

# 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](http://omniride.com) and [vre.org](http://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. **PRTC FY2025 Budget** – The PRTC FY2025 Budget is scheduled to be presented to the Commission on March 7, 2024, after the presentation of the County Executive's Proposed FY2025 Budget. After PRTC's budget is proposed, it will be transmitted to the Board of County Supervisors for consideration during the FY25 budget process.
- B. **VRE FY2025 Budget** – The VRE Operations Board recommended the Proposed VRE FY2025 Budget on December 15, 2023, and forwarded it to NVTC and PRTC for adoption. On January 11, 2024, the PRTC Commissioners adopted the VRE FY2025 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 balanced, with no funding gap. The FY2025 budget includes a 5% increase to passenger fares compared to FY24 and a total jurisdictional subsidy contribution of \$18.3 million. Ridership revenue is forecasted to be \$23.0 million based on a projected weekday average daily ridership of 8,500 and 32 daily weekday revenue trains and a projected 1,000 average daily riders for the planned inaugural Saturday service of 12 revenue trains.

The VRE FY2025 budget projects approximately \$34.9 million of federal pandemic relief will be needed to offset lower passenger revenues and state operating assistance. Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funds were entirely expended in FY23, and American Rescue Plan Act funds are now the source of operating support for FY25.

Copies of the VRE FY2025 Budget may be viewed on the VRE [website](#).

- C. **Prince William County (PWC) Budget Allocations to Transit Services** – PWC currently allocates the following for transit services. Specific recommendations will be made after the proposed PRTC FY2025 budget is received in March:
  - 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 FY2025 Budget. The designation of the motor vehicle fuels tax revenue to PRTC is consistent with prior practice.

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- 2. Jurisdictional Subsidy to VRE** – The proposed budget includes \$5,468,148 of Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) 30% funding to support FY25 operating and capital expenses at VRE. The PWC subsidy amount is approximately 30% of VRE's total jurisdictional subsidy revenue. This is an increase of \$543,482 from the FY24 adopted amount of \$4,924,666.
- 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.