

## 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 4th Quarter Transit Ridership

Table 1 shows the total boardings for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of FY 2021. During the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter the regions transit operators started to experience increases ridership on bus and rail, as many employers in the region returned to work and vaccination rates increased. Overall transit in the fourth quarter was up 128% compared to last year for this same period. Rail modes, where most trips are commuters traveling into the urban core, with workers starting to return to offices showed an increase of 284% in ridership as compared to the same period last year. As commuters return to their offices, rail ridership is expected to continue to rebound but compared to pre-pandemic levels it is still down by 80%. Bus ridership increased in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter by 89% as compared to the same period as last year but compared to pre-pandemic levels is still down 58%. Overall transit ridership is down 69% as compared to pre-pandemic levels.

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 modes also serve lower income workers who have jobs that require the worker to be on-site more often. Overall, bus and rail ridership did increase as compared to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY 2021. The increase in rail ridership between the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter was 60% for FY 2021. Bus ridership showed an approximately 30% increase between the two quarters.

**Table 1: Transit Boardings in Virginia by System 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter FY 21 (April-June)**

System	Quarterly Boardings by Fiscal Year		% Change FY 20 to FY 2021
	FY 2020	FY 2021	
Arlington Transit	270,818	384,629	42%
Alexandria DASH	230,328	407,500	77%
Fairfax County Connector	808,704	1,192,043	47%
Fairfax City CUE	50,675	88,959	76%
Loudoun County Transit	37,464	90,014	140%
OmniRide	90,386	222,140	146%
Virginia Railway Express	38,322	117,630	207%
Metrobus	851,845	1,997,074	134%
MetroAccess	21,095	39,135	86%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,437,959</b>	<b>4,656,754</b>	<b>91%</b>

Source: DRPT and WMATA

VRE showed the highest percent increase as compared to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of last year. VRE ridership is still down 90% compared to pre-pandemic levels. OmniRide showed the greatest increase in ridership for buses but is still down 65% as compared to pre-pandemic levels. The increases in ridership as compared to the previous quarter was most likely due to an increase in vaccination rates and corresponding number of people returning to school and work. The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of last year was impacted by the stay-at-home orders associated with the pandemic. The impacts of COVID started in the middle of March 2020.

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

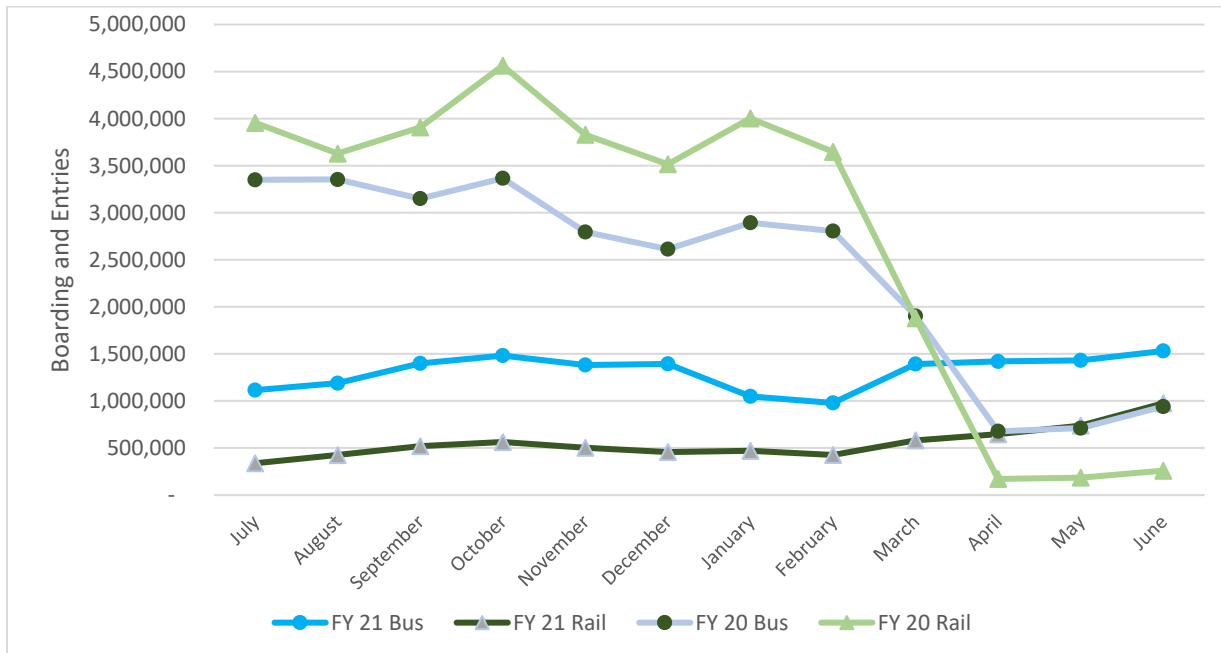


Table 2 shows the station entries for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of FY 2021 at Metrorail stations in Northern Virginia. Transit ridership at Virginia Metrorail stations increased by 60% as compared to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY 2021 but was still down approximately 80% compared to pre-pandemic levels for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. 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.

**Table 2: WMATA Metrorail Virginia Station Entries 4<sup>th</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	574,939	2,240,224	290%
Weekday Average	7,393	27,166	267%
Saturday Average	4,146	20,683	399%
Sunday Average	3,115	15,813	408%

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 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter FY 2021**

Jurisdiction	Station	Year	April	May	June	Total	% Change FY 20 to FY 21
Arlington County	Arlington Cemetery	FY 20	78	41	71	190	12781%
		FY 21	0	6,504	17,943	24,447	
	Ballston	FY 20	15,687	21,483	45,184	82,354	93%
		FY 21	43,758	51,796	63,054	158,608	
	Clarendon	FY 20	79	22	521	622	12770%
		FY 21	20,239	26,213	33,550	80,002	
	Court House	FY 20	7,379	8,253	12,991	28,623	232%
		FY 21	25,049	30,525	39,534	95,108	
	Crystal City	FY 20	9,798	11,204	16,321	37,323	272%
		FY 21	38,691	42,622	57,612	138,925	
	East Falls Church	FY 20	0	0	0	0	-
		FY 21	13,634	16,753	22,156	52,543	
	National Airport	FY 20	10,102	10,606	16,025	36,733	338%
		FY 21	40,498	53,560	66,655	160,713	
	Pentagon	FY 20	13,336	14,676	20,599	48,611	297%
		FY 21	59,088	60,891	73,232	193,211	
Pentagon City	FY 20	14,095	16,588	32,487	63,170	257%	
	FY 21	63,886	71,959	89,924	225,769		
Rosslyn	FY 20	13,779	15,228	24,326	53,333	233%	
	FY 21	46,592	55,295	75,850	177,737		
Virginia Square	FY 20	24	23	401	448	12348%	
	FY 21	14,085	17,485	24,238	55,808		
City of Alexandria	Braddock Road	FY 20	6,257	7,196	10,565	24,018	206%
		FY 21	20,037	23,898	29,517	73,452	
	Eisenhower Avenue	FY 20	127	44	444	615	4607%
		FY 21	8,610	8,854	11,488	28,952	
	King Street	FY 20	13,248	14,833	20,505	48,586	146%
		FY 21	33,069	38,467	48,198	119,734	
	Van Dorn	FY 20	24	13	424	461	9346%
		FY 21	12,492	13,885	17,132	43,509	
Fairfax County	Dunn Loring	FY 20	5,205	4,031	0	9,236	441%
		FY 21	13,846	16,210	19,872	49,928	
	Franconia Springfield	FY 20	10,007	11,740	18,385	40,132	143%
		FY 21	26,544	30,985	39,807	97,336	
	Greensboro	FY 20	233	129	183	545	4154%
		FY 21	6,517	7,371	9,283	23,171	
	Huntington	FY 20	15,113	16,196	20,022	51,331	118%
		FY 21	33,577	35,537	42,872	111,986	
	McLean	FY 20	192	180	117	489	6412%
		FY 21	8,989	10,554	12,323	31,866	

**Table 3: Metrorail Station Entries for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter FY 2021 (continued)**

Jurisdiction	Station	Year	April	May	June	Total	% Change FY 20 to FY 21
Fairfax County	Spring Hill	FY 20	3,295	2,597	2	5,894	239%
		FY 21	5,942	4,283	9,766	19,991	
	Tysons Corner	FY 20	5,017	4,252	74	9,343	647%
		FY 21	19,654	23,540	26,606	69,800	
	Vienna	FY 20	7,087	5,998	0	13,085	644%
		FY 21	25,631	30,300	41,462	97,393	
	West Falls Church	FY 20	3,537	2,709	0	6,246	356%
		FY 21	7,718	9,153	11,626	28,497	
	Wiehle- Reston East	FY 20	7,417	5,966	168	13,551	503%
		FY 21	24,758	14,964	42,016	81,738	
Total	Arlington County	FY 20	84,357	98,125	168,926	351,408	288%
		FY 21	365,520	433,602	563,748	1,362,870	
	City of Alexandria	FY 20	19,656	22,085	31,938	73,679	261%
		FY 21	74,208	85,105	106,335	265,648	
	Fairfax County	FY 20	57,103	53,797	38,951	149,851	308%
		FY 21	173,176	182,897	255,633	611,706	
	Northern Virginia	FY 20	161,116	174,008	239,815	574,939	290%
		FY 21	612,904	701,604	925,716	2,240,224	

Source: WMATA

## FY 2021 4<sup>th</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) 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter FY 2021**

Metrorail Station	4th Quarter FY 2020			4th 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	2,732	0%	9	2,732	10%	264	2800%
West Falls Church	1,275	0%	0	1,759	5%	82	-
Dunn Loring	1,964	0%	-	1,964	4%	85	-
Vienna	4,550	0%	17	5,169	6%	310	1700%
Franconia	5,069	0%	17	5,069	7%	372	2100%
Van Dorn	361	1%	2	361	19%	69	2750%
East Falls Church	422	0%	0	422	14%	58	-
Wiehle-Reston East	2,300	0%	8	2,300	10%	222	2800%
Northern Virginia Total	18,673	0%	53	19,776	7%	1,462	2642%

Source: WMATA;

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

Source: WMATA

