



For Immediate Release

June 15, 2021

For more information, contact:

CARRIE ROSE PACE – (804) 516-4148 – carrie.rosepace@ridegrtc.com

GRTC Continues Zero Fare Operations for Another Year

Board of Directors authorizes the FY22 budget supporting ongoing fareless rides through June 2022.

RICHMOND, Va. (June 15, 2021) – GRTC will remain Zero Fare through June 30, 2022, as approved by the Board of Directors this morning. Using State and Federal COVID relief funding, GRTC has been fareless to ride Local Bus, Pulse (Bus Rapid Transit), Express Bus, and CARE/Paratransit vans since March 19, 2020 in response to public health measures and in the interest of economically distressed communities who rely on public transit services to reach jobs, food, healthcare, and other critical community resources.

GRTC’s annual operating and capital expenditures for FY2022 are expected to approach \$100 million, including \$5.8 million enabling Zero Fare operations from Federal relief funding. In FY2019 before the pandemic, GRTC received \$6.8 million in fare revenue directly from riders and paid \$1.6 million in expenses associated with fare collection, resulting in a \$5.2 million net fare box revenue. For FY2022, non-staffing fare expenses were removed from the budget. Fare collection staff have been offered essential non-fare job functions within GRTC. The projected net revenue difference of \$5.8 million will be replaced in the budget by federal COVID relief funds as the region continues to recover economically from the pandemic.

GRTC CEO Julie Timm explains, “Although bus ridership did decline in 2020 across the nation during the pandemic, GRTC local ridership drops were modest by comparison and are already approaching pre-COVID levels. I attribute the ridership rebound to three areas: 1) the strength of the 2018 network redesign connecting essential workers to jobs; 2) the extensive COVID protective measures enacted early and throughout the pandemic to protect staff and riders; and 3) the ongoing commitment to Zero Fare operations to protect the health and financial stability of our riders. GRTC’s focus on connecting people to essential resources resulted in higher sustained ridership. Higher ridership translates into increased Federal and State formula funding and creates a positive feedback loop for GRTC to improve and grow the region’s mobility network.”

GRTC is a public service corporation providing mobility services in the Greater Richmond area. GRTC’s current operational budget (FY21) of \$60.3 million primarily funds daily mobility operations and vehicle maintenance. GRTC has provided 7.1 million trips during this FY21 (July 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021).

Connect With GRTC:

ridegrtc.com

GRTC Customer Service Center at 804-358-GRTC (4782).



GRTC Transit System’s mission is to provide clean, safe, and reliable transportation and to improve mobility and access throughout Central Virginia.



[@rideGRTC](#) [@GRTCtransit](#) [@GRTC_CEO](#) [@rideGRTC](#) [rideGRTC](#)