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# News Release

## GRTC Opens Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Fueling Station

Richmond, VA (April 4, 2014) – GRTC Transit System announces opening of its new compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station at a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10 am, Monday, April 7, 2014, with invited guests from the City of Richmond, Henrico County, Chesterfield County, and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Members of the public and media are also invited to attend.

In 2012 GRTC started converting its fixed route buses and paratransit vehicles to CNG fueled vehicles as retired vehicles were replaced. CNG fueled vehicles are more economical, environmentally friendly, and quiet than diesel fueled vehicles. The first CNG vehicles were fueled at a public CNG fueling station in Richmond, an eight miles round trip away from GRTC's bus lot, resulting in waste of some of the intended cost savings.

It was a natural next step to construct the on-site compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station, which has been the culmination of a ten month design and build project at GRTC Transit System headquarters. Components of the natural gas compressing equipment are located on the north curb line of GRTC's bus storage yard. The linear layout of the station allows for uninterrupted bus circulation throughout the facility.

There are two existing lanes for fueling both transit buses and paratransit vehicles. Dispensing will occur from two CNG combo-dispensers that are installed on existing fueling islands. The combo-dispensers include high volume hoses that can operate simultaneously. The new dispensers will deliver CNG at the same rate as diesel fueled vehicles are serviced.

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Operating in Richmond, VA since 1860, GRTC was the first transit company to use electric trolleys in the United States. It is the primary mass transit carrier in the Richmond region. In 1973, the City of Richmond and Chesterfield County purchased the transit company from a private owner and made it a non-profit public service corporation on April 12, 1973. GRTC operates an active fleet made up of 152 transit vehicles, 78 CARE and C-VAN vehicles. In 2013, GRTC started replacing retired buses and vans with Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueled vehicles. The geographic region in which GRTC operates consists of 40 routes and over 9 million annual passenger rides. RideFinders, the ride share division of the transit system, provides assistance to a database of over 7,000 registrants and 105 van pools.