

Transit Subsidy

Transit Service in Prince William County

The Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) is a multi-jurisdictional agency representing Prince William, Stafford, and Spotsylvania Counties, and the Cities of Manassas, Manassas Park, and Fredericksburg. Located in Virginia about 25 miles southwest of Washington, D.C., PRTC provides commuter bus service along the busy I-95 and I-66 corridors to points north (OmniRide Express) and local bus services in the County and the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park (OmniRide Local).

PRTC also offers OmniRide Ridesharing Services, a free ridesharing service. Operated by PRTC in partnership with the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC), the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) provides commuter rail service along the Manassas and Fredericksburg lines, connecting to transit providers at stations in Virginia and the District of Columbia.

For more information, go to omniride.com and vre.org.



Mandates

There is no state or federal mandate requiring the provision of mass transit services. Some federal and state transportation funds require certain activities to be performed; however, these are not considered mandates since the County is not obligated to accept the funding.

General Overview

- A. **Continuing Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic** – Both transit service and revenue continue to be significantly impacted by the pandemic. This disruption will have longer term impacts on future budgets that will need to address how the pandemic changes transit service delivery and the revenue that supports those services. to the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) and the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) have received federal pandemic relief funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).
- B. **Prince William County (PWC) Proposed FY2023 Budget Allocations to Transit Services** – The following funding allocations are proposed in FY23:
 1. **Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Revenue** – The proposed budget continues allocation of the 2.1% motor vehicle fuels tax collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles from wholesale fuel distributors and remitted monthly to PRTC. The tax will support the operating and capital expenditures in the Proposed PRTC FY2023 Budget. The designation of the motor vehicle fuels tax revenue to PRTC is consistent with prior practice.
 2. **Jurisdictional Subsidy to VRE** – The proposed budget includes \$4,389,276 of Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) 30% funding to support FY23 operating and capital expenses at VRE. The PWC subsidy amount is approximately 32% of VRE's total jurisdictional subsidy revenue. The amount decreased by \$1,541,501 from the original FY22 adopted amount. Note, the FY22 budgeted amount was subsequently reduced \$4,389,276 by VRE to \$1,541,501,

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- 3. Support for PRTC Wheels-to-Wellness** – The proposed budget includes \$150,000 of Transient Occupancy Tax funds designated for public transportation purposes to support the Wheels-to-Wellness program. The program is a medical transportation assistance program to help eligible residents access health services and is administered by PRTC through support from community partners including medical service providers and the County.
- C. PRTC FY2023 Budget** – The PRTC FY2023 Budget is scheduled to be presented on March 3, 2022, which could not be completed in time for inclusion in the County Executive’s Proposed FY2023 Budget. After PRTC’s budget is proposed, it will be transmitted to the Board of County Supervisors for consideration during the FY23 budget process. The Proposed PRTC FY2023 Budget will be a single year budget proposal due to the continuing uncertainty surrounding the pandemic and its impact on motor vehicles tax revenue and PRTC ridership.
- D. VRE FY2023 Budget** – The VRE Operations Board recommended the Proposed VRE FY2023 Budget on December 17, 2021 and forwarded it to NVTC and PRTC for adoption. On January 13, 2022, the PRTC Commissioners adopted the VRE FY2023 Budget and referred it to the local jurisdictions for inclusion in their budget and appropriations in accordance with the VRE Master Agreement.

The adopted VRE budget is supplemented using \$28,5 million in federal pandemic relief funding to achieve a balanced budget without requiring fare increases, service reductions, or increases in jurisdictional subsidy. Ridership revenue is forecasted to be \$25.3 million and is significantly lower than previous years. The adopted VRE budget does not include a six-year outlook, due to ongoing uncertainties caused by the pandemic. Copies of the VRE FY2023 Budget may be viewed on the VRE [website](#).