



NORTHERN VIRGINIA PROJECT NEWS

October 2009

Vol. 2 Issue 9

Woodbridge to Tysons Corner bus launches in November

FREE FARES FOR FIRST WEEK

A free ride to Tysons? That will be a reality this fall when the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission, (PRTC) introduces a new commuter bus route to Tysons Corner from eastern Prince William County.

During the first week of service, *free* fares will be offered to commuters who ride the new Tysons Corner OmniRide bus. And fares for the next six months of service will be half price! Buses will be equipped with wireless internet access.

PRTC provides commuter and local bus services in Prince William County, the City of Manassas and the City of Manassas Park. Patrons of PRTC's Tysons Corner bus service who use a SmarTrip card will pay \$2.40 per one-way trip, and those paying with cash will pay \$3.25 per one-way trip for the first six months of service. A ride on one of PRTC's OmniRide commuter buses typically costs

OmniRide continued on Page 4



OmniRide buses use the HOV lanes, bypassing much of the traffic. Visit PRTCtransit.org for a bus schedule. Photo courtesy PRTC



At the Dulles Metrorail project, crews rely on the "Drill Jumbo" to tunnel from Rt. 123 to Rt. 7. Photo courtesy Dulles Transit Partners

Taking on the tunnel in Tysons

MACHINE WILL DRILL TUNNEL FOR METRORAIL

Resembling a character from the "Transformers" movie, the Swedish-made "Drill Jumbo" tunnels like there's no tomorrow — a key element to Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project's tunneling operation, scheduled to begin in October. The "Drill Jumbo" will lead the way to excavate a majority of the twin 2,400-foot tunnels spanning westward from International Drive, to Leesburg Pike using the New Austrian Tunneling Method, that excavates and constructs the tunnel in short, sequential portions. The "Jumbo" drills and installs various ground support measures quickly and safely.

As it moves along the tunnel path, the "Jumbo" constructs an arched roof over the tunnel, so miners can remove rock and soil at the tunnel opening. The rig is customized to drill and case holes with pipe, then grout the support pipes in place. An operator mans a basket in the front of the machine to monitor the drills and grout the pipes.



Large-scale transportation improvements in Northern Virginia are underway. Northern Virginia Project News is a summary of significant events related to these efforts. Request a subscription: newsletter@VAmegaprojects.com

W&OD Trail in store for construction work in Reston




The W&OD trail is temporarily shifted under the Dulles Toll Road (Route 267).
Photo by Trevor Wrayton, VDOT

Washington and Old Dominion (W&OD) trail users need to be aware when crossing under the Dulles Toll Road (Route 267) in Reston — the Dulles Rail line is coming through.

For the next nine months, there will be periodic shifts in the trail at mile marker 16 caused by construction of a bridge between the east and westbound lanes of the toll road, between Sunset Hills Road and Sunrise Valley Drive.

All users of the trail should watch for warning signs highlighting shifts in

the trail, as well as equipment and materials in the adjacent slopes of the median.


In addition, the trail will close temporarily some nights in late Spring 2010 for the installation of steel girders over the trail. Brief periodic closures will be necessary throughout construction when equipment is moved into place. For other information, visit the project website at dullesmetro.com. 

Busy Park & Ride lot expands on Route 234

The Park & Ride lot on Route 234 near Dumfries is expanding this fall, and by December more than double the amount of spaces will be available. Commuters use this lot to slug or catch buses to the Pentagon or Washington, cutting commute times and easing congestion on I-95.

The lot is located on Route 234, Dumfries Road, between Route 1 and I-95. The Prince William County DOT is adding 502 parking spaces, bringing the total from 350 to 852. In addition to the regular parking spots, VDOT is adding 36 bicycle spots and eight bicycle lockers. Construction on the lot

began in May 2009 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of November.


This expansion was greatly needed in this area, as commuters are looking for ways to head north on I-95 in carpools, buses and as slug riders. Two bus lines serve the lot: the Montclair Omniride and the Route 1 and South Route 1 Omniride. Both these bus lines stop at the Pentagon and downtown Washington. This lot currently fills very quickly and commuters use the surrounding area for overflow parking, many times in spots not intended for parking along Interstate Drive. 

Governor Kaine's Telework Day shows saves Virginians \$113,000

Virginians who teleworked on Aug. 3, 2009 saved \$113,000 and avoided driving 140,000 miles, according to a state report called "What We Saved; What We Learned."

On Telework Day, Aug. 3, Virginians also prevented 76 tons of air pollution by not driving to the office.

If all eligible teleworkers in Virginia teleworked one day a week for a year, they would collectively avoid driving 602 million miles, remove 360,800 tons of pollutants from the air, and save \$807 million in commuting costs, according to the report.

The public-private partnership Telework Exchange compiled the report. 




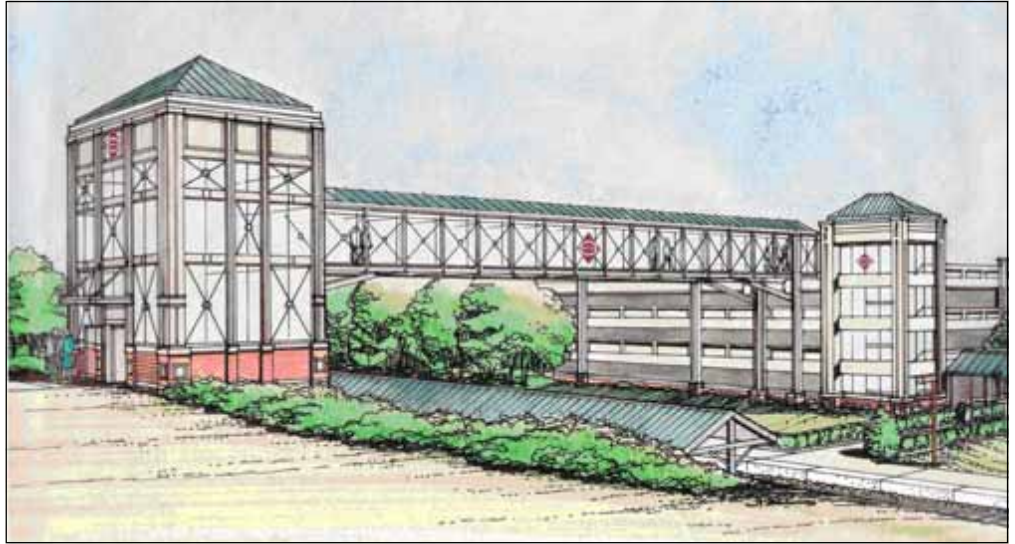
Park & Ride Lot expansion is underway in Prince William County at Route 234.
Photo by Trevor Wrayton, VDOT

Rail expansions = more options for Woodbridge commuters

The Virginia Railway Express station in Woodbridge will have a second platform by December, making it easier and safe to access the trains.

The new platform will be connected to the parking garage with a 142-foot overhead pedestrian bridge. The additional platform can help avoid bottlenecks and back-ups because it enables safe use of a second track. If a train is delayed on one track, pedestrians can access the second track safely via the pedestrian bridge.

The 600-foot platform is on the west side of the tracks, and will be accessible from Route 1 via a kiss and ride entrance, which will be completed at a later date. 



Woodbridge Station expansion rendering courtesy VRE.


QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

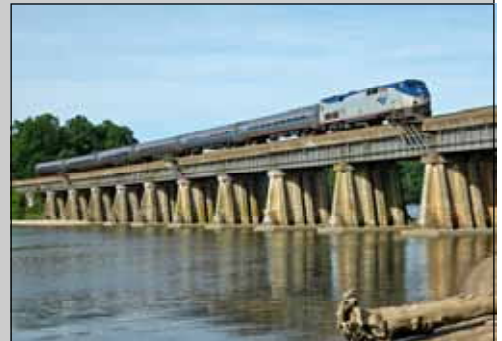
Sign up at VAmegaprojects.com to get more information on the projects and their construction progress. If you have any suggestions, ideas or comments, please call 877-9595-222 or e-mail info@VAmegaprojects.com. We want to hear what you have to say.

AMTRAK ADDS SERVICE ALONG I-95 CORRIDOR

Commuters in the I-95 corridor will have another way to travel to Washington D.C. this winter: Amtrak. Amtrak is adding a new regional service from Richmond to Washington D.C. in December.

The train will leave Richmond weekday mornings at 7 a.m. with stops in Ashland, Fredericksburg, Quantico, Woodbridge, Alexandria, and L'Enfant Plaza in Washington D.C. by 9 a.m. In the afternoon, the train departs Washington at 3:55 p.m. and arrives in Richmond at 6:25 p.m. Fares have not yet been finalized.

Amtrak begins its Lynchburg to Washington D.C. service Oct. 1 with a stop in Manassas. Fares range from \$14 to \$26 from Manassas to Washington D.C. 



A SIGN OF PROGRESS ON THE I-95 WIDENING PROJECT



On Sept. 22, crews replaced the sign structure that spans both directions of I-95. The new northbound lane from Woodbridge to Newington opens late 2009.

Photo by Mike Salmon, Virginia Megaprojects

Northern Virginia Project News is going green! We're saving money and trees by printing less.

GET THIS NEWSLETTER IN YOUR INBOX



Send "Subscribe" to Newsletter@VAmegaprojects.com

Cell phone use targeted in work zones

While the word is out about texting and talking on the cell phone while driving, the danger is compounded through a work zone. This message is the main point behind the “Orange Cones, No Phones” campaign aimed at drivers traveling the I-495 High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes construction zone on the Capital Beltway.

According to a report compiled by Transurban-Fluor and AAA Mid-Atlantic, 56 percent of the approximately 210,000 daily drivers on the Capital Beltway use their cell phone or read and write text messages while driving. Nearly half of those cell phone drivers make no change while driving in construction zones.

“We need the full attention of drivers when traveling in the changing and constricted construction zone on the Capital Beltway,” said Tim Steinhilber, Transurban-Fluor’s General



Manager for the Capital Beltway HOT lanes project.

VDOT, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Virginia State Police are promoting the Orange Cones, No Phones awareness program on the radio, internet, social networking venues, schools and employers.

For more information, visit virginiahotlanes.com.

Expect increased travel times on I-66

VDOT has adjusted sign and pavement markings on the ramps from eastbound I-66 to northbound I-495, in an effort to ease backups caused by a recent traffic shift through the Beltway HOT Lanes work zone.

The new traffic shift, which will remain in place until 2011, requires the HOV lane and regular lane to merge into one lane on the ramp to I-495. Previously the HOV lane and regular lane merged into the outer loop of the Beltway in separate lanes.

VDOT is urging motorists to consider shifting their travel times to avoid the worst congestion, typically between 6:30 and 9 a.m.

More information is available at VAmegaprojects.com.

FULLERTON ROAD DETOUR COMING SOON

In late October, motorists will experience a detours near Fullerton Road and the Fairfax County Parkway. This detour will be in place until fall 2010. For more information visit VAmegaprojects.com and click on Fairfax County Parkway/BRAC.



OmniRide from Page 1

\$4.75 when paying with a SmarTrip card or \$6.50 cash.

The new Tysons Corner OmniRide service is brought to you by Virginia Megaprojects—a partnership between the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and VDOT. The Tysons Corner OmniRide service is designed to help mitigate congestion in the Tysons area during the construction of High Occupancy Toll lanes and the Dulles Corridor Metrorail. Buses, HOV-3 vehicles and motorcycles will ride for free in the I-495 HOT lanes when they are complete in 2013. Tysons Corner OmniRide is expected to start service on Nov. 9.

For information about PRTC’s transportation services, visit PRTCtransit.org or call PRTC’s Customer Service at 703 730-6664.