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# **I-81 Multimodal Improvement Plan: Virginia Breeze**

*I-81 Advisory Committee Meeting, July 7, 2022*

**Grant Sparks, Acting Chief of Public  
Transportation**



Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

# Virginia Breeze: System Overview



## VALLEY FLYER

Blacksburg — Washington, D.C.



## CAPITAL CONNECTOR

Martinsville — Richmond — Washington, D.C.



## PIEDMONT EXPRESS

Danville — Washington, D.C.



## HIGHLANDS RHYTHM

Bristol — Washington, D.C.

- State-sponsored intercity bus service that runs 7 days a week, 365 days per year
- Four (4) Virginia Breeze routes, each providing connections to rural communities
  - **Two (2) routes - Valley Flyer and Highlands Rhythm - service I-81**
- Ticket prices range from \$21 to \$60

# I-81 Virginia Breeze Service

## September 2013

- *Virginia Statewide Intercity Bus Study* identifies high-level needs for service

## December 2017

- The first Virginia Breeze route is put into service, connecting Blacksburg to Washington D.C. via I-81

## March 2020

- *Virginia Breeze I-81 Service Expansion Study* identifies unmet needs and service alternatives for connecting Bristol to Washington D.C. via I-81

## November 2021

- The 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Breeze route – the Highlands Rhythm – is put into service



# Virginia Breeze: Highlands Rhythm

Northbound	Southbound
Departure: 11:00 AM (Bristol)	Departure: 12:50 PM (Washington D.C.)
Arrival: 6:55 PM (Washington D.C.)	Arrival: 8:30 PM (Bristol)

## Top Performing Stops

- 1) Harrisonburg
- 2) Dulles Airport
- 3) Washington D.C.
- 4) West Falls Church
- 5) Radford

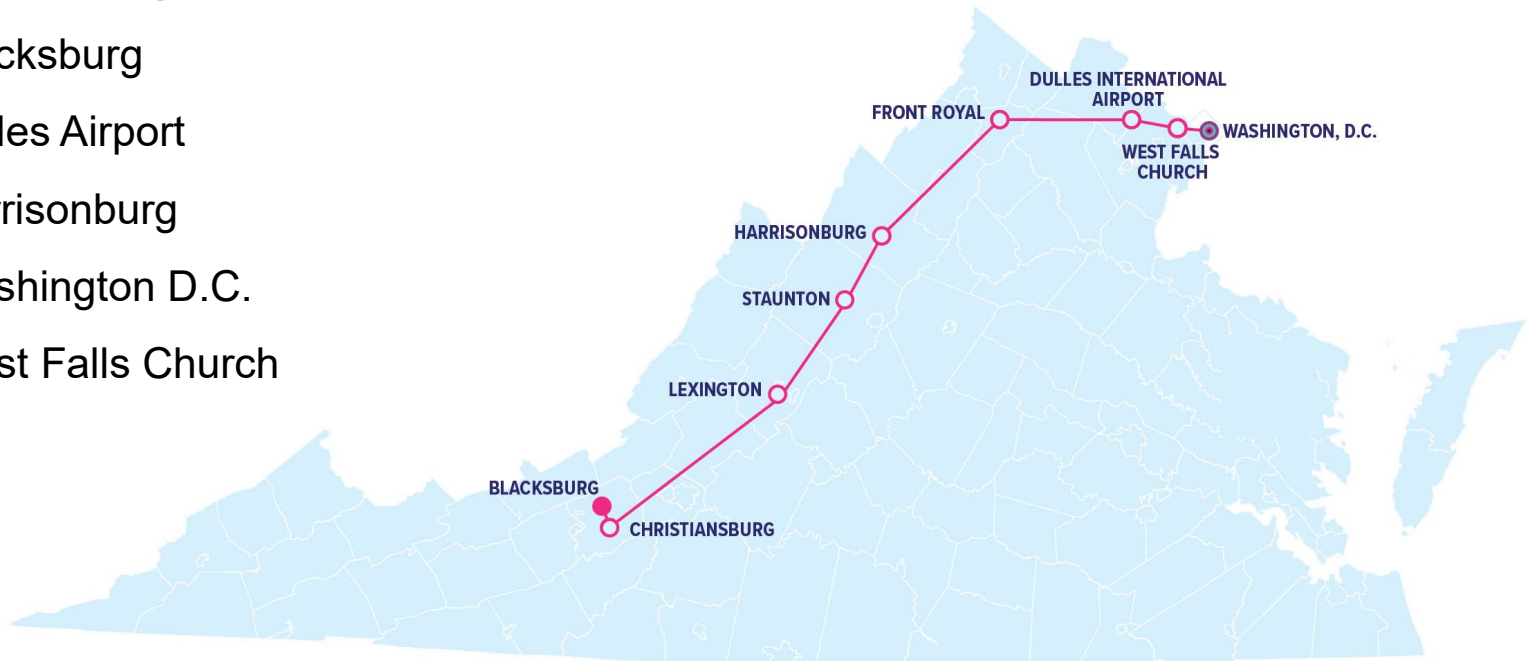


# Virginia Breeze: Valley Flyer

Northbound	Southbound
Departure: 8:00 AM (Blacksburg)	Departure: 9:35 AM (Washington D.C.)
Arrival: 2:05 PM (Washington D.C.)	Arrival: 3:40 PM (Blacksburg)

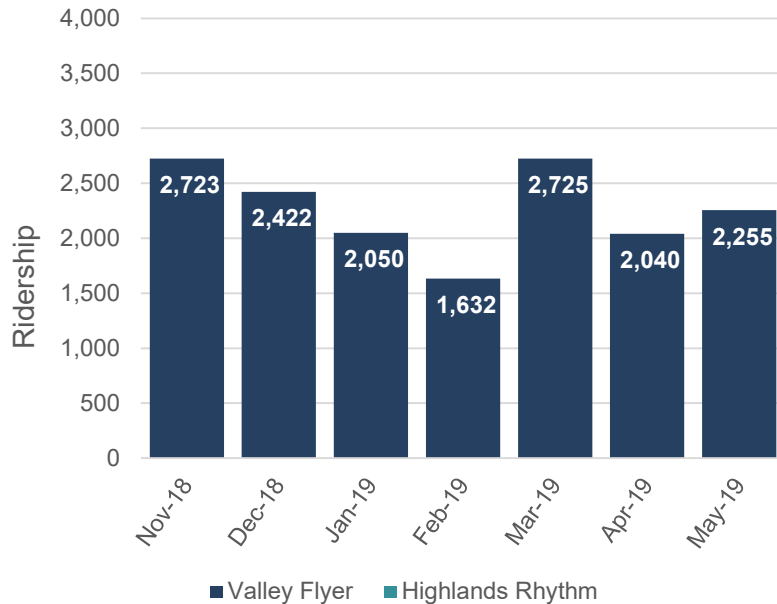
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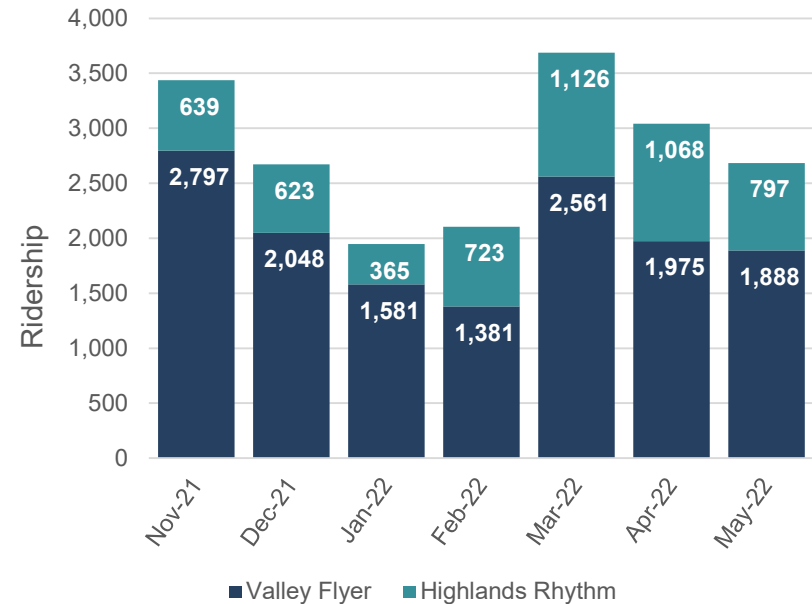


# I-81 Virginia Breeze: Performance

I-81 VA Breeze Ridership (Nov '18 – May '19)



I-81 VA Breeze Ridership (Nov '21 – May '22)



- FY22 on-time performance (calculated by stop): 85%
- FY22 farebox recovery rate (% of costs covered by fares): 52%
- More than 110,000 rides provided on these routes since December 2017
- Pre-booked tickets allow DRPT to accommodate increased ridership demand
  - December 1, 2019: Added 12 additional Valley Flyer buses to address demand

# I-81 Multimodal Funding: Transit

I-81 Multimodal Financial Plan (Transit)		
Description	Capital*	O&M (Annual)
Virginia Breeze Service Extension to Bristol**	-	\$243,000
Virginia Breeze Extension Stops	\$60,000	-
Improvements to Existing Stops	\$40,000	-

## Notes

\* Pending review of ridership levels

\*\*Includes 15% contingency, 3-years of operating funds per CTB IOEP policy (does not include farebox revenue or federal revenue)

# FY22 Budgeted Operating Revenues

FY22 Budgeted Operating Revenues (I-81 VA Breeze Service)		
Source	Amount	Percent (%)
I-81 Multimodal Transit Funding (IOEP) Bristol Ext	\$243,000	10%
FTA Funding (5311(f) and CARES)*	\$920,672	38%
Farebox Revenues	\$1,275,209	52%
<b>Total Operating Cost</b>	<b>\$2,438,881</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Notes

\* FTA CARES funds are one-time stimulus funds. Once these funds are expended, FTA 5311(f) funding will be utilized.