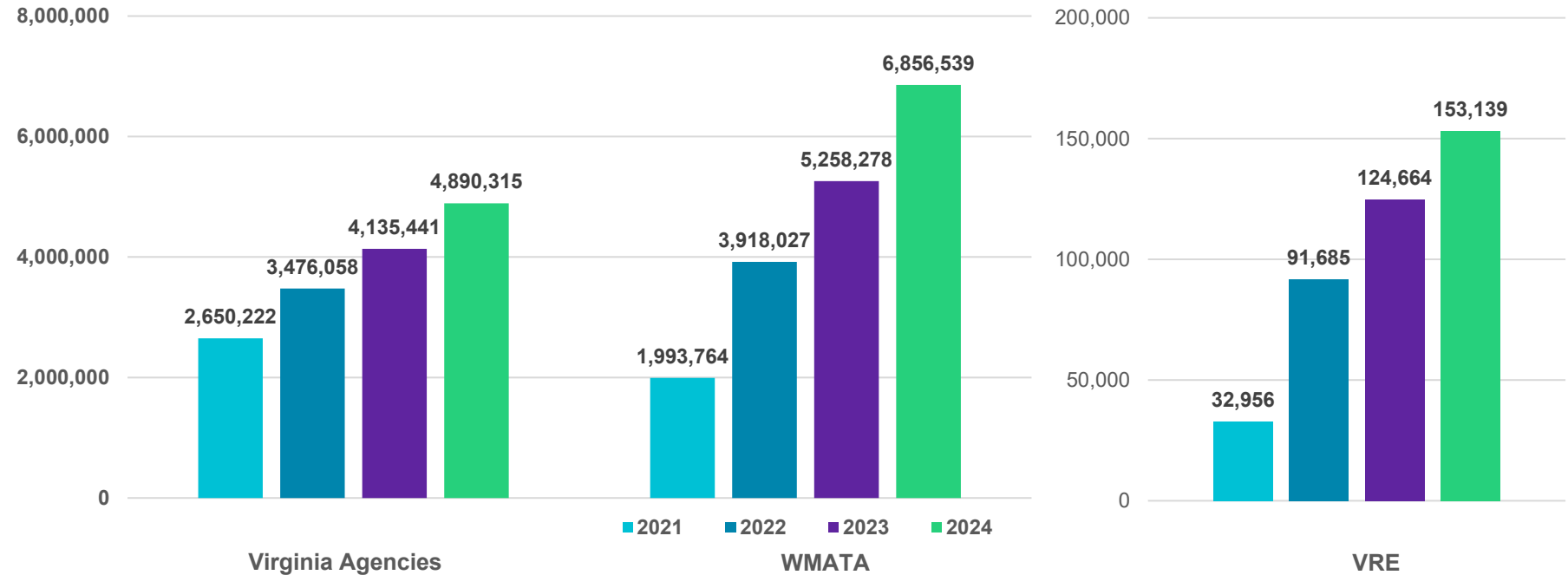
| Agencies | May 2023 | June 2023 | July 2023 | August 2023 | Sept 2023 | Oct 2023 | Nov 2023 | Dec 2023 | Jan 2024 | Feb 2024 | March 2024 | April 2024 | Total |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Virginia Agencies | 4,118,535 | 3,958,207 | 3,890,336 | 4,581,111 | 4,376,334 | 4,612,571 | 4,420,770 | 3,757,682 | 4,143,883 | 4,312,798 | 4,298,157 | 4,890,315 | 51,360,699 |
| VRE | 135,314 | 136,900 | 117,951 | 146,686 | 126,328 | 138,189 | 123,610 | 102,453 | 128,540 | 137,284 | 140,182 | 153,139 | 1,586,576 |
| WMATA | 5,603,271 | 5,679,896 | 5,465,891 | 5,777,047 | 5,712,322 | 6,323,067 | 5,566,283 | 5,072,553 | 5,324,597 | 5,660,243 | 6,759,533 | 6,856,539 | 69,801,242 |
| All Agencies + VRE + WMATA | 9,857,120 | 9,775,003 | 9,474,178 | 10,504,844 | 10,214,984 | 11,073,827 | 10,110,663 | 8,932,688 | 9,597,020 | 10,110,325 | 11,197,872 | 11,899,993 | 122,748,517 |

Statewide Ridership Comparison: April Year-to-Year

April 2019 (pre-pandemic):

Ridership for all Virginia Agencies + VRE + WMATA was 16,034,734

Ridership Comparison: Year-to-Year
2021 – 2024



| Mode | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2024 vs 2021 | 2024 vs 2022 | 2024 vs 2023 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Virginia Agencies | 2,650,222 | 3,476,058 | 4,135,441 | 4,890,315 | 85% | 41% | 18% |
| VRE | 32,956 | 91,685 | 124,664 | 153,139 | 365% | 67% | 23% |
| WMATA | 1,993,764 | 3,918,027 | 5,258,278 | 6,856,539 | 244% | 75% | 30% |
| All Agencies + VRE + WMATA | 4,676,942 | 7,485,770 | 9,518,383 | 11,899,993 | 154% | 59% | 25% |

Virginia Breeze Ridership - April

In April 2024, ridership on VA Breeze routes totaled 4,668 which was:

- 163% higher than original estimates, and
- 1% lower than April 2023

For the month of April 2024, the VA Breeze contributed to a reduction of 299 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent emissions.

Valley Flyer:

- Ridership – 3% lower than April 2023
- Farebox Rev. – 3% lower than April 2023

Piedmont Express:

- Ridership – 1% lower than April 2023
- Farebox Rev. – 1% lower than April 2023

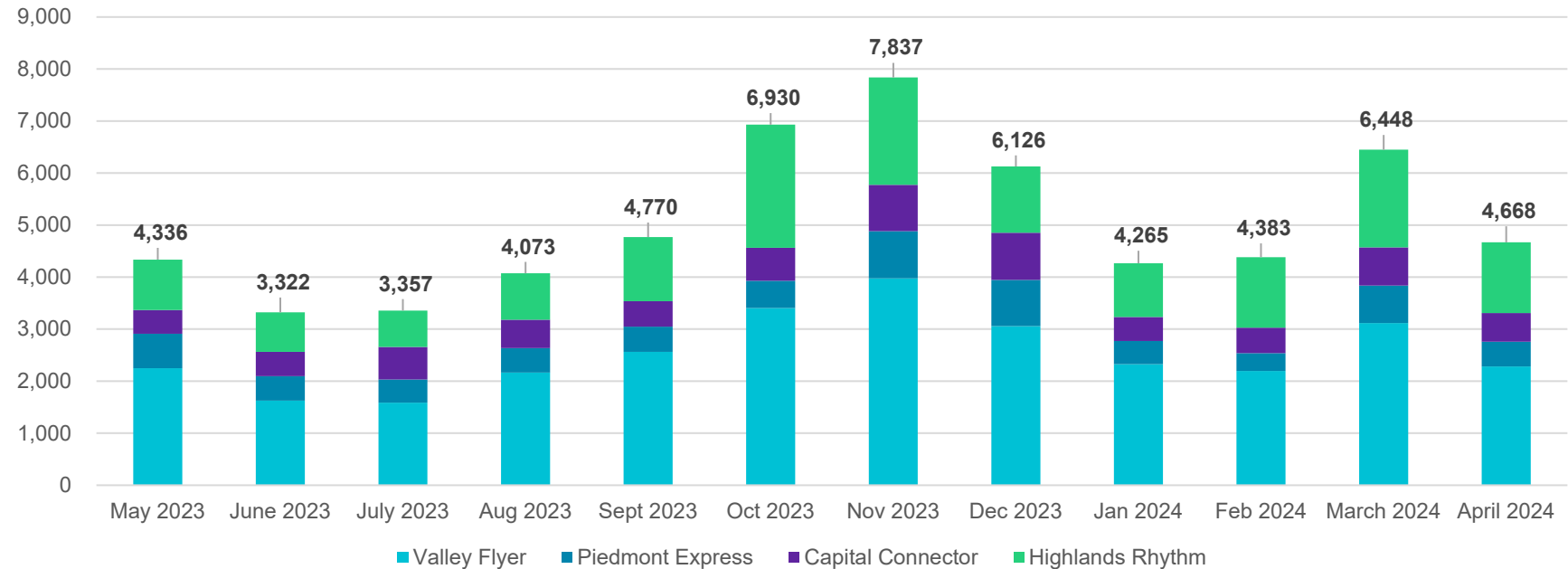
Capital Connector:

- Ridership – 12% higher than April 2023
- Farebox Rev. – 14% higher than April 2023

Highlands Rhythm:

- Ridership – 3% lower than April 2023
- Farebox Rev – 3% higher than April 2023

Virginia Breeze Ridership by Route – April 2023 to April 2024



| Route | May 2023 | June 2023 | July 2023 | Aug 2023 | Sept 2023 | Oct 2023 | Nov 2023 | Dec 2023 | Jan 2024 | Feb 2024 | March 2024 | April 2024 | Total |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Valley Flyer | 2,248 | 1,627 | 1,586 | 2,166 | 2,562 | 3,407 | 3,975 | 3,058 | 2,326 | 2,196 | 3,117 | 2,281 | 30,549 |
| Piedmont Express | 664 | 468 | 446 | 469 | 486 | 521 | 907 | 887 | 447 | 343 | 719 | 476 | 6,833 |
| Capital Connector | 455 | 468 | 625 | 545 | 488 | 634 | 891 | 908 | 462 | 488 | 736 | 551 | 7,251 |
| Highlands Rhythm | 969 | 759 | 700 | 893 | 1,234 | 2,368 | 2,064 | 1,273 | 1,030 | 1,356 | 1,876 | 1,360 | 15,882 |
| All Routes | 4,336 | 3,322 | 3,357 | 4,073 | 4,770 | 6,930 | 7,837 | 6,126 | 4,265 | 4,383 | 6,448 | 4,668 | 60,515 |

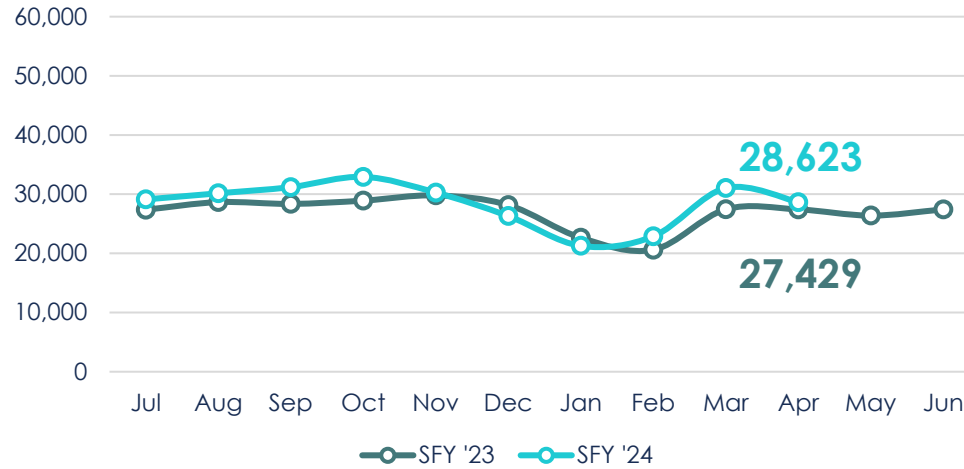
Amtrak Virginia Ridership (Virginia Passenger Rail Authority)

Virginia-Supported Monthly Ridership by Route SFY '24 vs SFY '23

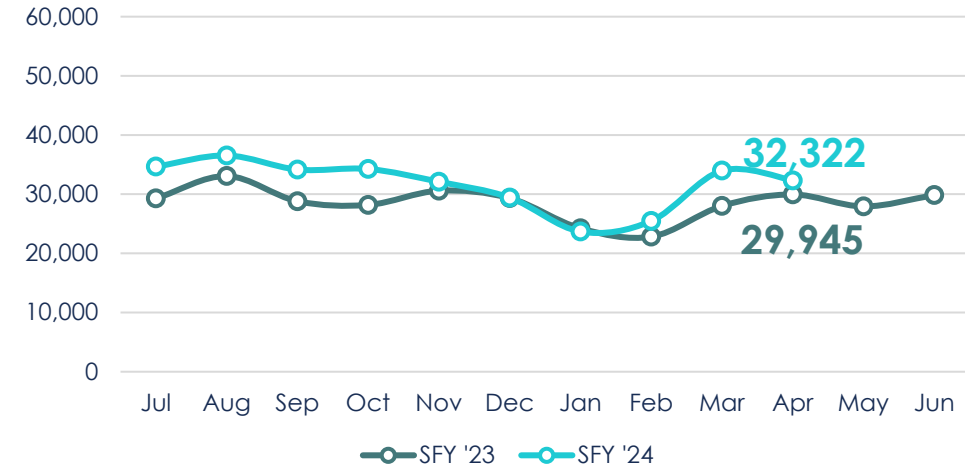
All four routes saw ridership increases year over year.

State Fiscal Year (SFY) YTD Ridership: 1,155,736

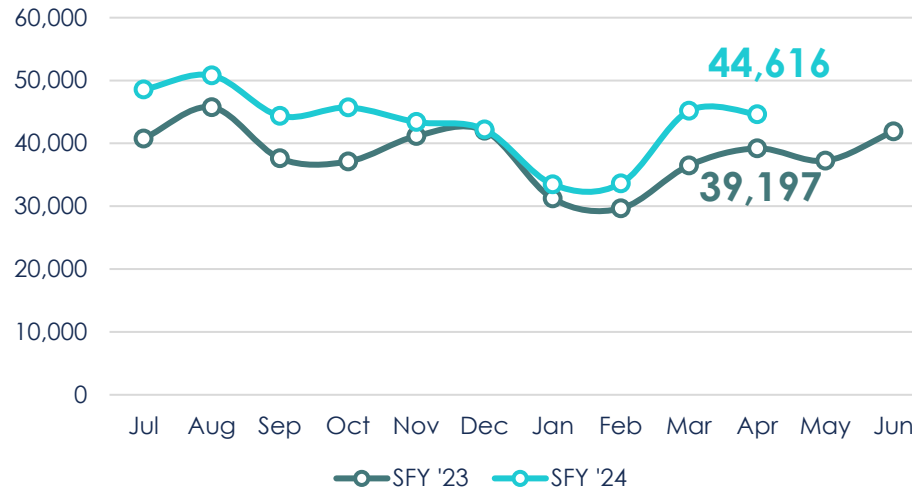
Route 46: Roanoke (+4.4%)



Route 47: Newport News (+7.9%)



Route 50: Norfolk (+13.8%)



Route 51: Richmond (+13.7%)

