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## Introduction

NVTC's quarterly ridership and parking reports provide an overview of the transit utilization in Northern Virginia. The report focuses on transit ridership as well as parking at Metrorail stations. The report is compiled at the end of each fiscal year quarter and reports 1) the number of people that have boarded buses, 2) the number of people entering Virginia Metrorail stations, and 3) the average daily use of parking facilities located at Metrorail stations. All Metrorail, Metrobus, and MetroAccess related data is provided by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), and all local bus systems as well as Virginia Railway Express (VRE) and OmniRide data is retrieved from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's (DRPT) ridership database.

## FY 2021 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Transit Ridership

Table 1 shows the total boardings for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of FY 2021. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter the regions transit operators continue to experience reduced ridership on bus and rail, as many employers in the region maintain telework policies due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall transit in the second quarter was down 83% compared to last year for this same period. Rail modes, where most trips are commuters traveling into the urban core, are continuing to telework resulting in a decline in ridership as compared to last year. Rail modes for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of FY 2021 showed a decline of 87% as compared to the same period last year. As commuters return to their offices rail ridership is expected to rebound. Bus ridership declined in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter by 52% as compared to the same period as last year, which is significantly less than the corresponding decline in rail ridership.

Figure 1 shows the ridership by month by primary mode. This includes under rail modes both Metrorail and VRE. For bus mode the figure aggregates all bus service including commuter, express, and local. The purpose of showing the primary mode and aggregating the submodes together is to provide a clear snapshot of trends in the region. In Northern Virginia, the rail modes predominately service commuter trips while bus serves commuter as well as other trips. Bus also serves lower income workers who have jobs which require the worker to be on-site more often. Overall, bus and rail ridership did increase as compared to the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of FY 2021. The increase in rail ridership between the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter was 15% for FY 2021. Bus ridership showed a 14% increase between the two quarters. When compared to the previous two years bus ridership showed a decrease between these same quarters, which makes the recent increase more significant.

**Table 1: Transit Boardings in Virginia by System 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter FY 21 (October-December)**

System	Quarterly Boardings by Fiscal Year		% Change FY 20 to FY 2021
	FY 2020	FY 2021	
Arlington Transit	743,574	320,991	-57%
Alexandria DASH	930,564	381,653	-59%
Fairfax County Connector	2,028,841	1,264,553	-38%
Fairfax City CUE	150,876	84,521	-44%
Loudoun County Transit	432,616	84,988	-80%
Omni Ride	582,429	174,470	-70%
Virginia Railway Express	1,070,400	74,759	-93%
Metrobus	3,917,229	1,945,286	-50%
MetroAccess	83,556	31,181	-63%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,940,085</b>	<b>4,362,402</b>	<b>-56%</b>

Source: DRPT and WMATA

For the local jurisdictions, Fairfax County showed the lowest percent decrease as compared to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of last year. Metrobus again had higher ridership than Metrorail for this quarter, which is the opposite of pre-pandemic ridership trends. Most providers have resumed fare collection as of early 2021 (consistent with Metrobus which resumed fare collection on January 1, 2021) and are installing equipment now to provide safety barriers for drivers and allowing front door boarding.

**Figure 1: Monthly Transit Boarding and Rail Station Entries**

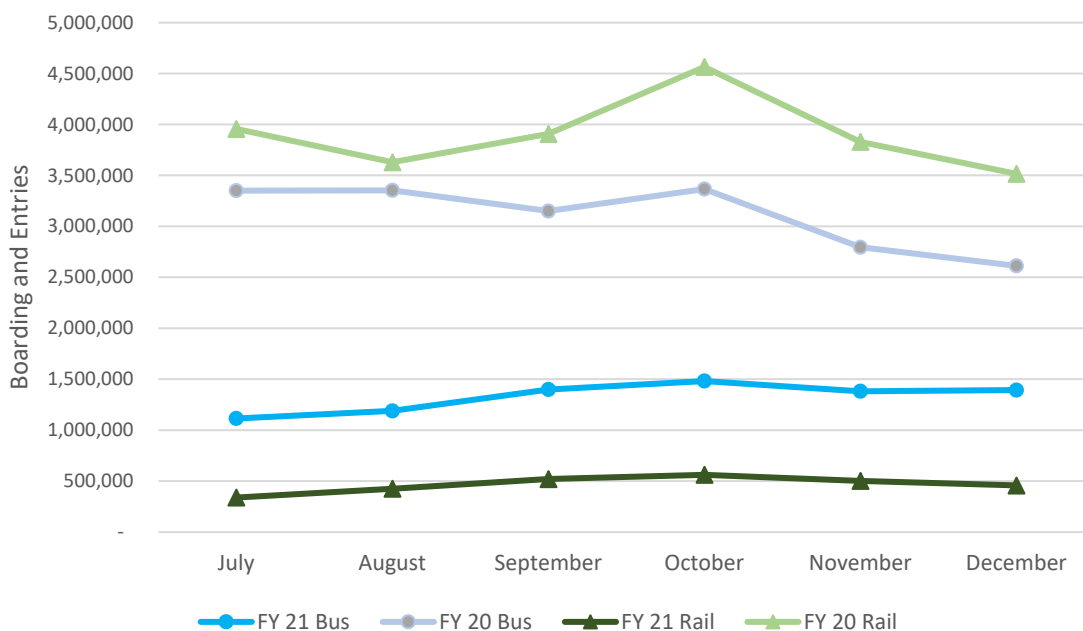


Table 2 shows the station entries for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of FY 2021 at Metrorail stations in Northern Virginia. Transit ridership at Virginia Metrorail stations increased by 20% as compared to the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of FY 2021. Metrorail continues to implement its COVID-19 enhanced cleaning protocols, as well as publishing train and bus vehicle capacities. These efforts are expected to help increase ridership throughout and after the pandemic.

To continue platform and station improvements, WMATA is taking advantage of reduced ridership and lower demand. WMATA will temporarily close Arlington Cemetery Metrorail station from February 13 to May 23 in order to replace the platform and renovate the station. This station renovation and platform improvement is the last of the Virginia stations that will receive infrastructure and station enhancements as part of the Platform Improvement Project.

**Table 2: WMATA Metrorail Virginia Station Entries 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter FY 2021**

Northern Virginia Station Entries	Quarterly Station Entries by Fiscal Year		% Change FY 2020 to FY 2021
	FY 2020	FY 2021	
Quarterly Total	10,838,152	1,447,030	-87%
Weekday Average	142,950	17,898	-87%
Saturday Average	65,739	12,584	-81%
Sunday Average	42,221	7,858	-81%

Source: WMATA

Table 3 shows the number of entries for each month in the quarter by Metrorail station. Stations are grouped by jurisdiction and listed alphabetically within each jurisdiction. The table shows the number of entries for the same time period of the previous year. Jurisdictional totals are presented in the bottom rows of the table as well as a regional total for Northern Virginia.

**Table 3: Metrorail Station Entries for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter FY 2021**

Jurisdiction	Station	Year	October	November	December	Total	% Change FY 20 to FY 21
Arlington County	Arlington Cemetery	FY 20	41,513	24,975	25,713	92,202	-89%
		FY 21	4,383	2,494	2,825	9,701	
	Ballston	FY 20	282,660	241,800	215,478	739,938	-86%
		FY 21	36,729	32,996	30,538	100,263	
	Clarendon	FY 20	135,195	118,669	106,601	360,465	-88%
		FY 21	16,400	14,684	13,764	44,849	
	Court House	FY 20	188,149	160,884	143,029	492,062	-89%
		FY 21	19,948	16,476	15,529	51,952	
	Crystal City	FY 20	322,712	262,760	229,632	815,103	-89%
		FY 21	33,799	29,575	26,264	89,639	
	East Falls Church	FY 20	112,944	96,358	86,778	296,081	-90%
		FY 21	10,589	9,827	8,838	29,253	
	National Airport	FY 20	184,284	165,599	158,369	508,253	-84%
		FY 21	30,043	27,097	23,956	81,097	
	Pentagon	FY 20	354,080	271,806	262,355	888,241	-84%
		FY 21	52,062	46,484	41,886	140,432	
Pentagon City	FY 20	372,222	331,162	311,063	1,014,448	-83%	
	FY 21	58,209	54,941	56,080	169,230		
Rosslyn	FY 20	420,201	328,128	284,269	1,032,597	-89%	
	FY 21	43,393	37,073	33,669	114,135		
Virginia Square	FY 20	112,178	95,179	83,422	290,779	-90%	
	FY 21	11,335	10,183	8,954	30,473		
City of Alexandria	Braddock Road	FY 20	108,245	95,522	88,075	291,842	-83%
		FY 21	18,544	16,412	14,862	49,817	
	Eisenhower Avenue	FY 20	49,696	39,359	36,630	125,685	-82%
		FY 21	6,946	7,147	8,844	22,937	
	King Street	FY 20	168,616	140,663	133,630	442,910	-82%
		FY 21	30,315	26,028	23,497	79,840	
	Van Dorn	FY 20	63,317	54,821	50,627	168,766	-83%
		FY 21	12,080	10,558	6,236	28,874	
Fairfax County	Dunn Loring	FY 20	108,237	92,130	83,570	283,936	-89%
		FY 21	11,315	10,406	9,877	31,598	
	Franconia Springfield	FY 20	163,122	150,957	143,089	457,167	-86%
		FY 21	26,985	24,544	13,277	64,806	
	Greensboro	FY 20	46,185	39,201	35,118	120,504	-87%
		FY 21	5,842	5,077	5,056	15,974	
	Huntington	FY 20	157,823	143,724	132,172	433,720	-83%
		FY 21	26,635	24,883	23,796	75,314	
	McLean	FY 20	67,976	56,025	48,912	172,913	-89%
		FY 21	6,741	6,706	6,406	19,853	

**Table 3: Metrorail Station Entries for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter FY 2021 (continued)**

Jurisdiction	Station	Year	October	November	December	Total	% Change FY 20 to FY 21
Fairfax County	Spring Hill	FY 20	38,305	32,469	28,952	99,726	-84%
		FY 21	5,396	6,095	4,962	16,453	
	Tysons Corner	FY 20	105,501	96,031	89,267	290,799	-83%
		FY 21	16,411	16,104	16,615	49,130	
	Vienna	FY 20	249,498	214,948	194,107	658,552	-91%
		FY 21	21,244	18,995	17,323	57,562	
	West Falls Church	FY 20	71,644	61,929	56,072	189,645	-89%
		FY 21	7,295	6,920	6,232	20,447	
	Wiehle-Reston East	FY 20	215,956	184,948	170,916	571,820	-91%
		FY 21	20,803	17,223	15,373	53,399	
Total	Arlington County	FY 20	2,413,961	2,002,141	1,823,288	6,239,389	-87%
		FY 21	305,555	271,648	253,349	830,551	
	City of Alexandria	FY 20	389,874	330,365	308,962	1,029,202	-82%
		FY 21	67,885	60,146	53,438	181,469	
	Fairfax County	FY 20	1,336,425	1,167,541	1,065,594	3,569,560	-88%
		FY 21	160,002	147,136	127,871	435,010	
	Northern Virginia	FY 20	<b>4,140,260</b>	<b>3,500,048</b>	<b>3,197,844</b>	<b>10,838,152</b>	<b>-87%</b>
		FY 21	<b>533,442</b>	<b>478,930</b>	<b>434,658</b>	<b>1,447,030</b>	

Source: WMATA

## FY 2021 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Parking Utilization

Table 4 presents a comparison of parking usage. The table lists the daily average parking by Metrorail station and compares the quarterly daily averages between FY 2020 and FY 2021. Figure 2 shows the average daily percent of parking by Metrorail stations in Northern Virginia.

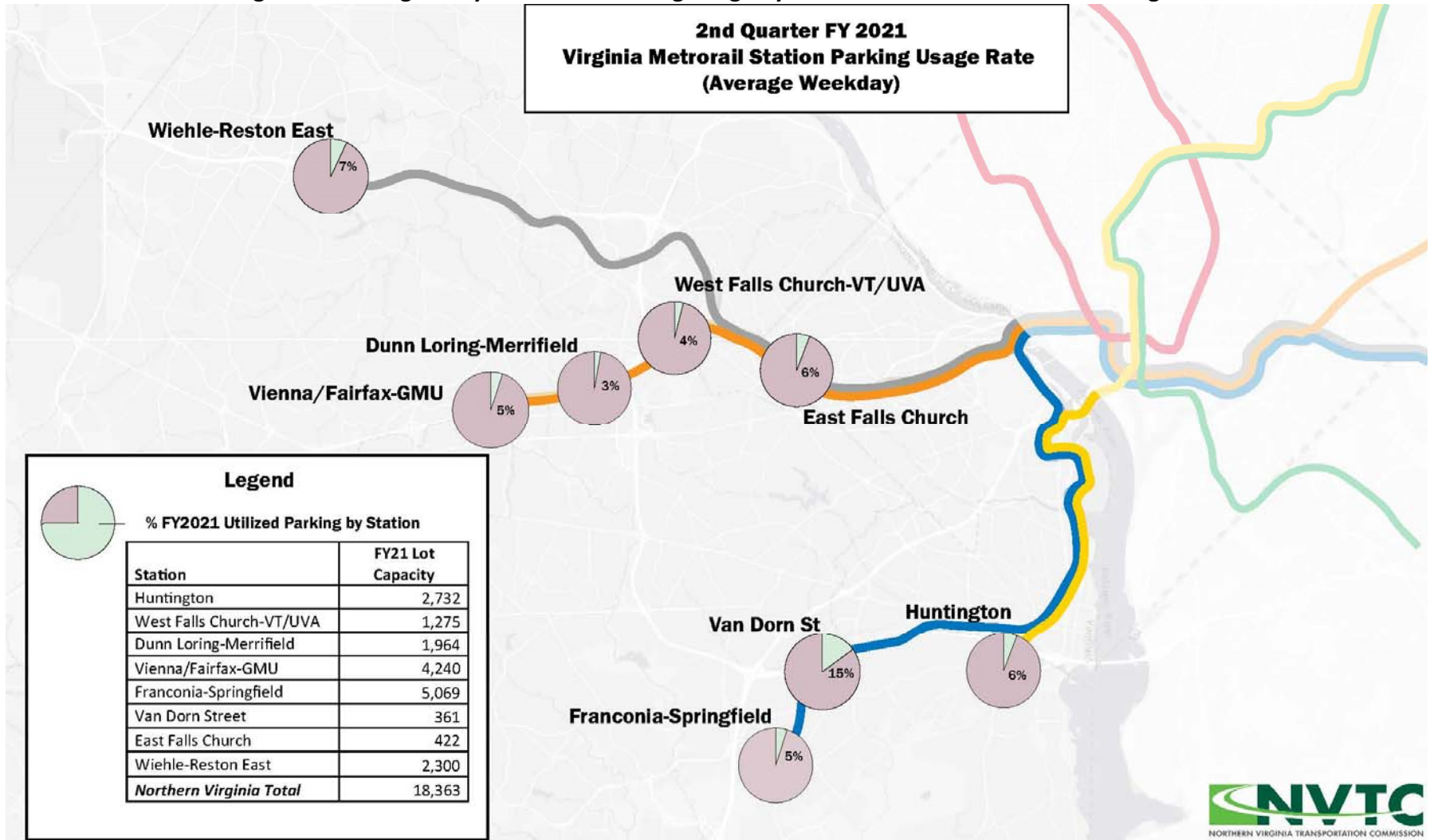
Stations in Northern Virginia continue to see low demand for parking, as would be expected given the ridership. As commuters return to their offices parking might be expected to increase before feeder bus service to stations increases. The demand for feeder bus service to Metrorail stations is a function of the availability of parking.

**Table 4: WMATA Virginia Parking Facility Usage (Average Weekday) 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter FY 2021**

Metrorail Station	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter FY 2020			2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter FY 2021			% Change FY 20 to FY 21
	Number of Parking Spots	Lot Usage		Number of Parking Spots	Lot Usage		
		Average Utilization	Daily Average Vehicles		Average Utilization	Daily Average Vehicles	
Huntington*	3,027	74%	2,240	2,732	6%	164	-93%
West Falls Church	2,009	66%	1,319	1,275	4%	55	-96%
Dunn Loring	1,964	49%	962	1,964	3%	65	-93%
Vienna**	4,719	72%	3,382	4,240	5%	141	-94%
Franconia	5,069	63%	3,210	5,069	5%	212	-92%
Van Dorn	361	93%	336	361	15%	53	-84%
East Falls Church	422	113%	478	422	6%	27	-94%
Wiehle-Reston East	2,300	91%	2,101	2,300	7%	153	-93%
Northern Virginia Total	19,871	71%	14,029	18,363	5%	1,000	-93%

Source: WMATA;

Figure 2: Average Daily Percent of Parking Usage by Metrorail stations in Northern Virginia



Source: WMATA