

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW YEAR BRINGS CHANGES IN CITY BUS SERVICES

SUFFOLK, Virginia (December 14, 2011) Coming with the New Year are changes to the City's current bus service. Effective January 3, 2012, Virginia Regional Transit (VRT) will begin early morning service with all trips for routes 71 and 74 continuing in the same format as when Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) handled the service.

Routes 72 and 73 will not be offered following December 30, 2011. These routes were previously recommended to be eliminated by HRT due to low ridership.

Fares will continue to be \$1.50 each way or \$3.00 for an All-Day Pass for bus service. Day Pass tickets are available for purchase from the Suffolk Treasurer's Offices, or riders can pay \$1.50 cash and purchase tickets on the bus.

Handi-Ride customers located within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of routes 71 and 74 will still be afforded the same level of service. The cost for that service will continue to be \$3.00 per trip. HRT certifications will be honored for 90 days while new certifications through VRT or their sub-contractor can be made.

HRT's 962 MAX service will continue through June 2012. Tickets for this bus will still need to be purchased as was done previously. VRT will not provide any transfer for the 962 MAX.

VRT has agreed to honor HRT multi-day passes through January, but will not honor them past January 31, 2012.

VRT is currently performing a citywide transit analysis to determine recommendations to City Council regarding the best new route system to serve citizens in the future, as well as to decide future fees. The study is expected to be completed prior to May 2012. Following review by City Council, recommendations will be made for the adoption of the new routes and fees.

There will be no bus service on Monday, January 2, 2012 as it is a holiday.

Handi-Ride customers located off of routes 72 and 73 will not be provided service effective January 3, 2012.

VRT has hired Maria Ptakowski as Transit Manager for the Suffolk Fixed Route system. VRT's local number is 757-514-7715. For questions or additional information, please contact VRT toll-free at 1-877-777-2708.

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