



2026 **Virginia State Bus &
Maintenance Roadeo**

March 6-8, 2026 • Hampton, Virginia

History

Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) has served as the regional public transportation provider for southeastern Virginia since 1999, when the former Peninsula Transportation (PENTRAN) and Tidewater Regional Transit (TRT) systems merged to create a single, coordinated network for the growing metropolitan area. Hampton Roads Transit connects the cities of Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Portsmouth, Hampton, and Newport News—communities historically separated by waterways but economically linked through daily travel for work, school, and services. Over time, HRT evolved from primarily bus operations into a fully multimodal system designed to support regional mobility and economic development across a population of more than a million residents.

Today, HRT operates one of the most diverse transit networks in Virginia, including fixed-route buses, express commuter routes, paratransit service for riders with disabilities, ridesharing programs, passenger ferries across the Elizabeth River, and the state's only light-rail line, The Tide. The light rail opened in 2011 and connects major destinations in Norfolk, while buses and ferries link neighborhoods, employment centers, military installations, and waterfront districts across the region. These combined modes allow customers to travel by road, rail, and water within a single integrated system designed to match the unique geography of coastal Hampton Roads.

HRT serves a broad cross-section of the community: daily commuters, students, tourists, seniors, people with disabilities, and military personnel stationed throughout the region. Riders frequently depend on transit for trips between home and work, and many use the system multiple days each week, reflecting its role as essential infrastructure for regional connectivity. By linking neighborhoods to jobs, healthcare, education, and recreation, Hampton Roads Transit continues its mission of connecting people and opportunity—supporting both local quality of life and the broader regional economy.

About **William E. Harrell**

President and CEO, Hampton Roads Transit

Mr. Harrell has led HRT on a mission to connect Hampton Roads with transportation solutions that are reliable, safe, efficient, and sustainable, in keeping with the agency's vision of reshaping itself into a progressive mobility agency that promotes prosperity across Hampton Roads through collaboration and teamwork.



Under Harrell's leadership, the agency secured the first ever regional funding source of dedicated revenue created by the Virginia General Assembly in 2020. He has spearheaded cost containment and improved efficiency. These efforts lie at the heart of improving the overall customer experience because a healthy, well-run agency will have the resources to invest in a sustainable future.

He often says, "While you may not ride public transportation, chances are you depend on someone who does."

Harrell's current undertaking is developing and implementing the 757 Express – a network of 13 express local and regional bus routes that will offer 15-minute service frequency and a consistent service day for the region.

Harrell served as a board member of Rail-Volution, a national organization committed to building livable communities with transit. He is the Treasurer of the Virginia Transit Association, an active member of the American Public Transportation Association and a regional board member of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce. He has been selected for many years as a longtime community leader on the Inside Business Power List and continues to be an influencer in shaping the future of transportation in Hampton Roads.

Harrell earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in urban and regional planning from the University of Virginia. Additionally, he earned a second Master's in public administration from the university. He and his wife, Dr. Johnna Carson Harrell, reside in Chesapeake.

About **Ben Simms**

Chief Operating Officer, Hampton Roads Transit

Benjamin Simms is the Chief Operating Officer for Hampton Roads Transit.

His team is responsible for the operation of bus, light rail, ferry, and paratransit services. His division also oversees the maintenance personnel assigned to the agency's different transit modes. In addition, the Operations Department oversees transit security.

Simms' career began in 1998 as a bus operator for St. Louis Metro. He rose within the organization to become manager of training for light rail operations with responsibility for classroom theory and hands-on instruction for light rail controllers, vehicle operators, vehicle maintenance and construction crews.

Simms played a key role in the development and implementation of light rail operations during two major expansions of the St. Louis system, a 17-mile expansion and another one of nine miles. Simms later became manager of contracts and permits at St. Louis working with contractor performance expectations while developing methods for monitoring performance based on QA/QC reports.

He was hired by HRT in January 2009 as director of bus and rail transportation to oversee the work of the General Superintendent, transit and training managers, and the operations support staff. Simms collaborated with the Human Resources department to develop a performance-monitoring program for absenteeism that resulted in a 49% decrease in unexcused absences and a six percent decrease in unscheduled overtime wages. He also helped establish an Accident Accountability Matrix and an Accident Refresher training that resulted in a 13.8% reduction in preventable accidents from 2013 to 2014.

Simms earned a Master's in Business Administration from Lindenwood University, St. Charles, MO, in 2008 and an undergraduate degree from the same university in 2007.



Schedule of Events

Friday, March 6, 2026 • Operator and Maintenance

Event	Location	Time
Continental Breakfast	Embassy Suites	7:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Roadeo Course and Maintenance Setup	Hampton Roads Convention Center Lot 4	7:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Roadeo Registration	Embassy Suites	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Roadeo Committee Meeting	Embassy Suites Cypress Grill	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Hospitality Event Sponsored by Gillig	Embassy Suites Cypress Grill	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Saturday, March 7, 2026 • Operator

Event	Location	Time
Course set up for Operator Practice	Hampton Roads Convention Center Lot 4	7:00 AM - 8:00 AM
Continental Breakfast	Embassy Suites	7:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Roadeo Registration	Hampton Roads Convention Center Lot 4	7:00 AM - 8:00 AM
Operator Course Walk-Thru	Hampton Roads Convention Center Lot 4	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Operator Driving Practice	Hampton Roads Convention Center Lot 4	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Defect Bus Competition	Hampton Roads Convention Center Lot 4	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Lunch	Hampton Roads Convention Center Lot 4	12:00 PM - 2:30 PM
Final Phase of Operator Driving Practice	Hampton Roads Convention Center Lot 4	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Roadeo Committee Meeting	Embassy Suites Cypress Grill	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Hospitality Event sponsored by Gillig	Embassy Suites Cypress Grill	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Van service will run every 30 minutes from 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM from Embassy Suites to Lot 4 of Hampton Roads Convention Center.

Saturday, March 6, 2026 • Maintenance

Event	Location	Time
Continental Breakfast	Embassy Suites	7:00 AM - 8:00 AM
Departing Shuttle from Embassy Suites	Embassy Suites	8:00 AM
Rodeo Registration	HRT Headquarters Garage - Victoria Blvd.	8:15 AM - 9:00 AM
Maintenance Competition	HRT Headquarters Garage - Victoria Blvd.	8:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Lunch	Hampton Roads Convention Center - Lot 4	12:00 PM - 2:30 PM
Hospitality Event Sponsored by Gillig	Embassy Suites Cypress Grill	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Sunday, March 8, 2026 • Operator

Event	Location	Time
Continental Breakfast	Embassy Suites	7:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Operator Uniform Inspection	Embassy Suites	7:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Judges Orientation	Hampton Roads Convention Center Lot 4	8:00 AM - 8:30 AM
Operator Driving Competition	Hampton Roads Convention Center Lot 4	9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Lunch	Hampton Roads Convention Center Lot 4	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Final Phase of Operator Driving Competition	Hampton Roads Convention Center Lot 4	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Awards Banquet	Hampton Roads Convention Center Lot 4	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Awards Banquet

March 8, 2026 at 6pm

Hampton Roads Convention Center • Hampton, Virginia

Opening Remarks • Benjamin Simms, HRT

Welcome • William E. Harrell, HRT

Guest remarks • DRPT

Awards Presentation

VLTP Safety Award

Maria Boone Award

Operator Team Awards

Maintenance Team Awards

Overall Property Award

Closing • Kevin Brown, HRT

Closing • Danny Plaughter, VTA



Maintenance Schedule

Transit Property	Written Test	Vehicle Inspection	Bye	Air Brakes	HVAC	Bye	Multi-plex	Bye	Vapor Doors	Cummins Engine
BBT	ALL	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
FC	ALL	I	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
GRTC	ALL	H	I	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
GLTC	ALL	G	H	I	A	B	C	D	E	F
CAT	ALL	F	G	H	I	A	B	C	D	E
OMNI	ALL	E	F	G	H	I	A	B	C	D
HRT	ALL	D	E	F	G	H	I	A	B	C
DASH	ALL	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	A	B
PAT	ALL	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	A

Transit Property	Code
BBT - Blacksburg Transit	A
FC - Fairfax Connector/Transdev	B
GRTC - Greater Richmond Transit Company	C
GLTC - Greater Lynchburg Transit Company	D
CAT - Charlottesville Area Transit	E
OMNI - OmniRide	F
HRT - Hampton Roads Transit	G
DASH - Alexandria Transit Company	H
PAT - Petersburg Area Transit	I

Maintenance Contestants

Name	City
Travis Quesenberry	Blacksburg
Isis Ramirez	Blacksburg
Adam Burton	Blacksburg
Dave Graf	Charlottesville
Christopher Tate	Charlottesville
Richard Fellows	Charlottesville
Getachew Teferi	Alexandria
Elmostafa Guelaa	Alexandria
Luis Oliva	Alexandria
Jerry Salgado	Fairfax
Matthew Bender	Fairfax
Martin Lopez	Fairfax
Jeremy Branham	Lynchburg
Jarvis Myers	Lynchburg
Johnnie Birch	Lynchburg
Jeff Williams	Richmond
Diamond Rich	Richmond
Tyrek Eaglin	Richmond
Vincent Biggs	Hampton Roads
Luke Cramer	Hampton Roads
William Claud	Hampton Roads
Mark Brown	Petersburg
Michael Scott	Petersburg
Darrell Broussard	Petersburg
Douglas Scott	OmniRide
Nelson Zaragoza	OmniRide
Issac Sekyi	OmniRide

Operator Schedule

Name	City	Property	Sat.	Sun.
Donnell Despertt	Arlington	ART	9:00 AM	9:00 AM
Darryl Samuels	Arlington	ART	9:05 AM	9:05 AM
Adriane Starch	Arlington	ART	9:10 AM	9:10 AM
Nakieta Miles	Arlington	ART	9:20 AM	9:20 AM
Alex D'Emidio	Blacksburg	BT	9:25 AM	9:25 AM
Charlie Thomas	Blacksburg	BT	9:30 AM	9:30 AM
Ben Lawson	Blacksburg	BT	9:35 AM	9:35 AM
Eric Cross	Blacksburg	BT	9:45 AM	9:45 AM
Wayne Wheaton	Charlottesville	CAT	9:50 AM	9:50 AM
Kareen Bolden	Charlottesville	CAT	9:55 AM	9:55 AM
Andre Salabiakou	Charlottesville	CAT	10:00 AM	10:00 AM
Shawn Bowles	Charlottesville	CAT	10:10 AM	10:10 AM
Shifraw Leulseged	Alexandria	DASH	10:15 AM	10:15 AM
Sissay Melaku	Alexandria	DASH	10:20 AM	10:20 AM
Natnael Asefa	Alexandria	DASH	10:25 AM	10:25 AM
Kedir Ali	Alexandria	DASH	10:35 AM	10:35 AM
Rinasoa Ramarolahy	Fairfax	FC	10:40 AM	10:40 AM
Yilikal Shiferaw	Fairfax	FC	10:45 AM	10:45 AM
Francisca Nolasco	Fairfax	FC	10:50 AM	10:50 AM
Anthony Greene	Fairfax	FC	11:00 AM	11:00 AM
Crystal Garner	Lynchburg	GLTC	11:05 AM	11:05 AM
Moveeta Hairston	Lynchburg	GLTC	11:10 AM	11:10 AM
Sam Lawson	Lynchburg	GLTC	11:15 AM	11:15 AM
Nikki Silby	Lynchburg	GLTC	11:25 AM	11:25 AM
Keon Brown	Richmond	GRTC	11:30 AM	11:30 AM
Lamaury Jones	Richmond	GRTC	11:35 AM	11:35 AM
Roygone Harris	Richmond	GRTC	11:40 AM	11:40 AM
Marlon Buck	Richmond	GRTC	11:50 AM	11:50 AM
Reginald Charity Jr.	Hampton Roads	HRT	1:00 PM	1:00 PM
Terraine Little	Hampton Roads	HRT	1:05 PM	1:05 PM
Joseph Perkins	Hampton Roads	HRT	1:10 PM	1:10 PM
Che-Vaughn Hall	Hampton Roads	HRT	1:15 PM	1:15 PM
Frank Cardona	OmniRide	OMNI	1:20 PM	1:20 PM
Mohamed Elatrebi	OmniRide	OMNI	1:25 PM	1:25 PM
Patrick Daley	OmniRide	OMNI	1:30 PM	1:30 PM
Dana Thomas	OmniRide	OMNI	1:35 PM	1:35 PM
Denise Manns	Petersburg	PAT	1:40 PM	1:40 PM
Horace Collins	Petersburg	PAT	1:45 PM	1:45 PM
Calvin Jones	Petersburg	PAT	1:50 PM	1:50 PM

Rodeo Committee

Name	City
Joel Gilliam	Arlington
Jeanna Blue	Arlington
Scott Tmay	Blacksburg
Chris Tyler	Blacksburg
Casey Vaden	Blacksburg
Evelyn Trice	Charlottesville
Michael Newbill	Charlottesville
Brian Roby	Alexandria
Daisy Allman	Alexandria
John Jones	Alexandria
Keir McDonald	Fairfax
Barry Goldman	Fairfax
LaTonya Chapman	Fairfax
Wajma Haidary	Fairfax
Jerimiah Gardner Jr.	Lynchburg
Allen Robey	Lynchburg
Mark Carter	Richmond
Monica Carter	Richmond
Monique Battle	Hampton Roads
Michelle Rodriguez	Hampton Roads
Kevin Brown	Hampton Roads
Queenie Byrd	Petersburg
Khalid Muhammad	Petersburg
Darius Mason	Petersburg
Monique Wyche	OmniRide
Rodney Johnson	OmniRide
Avery Daugherty	DRPT
Danny Plaugher	VTA

Participating Agencies



Sponsors

Event

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Hampton Roads Convention Center



Things To Do

- Fort Monroe National Monument and Casemate Museum
- NASA Langley Visitor Center / Virginia Air and Space Science Center
- Hampton History Museum
- Mariners' Museum
- Virginia Living Museum
- Air Power Park
- Shopping and restaurants
- Breweries



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