MOBILITY CHAPTER PUBLIC MEETING
Roadway Plan and Transit
Pathway to 2040: Comprehensive Plan Update

May 26, 2021
Introductions

- Rick Canizales, Director of Transportation
- Elizabeth Scullin, PE. Assistant Director of Transportation Planning & Programming
- Paolo Belita, Planning Manager, Policy & Programming
- George Phillips, Principal Transportation Planner
- Meagan Landis, Research and Grant Analyst
- Perrin Palistrant, PRTC / OmniRide
- Christine Hoeffner, Virginia Railway Express
- Elected and Appointed Officials
Agenda

- Introductions
- Meeting Platform & Ground Rules
- Background to Mobility Chapter
- Transportation in Prince William County
- Transit - OmniRide Overview
- Transit - VRE Overview
- Question & Answer Session with Panel
- Next Mobility Meeting & Contact Information
Make the Best Use of Zoom

- This meeting will be recorded.
- You will be muted during the webinar.
- Once the question & answer session begins, you can ask a question or comment using the Chat function.
  - Find the Chat icon by hovering your cursor at the bottom or top of the screen. Select the chat from the pulldown menu and choose the recipient (private or everyone).
  - To ask a question chose “everyone”.

![Zoom meeting interface](image)
**Virtual meeting etiquette:**

- During the question & answer session with the panel. Please ask your questions or provide comments using the chat box.
- Be respectful of other’s perspectives.
Background

Prince William County is completing an update of the Comprehensive Plan, which will help guide future Planning decisions in the county. The Comprehensive Plan update began in 2018 and this work is a continuation of that process.

The Comprehensive Plan update includes the Transportation chapter which will be restructured as the Mobility chapter, incorporating Trails both on and off-road and all other modes of transportation.
The County has made it a priority to consistently improve the transportation network and meet the needs of our growing community.

County goals include easing the flow of traffic and improving travel within Prince William County; providing transportation options for residents and visitors and creating and maintaining safe traveling conditions.

In order to meet these goals, The County works with a wide variety of local, regional, state and federal partners.

In addition, the County manages Capital Improvement Projects and works with the Board of County Supervisors to find effective solutions that resolve transportation issues.

As a result of these efforts, Prince William County has been able to produce a $1 Billion Capital Improvement Program of Projects.
Transportation in Prince William County

The County plans and implements various multimodal projects and considers all transportation modes to include the following examples:

- Roadway
- Intersection
- Interchange
- Sidewalk/Trails
- Commuter Parking/Garage
- Transit related improvements
- Traffic safety related improvements
The intent of the current Transportation Plan is to provide a multimodal transportation network (including roadways, transit facilities, and services, as well as non-motorized options) that allows for the safe and efficient movement of goods and people throughout the County and into surrounding jurisdictions.
The Thoroughfare Plan provides a guide that will assist the County in its goal of providing the necessary roadway infrastructure to satisfy the estimated future traffic demands in the County.

This section of the plan provides methods for evaluating the level of service of roadways and intersections.

Additionally, this plan outlines strategies for providing the necessary roadway improvements highlighted in this section and discusses methods for potentially reducing demand or increasing the efficiency of the existing transportation system.
Current Transportation Chapter

Trails Map

Transit Improvements Map
What is OMNIRIDE?

OmniRide/ Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)

• OmniRide is the operating name for the mobility and transit services offered by PRTC.

• Operates Express and Local bus services in neighborhoods surrounded by the I-95 and I-66 corridors. Promotes carpools and vanpools throughout Northern Virginia through Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Programs

• The PRTC Board of Commissioners has 17 members. 13 are locally elected officials from its six member jurisdictions: Prince William County (6), Manassas City (1), Manassas Park City (1), Stafford County (2), Spotsylvania County (2), and Fredericksburg City (1).

• Each PRTC jurisdiction member collects a 2.1% motor fuels tax. The tax revenue is used to subsidize transit services. In Prince William County, this tax revenue is used to subsidize PRTC.

• Other OmniRide funding sources include passenger fares as well as federal, state and regional monies.

• PRTC operates the Virginia Railway Express (with the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission).
OMNIRIDE Service Area

Western County Service Area:
- 5 Commuter Routes
- 2 Metro Express (Tysons)
- 3 Local Routes
- 1 Cross County Route (Manassas to Woodbridge)
- Paratransit Service

Eastern County Service Area:
- 10 Commuter Routes (plus 2 from Stafford)
- 1 Metro Express (Franconia-Springfield)
- 5 Local Routes
- 1 Cross County Route (Woodbridge to Manassas)
Opening of Western Maintenance Facility

**Highlights:**

- Will open for revenue service June 2021
- All western County Commuter, Metro Express, Local and Paratransit services will operate from this facility
- Allow for future expansion of western County services
- Initially 1/3 of OMNIRIDE’S 150 vehicles will be housed
OMNI RIDE Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Services

- TDM is how we make the infrastructure really work!
- We help people make the most of existing and new infrastructure through transit, ridesharing, walking, biking and telework.
- OmniRide Ridematching Services
- Free assistance for Prince William County residents who want to stop driving alone and start ridesharing via carpool/vanpool/slugging
- Provide assistance for vanpool owner/operators
- Financial
- Help keep their ridership intact
- We also operate the east coast’s largest Vanpool Program with Vanpool Alliance. This earns millions annually for the region and provides support to vendors.
OMNIRIDE COVID-19 Response

- OMNIRIDE adjusted service and provided PPE for staff
  - Implemented Friday level of service for commuter bus effective June 22, 2020
    - Commuter ridership has decreased 70-75 percent, local ridership has decreased 40-50 percent, but is slowly building
    - Temporarily suspended state funded Dale City and Lake Ridge to Mark Center and Tysons-Woodbridge commuter routes based on very low ridership. Will evaluate options for service going forward
  - Providing operators and other front-line staff PPE (masks, sanitizer, blocking of seats)
  - Limited number of passengers per bus
  - Implemented state and Federal policies for face mask requirement for passengers
  - Free fares on local bus; Smartrip only for commuter bus
  - Operator barriers for 47 local buses have been installed; commuter bus barriers are being evaluated for functionality
  - Added hand sanitizing dispensers to entire fleet
  - Added strategic buses when possible to limit overcrowding due to reduced seating capacity
OMNIRIDE Strategic Planning

Short Term: Present - 2022

- Four existing local routes converted into seven routes that serve more localized areas
- Revised network would allow service to be better tailored to demand
- Operate fixed routes and underlying paratransit

Revise Eastern Local Routes

Other recommendations achieved in recent service changes

- Western local service restructuring
- I-66 Commuter Choice services
- I-395/95 Commuter Choice services
OMNIRIDE Longer Term

Mid Term: 2023 - 2026

- East-West Express and Prince William Metro Express revised to serve Neabsco Mills transit hub
- New Commuter Express routes to St. Elizabeth’s and Eisenhower Avenue

- Manassas Metro Express and Commuter Express revised to serve Balls Ford Commuter Lot
- Linton Hall Metro Direct increased frequency
- New Commuter Express route – Gainesville/Near East (NoMA)
- All-day, bi-directional service on Manassas Metro Express

- New Commuter Express routes – Dale City and Lake Ridge to Near East (NoMA)
Implementation of new Technology

Leveraging Technology

- Modernize and update website
- Develop Real-Time Information application
- Develop Mobile Ticketing application
- Develop Mobility as a Service Platform
- Flexible commuter lot shuttle
- Wheels to Wellness program enhancements
- Establish Flexible Vanpool Program
What is Virginia Railway Express?

- Commuter rail service from the Northern Virginia suburbs to Alexandria, Crystal City and Washington, D.C.
- Joint project of NVTC and PRTC.
  - Commissions own VRE but delegate many actions to the VRE Operations Board.
    - 9 member jurisdictions
- 82 route miles of leased track
- Two lines
  - Fredericksburg & Manassas
  - 16 trains daily on each line (pre-pandemic)
- Carries about 19,000 daily riders (pre-pandemic)
VRE COVID-19 Response

• VRE currently operating “S Plus” schedule (18 daily trains); full schedule resumes June 1, 2021 (32 daily trains).

• Ongoing monitoring of passenger loads to ensure social distancing.

• Enhanced cleaning of passenger coaches and facilities.

• Hand sanitizer dispensers and graphics installed in stations and on trains.

• Following Federal and state orders requiring face masks for passengers.

• Train crews and other front-line staff provided PPE (masks, sanitizer, social distancing); VRE staff working from remote environments.

VRE SYSTEM

![Graph showing VRE system usage over time](image)
VRE System Plan

- Adopted in 2014
- Framework for VRE system investments and service through 2040 to meet regional travel needs.
  - Adding rail capacity and growing VRE service is the key
    - Phase 1: run longer trains
    - Phase 2 and 3: run more trains
- Potential to more than double VRE ridership when fully implemented.
Quantico Station Improvements

• Increases operational efficiency by providing platform edges on all tracks at the station
• Improves passenger safety by providing grade-separated access between the platforms and station area.
• Helps to facilitate the planned 3rd track, under construction by DRPT.
• Schedule
  » Construction contract executed March 2021
  » Construction complete 2023
Broad Run Expansion

• Provides expanded facilities to accommodate growth in passenger boardings, station parking demand, and equipment storage needs.

• The project also provides a third main track along the existing Norfolk Southern Railway tracks to improve operational efficiency into the Broad Run complex and increase rail capacity in the corridor.

• Schedule
  » Preliminary engineering & NEPA complete
  » Property acquisition underway
  » Final design start mid-2021
  » Construction complete 2025
Potomac Shores Station

- The VRE Potomac Shores Station is a public-private project involving the Potomac Shores developer, VRE, Prince William County, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and CSXT.

- Potomac Shores is contributing funding for design and construction of the train station and a 550 space parking garage, including a 6,000 square-foot head house overlooking the Potomac River.

For additional information: [https://potomacshores.com/lifestyle/train-station/](https://potomacshores.com/lifestyle/train-station/)
Transforming Rail in Virginia

- Purchase agreement between the Commonwealth and CSXT
  - Virginia acquires half of the CSXT right-of-way between Washington, DC, and Petersburg, VA
  - Track within the right-of-way purchased also becomes Virginia property
- Phased implementation of capacity improvements over the next 10 years
  - Long Bridge and 37 miles of new track
  - Track construction is being coordinated with VRE station improvements
- VRE service expansion enabled by the completion of each phase of the TRV program
VRE Service Expansion Timeline

- **Post Acquisition Schedule (2021)**
  - 1 additional round trip on each VRE line*
  - Adjustments to existing VRE schedules
  - Service contingent on availability of equipment, train storage, staff, financial plan

- **Phase 1 Improvements Complete (2026)**
  - 3 round trips FBG line, 3 round trips MSS line*
  - Weekend service

- **Phase 2 (2030)**
  - 2 round trips FBG line
  - Reverse flow opportunity

*All additional MSS line trains subject to future agreement(s) with Norfolk Southern Railway*
Community Question & Answer Session

• For the remainder of this Community Meeting, subject matter experts on a panel will respond to questions from the participants.

• Please submit your questions using the chat function.

• The moderator will present your question to the panel.

• A member of the panel will answer the question or if the question requires additional data or research, staff will provide a response by posting the question and answer on the web portal at a later date.

• This virtual meeting will be recorded and posted with the chat comments on the web portal.
Next meeting

Mobility Meeting #2 Topic: Trails & Connectivity

Date & Time: June 9, 2021 at 07:00 PM - 8:30 PM (Eastern Time)

- Platform: Zoom Meeting
  To register for this meeting use the link:  https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkfuiuqzsuGNep-lZt22Idm3NUNs27DIQY6
Contact Information

Project Email: mobility@pwcgov.org

Project Web Portal: www.pwcgov.org/pathwayto2040

Thank you for your participation!