



**DRAFT**

# **Overview of Local and Regional Transit Systems Serving the Washington Metropolitan Area**

**National Capital Region  
Transportation Planning Board  
Regional Bus Subcommittee  
August 3rd, 2010**



# Regional Perspective on Transit

- At the **March 17 TPB meeting**, information was requested on the ridership and costs of the local and regional bus transit systems serving the metropolitan area.
- The Committee will be briefed on a draft **overview of the local and regional transit systems** prepared by the Regional Bus Subcommittee.



# Regional Bus Subcommittee

- **Mission**

*“ To provide a permanent process for the coordination of bus planning throughout the Washington region, and for incorporating regional bus plans into the Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). ”*



# Regional Bus Subcommittee

- **Participation**

Metrobus	Fairfax Connector
Montgomery County Ride On	Laurel Connect-a-Ride
Prince George's County TheBus	Loudoun Commuter Transit
DC Circulator	PRTC Omni Ride
Alexandria DASH	MTA Commuter Bus
Arlington Transit (ART)	Metrorail
Falls Church George	Virginia Railway Express
City of Fairfax CUE	Maryland Commuter Rail
Frederick County TransIT	DC Streetcar

District of Columbia DOT
Maryland DOT
Maryland Transit Administration
Virginia DOT
Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission
Northern Virginia Transportation Commission

# Brief Historical Timeline of Bus Transit

- **1973: Private bus services** folded into regionally operated **Metrobus**.
- **1976-2001: Metrorail** opens and expands
  - Metrobus service restructured, feeding Metrorail and operating regional services across core and inner suburbs.
  - **Local bus services** established by jurisdictions to provide local circulator and feeder services.
- **Commuter bus services** established between outer suburban areas and the region's core.



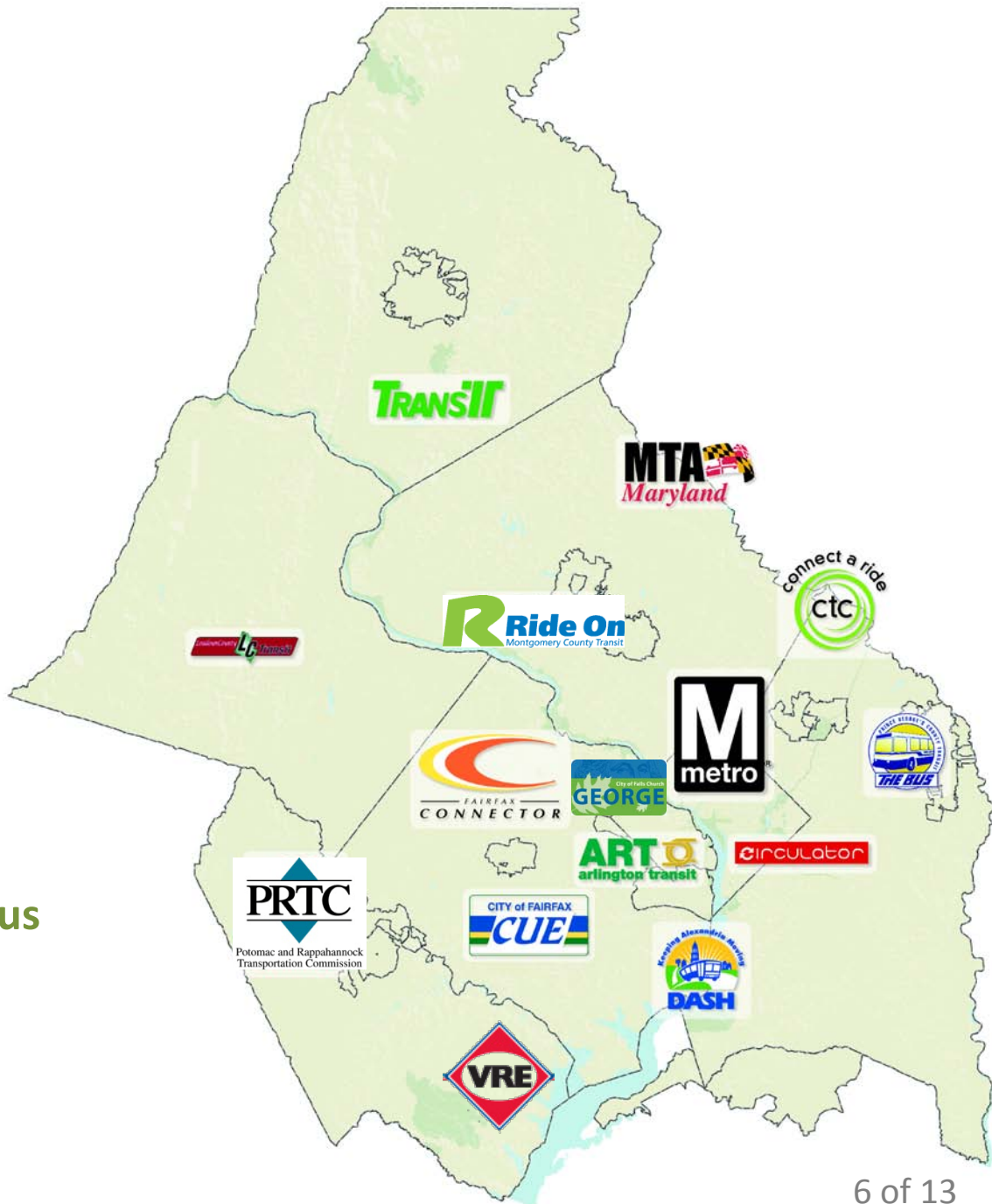
regional  
rail/bus

- **Metrorail**
- **Metrobus**
- **Circulator**
- **Ride On**
- **TheBus**
- **TransIT**
- **Connect-A-Ride**
- **Connector**
- **ART**
- **Dash**
- **CUE**
- **OmniLink (PRTC)**
- **George**
- **MTA Commuter Bus**
- **LC Transit**
- **OmniRide (PRTC)**
- **VRE**
- **MARC**

local  
bus

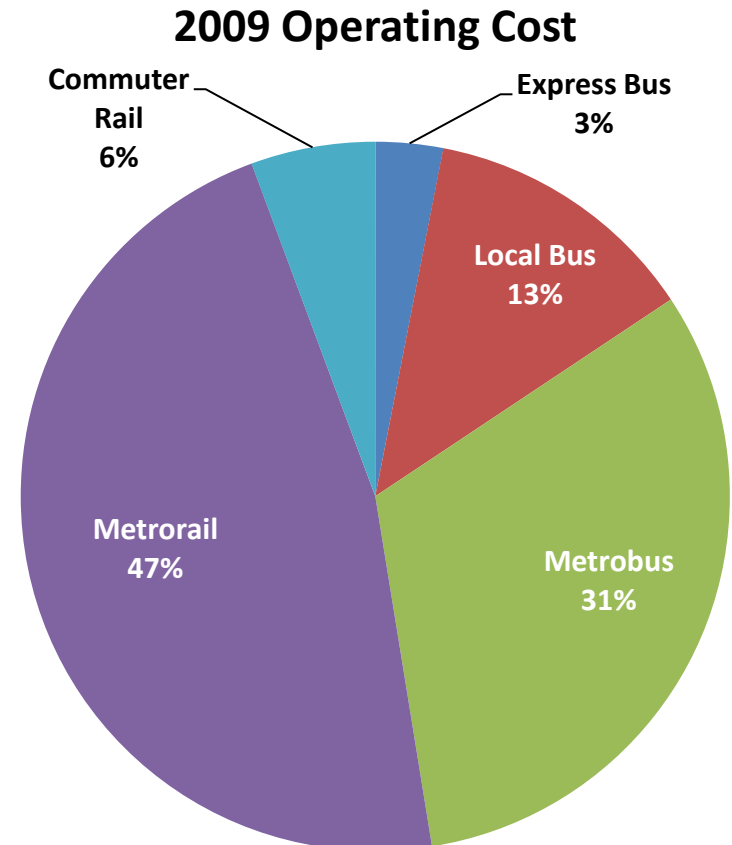
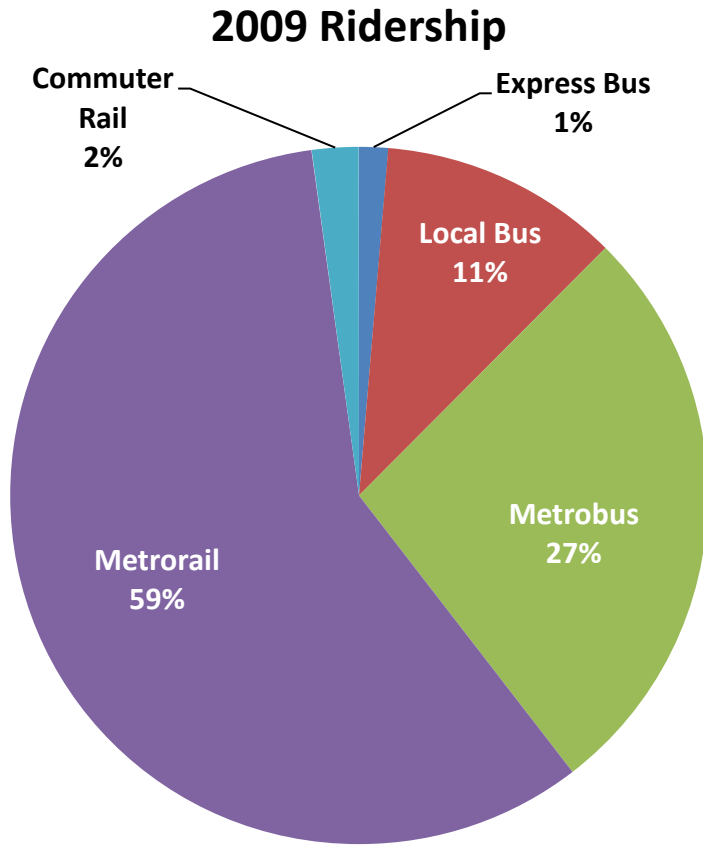
express  
bus

commuter  
rail



# Regional Perspective on Transit

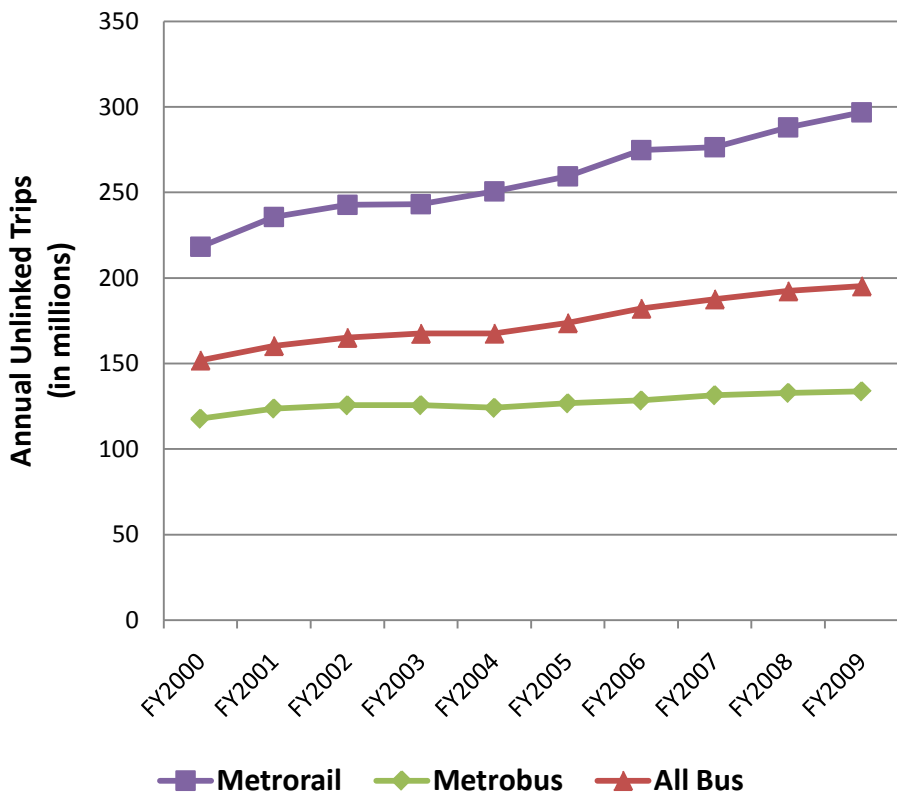
*Buses are a major part of the transit system, providing a total of 40% of the transit trips in the region and accounting for 47% of transit operating costs...*



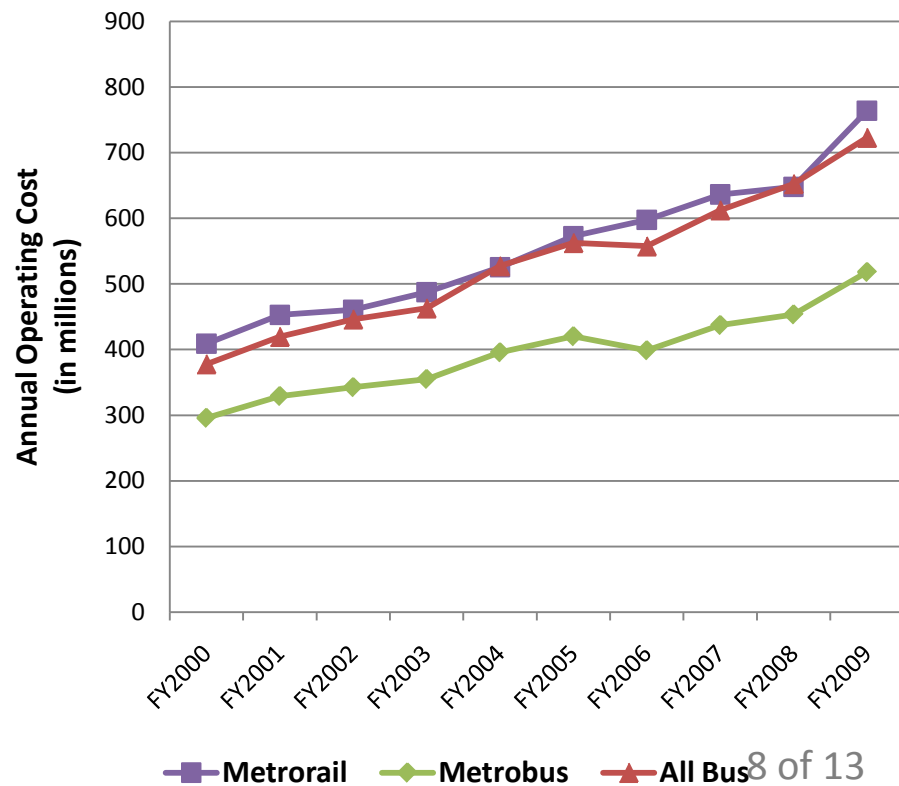
# Ridership and Cost Trends: Bus & Rail

*Ridership and operating costs are increasing for bus and rail...*

## Annual Passenger Trips WMATA Metrorail, Metrobus & All Bus Systems



## Annual Operating Costs WMATA Metrorail, Metrobus & All Bus Systems

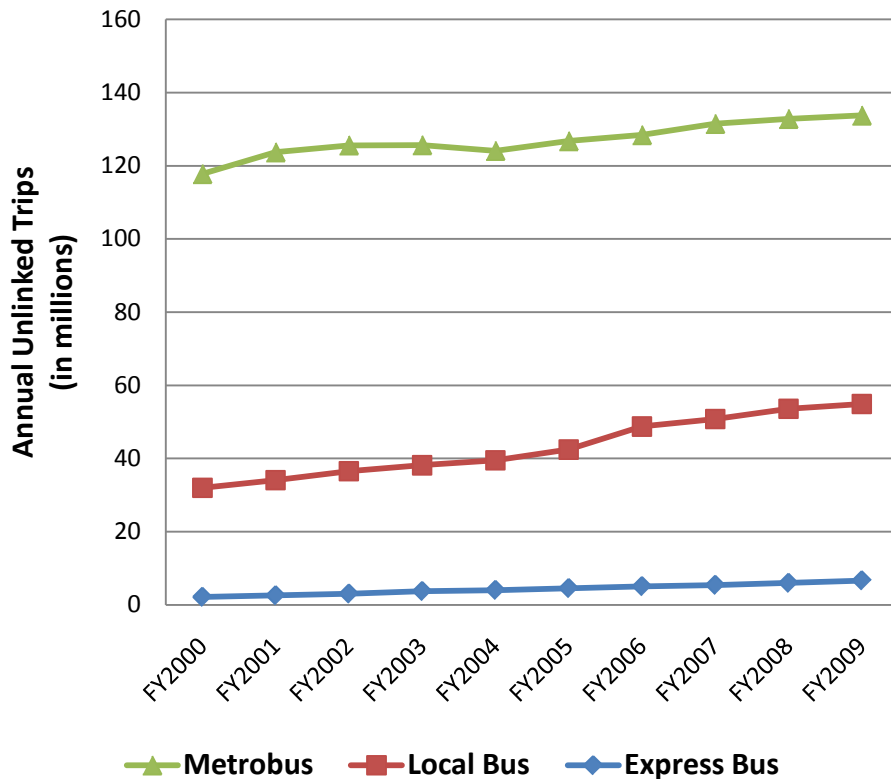




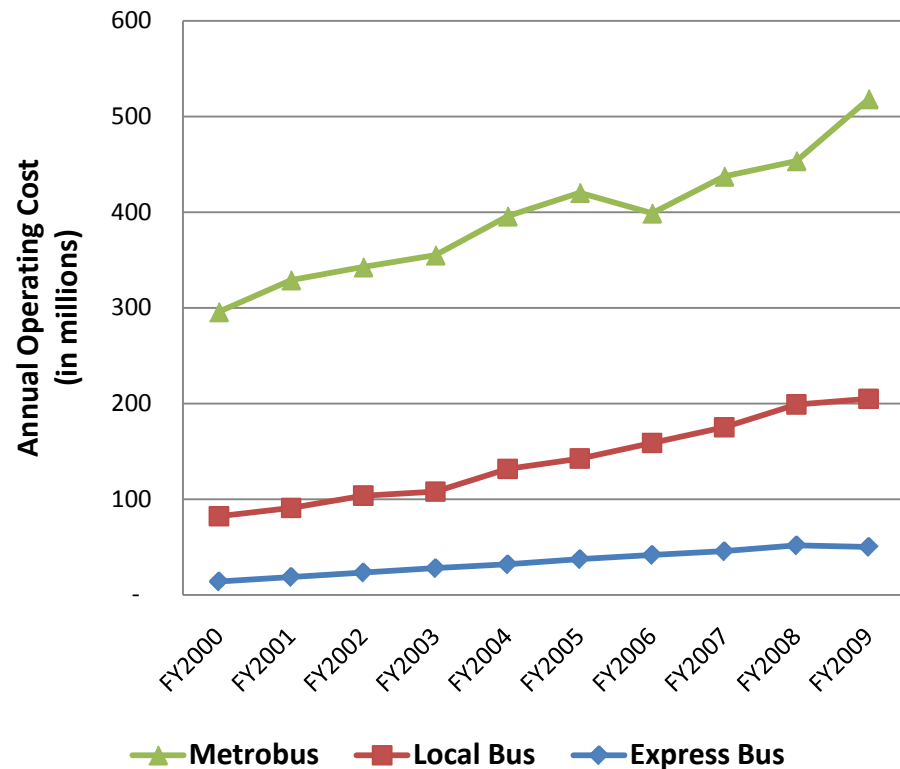
# Ridership and Cost Trends: Bus Systems

*Trips on local bus service are growing, along with the cost of providing that service...*

## Annual Passenger Trips Metrobus, Local and Express Systems



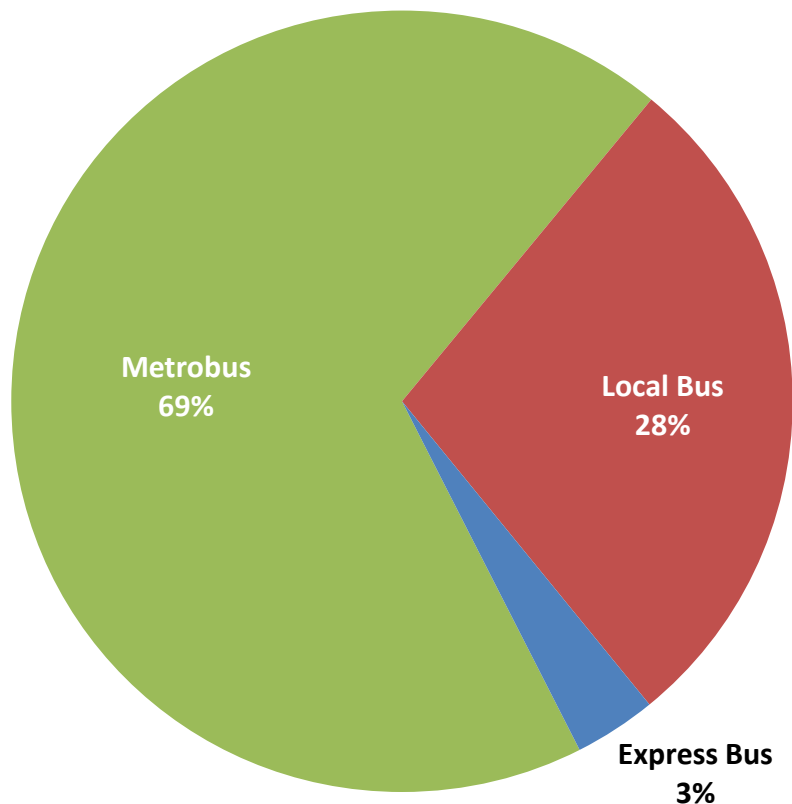
## Annual Operating Costs Metrobus, Local and Express Systems



# Ridership of Bus Systems

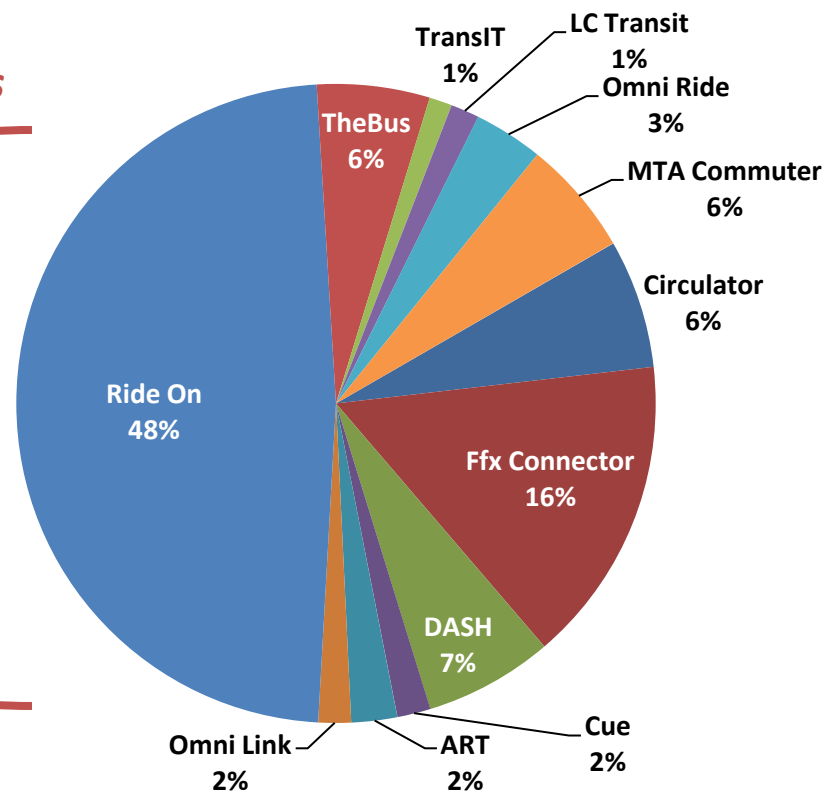
*The various locally provided bus systems, offering local and express service, deliver a sizeable number of transit trips annually...*

### 2009 Bus Ridership



*31% of bus trips*

### Local & Express Bus Systems

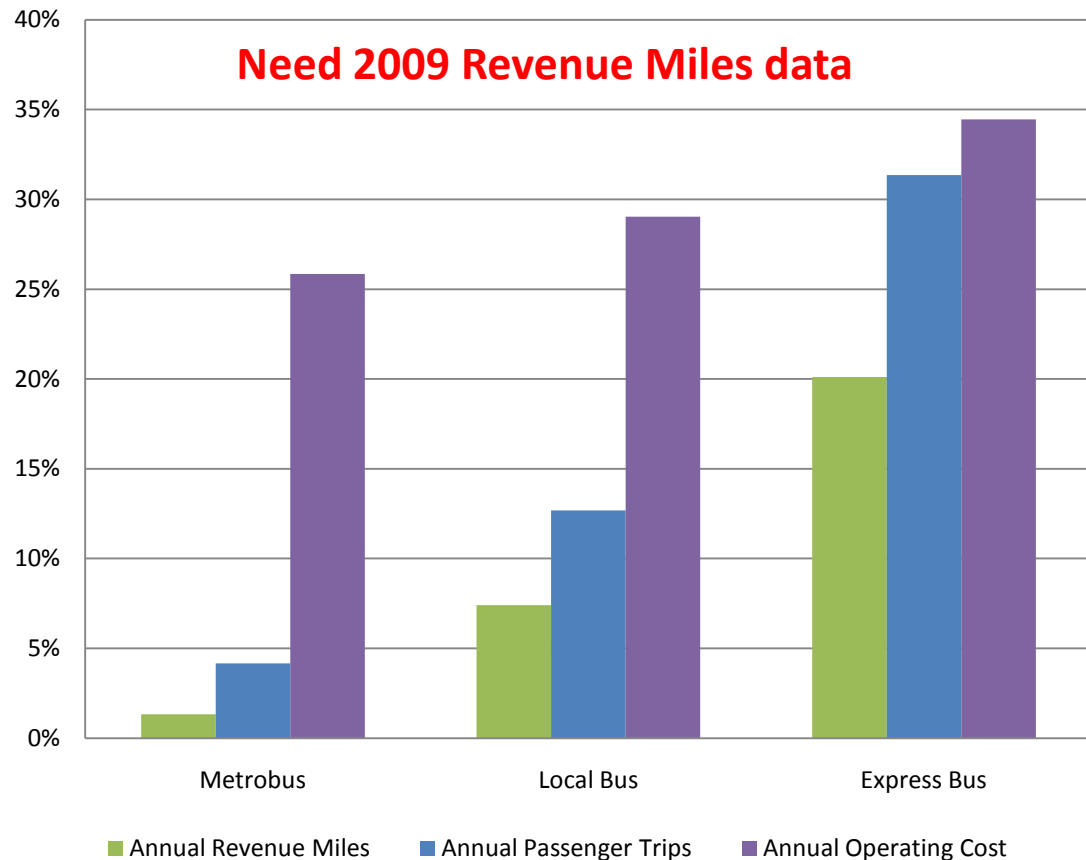


# Changes in Bus Service, Ridership & Costs

*Bus systems have increased service, but are experiencing differing rates of growth in ridership....*

*Costs have increased as well. Inflation is a major factor, with a cumulative change of 8.5% from 2006 to 2009.*

### Change in Service, Passenger Trips & Operating Costs, FY06-FY09



# Changes in Transit Ridership & Costs

	Annual Passenger Trips (millions)					Annual Operating Cost (millions)				
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY06-09 % Chg	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY06-09 % Chg
<b>Regional Transit</b>										
Metrorail	274.767	276.441	288.040	296.857	8%	597.600	636.400	648.000	761.100	27%
Metrobus	128.416	131.490	132.849	133.770	4%	398.800	437.300	453.500	501.900	26%
<b>Local Bus</b>										
Circulator	2.073	2.405	2.798	4.001	93%	5.318	5.710	6.547	9.713	83%
Ffx Connector	9.529	9.717	9.810	9.577	0%	31.341	36.796	46.870	45.016	44%
DASH	3.556	3.743	3.979	4.007	13%	8.682	9.864	10.645	10.826	25%
Cue	1.094	1.136	1.047	1.032	-6%	2.683	2.721	2.787	2.766	3%
ART	0.927	1.060	1.225	1.429	54%	4.546	4.432	4.964	5.259	16%
Omni Link	0.843	0.945	1.009	1.025	21%	6.971	7.951	8.743	9.254	33%
Ride On	27.294	28.220	29.673	29.627	9%	82.602	88.842	97.579	99.778	21%
TheBus	2.837	2.922	3.389	3.510	24%	13.511	15.412	17.133	18.239	35%
TransIT	0.580	0.635	0.665	0.709	22%	3.057	3.445	3.718	3.944	29%
<i>subtotal</i>	<i>48.733</i>	<i>50.784</i>	<i>53.596</i>	<i>54.917</i>	<i>13%</i>	<i>158.711</i>	<i>175.174</i>	<i>198.987</i>	<i>204.795</i>	<i>29%</i>
<b>Express Bus</b>										
LC Transit	0.602	0.652	0.777	0.890	48%	3.820	3.834	4.875	5.963	56%
Omni Ride	1.609	1.739	1.841	2.155	34%	11.201	12.408	14.116	16.328	46%
MTA Commuter	2.842	3.014	3.336	3.592	26%	26.704	29.295	32.777	33.807	27%
<i>subtotal</i>	<i>5.053</i>	<i>5.405</i>	<i>5.954</i>	<i>6.637</i>	<i>31%</i>	<i>41.725</i>	<i>45.538</i>	<i>51.768</i>	<i>56.098</i>	<i>34%</i>
<b>Commuter Rail</b>										
VRE	3.640	3.454	3.629	3.868	6%	41.039	46.192	47.656	50.793	24%
MARC	6.184	6.379	6.713	6.869	11%	28.818	29.509	35.821	41.667	45%
<i>subtotal</i>	<i>9.824</i>	<i>9.833</i>	<i>10.342</i>	<i>10.737</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>69.857</i>	<i>75.701</i>	<i>83.476</i>	<i>92.460</i>	<i>32%</i>

# Bus System Accomplishments

- Investment in **alternative fuels** (CNG, Clean diesel, hybrid) to improve environment
- Integrated **SmarTrip**<sup>®</sup> fare card across bus services
- **Fleet renewal**, improving service quality and replacing old buses
- **Commuter bus** service significantly expanded
- **Limited stop**, express services introduced in core
- *More....*

# Current Challenges for Bus Systems

- Increasing **demand** – bus ridership continues to grow
- **Capacity constraints** – garage space maxed out, can not increase fleet size (Ride On, WMATA)
- **Traffic congestion** reduces service quality and increases operating costs
- Tight budgets
  - Recent and proposed **service cuts**
  - Recent **fare increases**
  - Proposed **staff reductions**
- *More....*

# Subcommittee Activities

- The **Regional Bus Subcommittee** will continue to work to address common challenges and objectives
  - Coordinate bus service **planning** input to CLRP
  - Improve regional **coordination** of bus services, including
    - WMATA PCN network, TIGER Priority Bus grant
    - Development of coordinated **Priority Bus** treatments (e.g., Transit Signal Priority, Bus lanes and queue jumpers)
  - Update *Moving Forward: Status of the Bus Systems in the National Capital Region (2008)*.