

Park & Ride Lot Slug Count

August 9-10, 2022

Prepared by GWRC Staff

GWRC/GWRideConnect/FAMPO

Introduction

The GWRideConnect program received a request from the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO) for an updated survey of riders and drivers participating in an activity known as slugging. This survey result may be included in models developed by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and other Transportation Demand Management (TDM) planning components. The most recent previous study was published by VDOT in Fall 2014 with 4 pickup locations: Route 3 Gordon Rd, Route 17, Route 610 (both Mine Rd and Staffordboro Rd were included), and Route 630.

Slugging, also known as casual or instant carpooling, is when a driver picks up non-paying passenger(s) at a specific pickup location and drops the passenger(s) off at an existing drop-off location that is agreed upon before the rider enters the vehicle. Slugging is an effective form of ridesharing that reduces vehicle miles travelled (VMT's). Slugging began in this area in the 1970's.

Procedure

George Washington Regional Commission staff and volunteers deployed in teams of two persons. Each team was assigned the tasks of counting both drivers and riders (slugs). Counting of drivers was done by one team member while counting of slugs was done by the other team member. Each team members used a mechanical hand tally counter to track counts and a cell phone to record time. Team members were given the option to use tally marks instead of mechanical tally counters. Counts were recorded approximately every 30 minutes on a form provided by GWRideConnect. At least one member of each team was required to attend a brief 30-minute training session. Staff divided the Route 610 Park & Ride locations into two separate pickup areas as the lots require two teams for observation and the distance between the locations is considered non-walkable due to lack of pedestrian infrastructure.

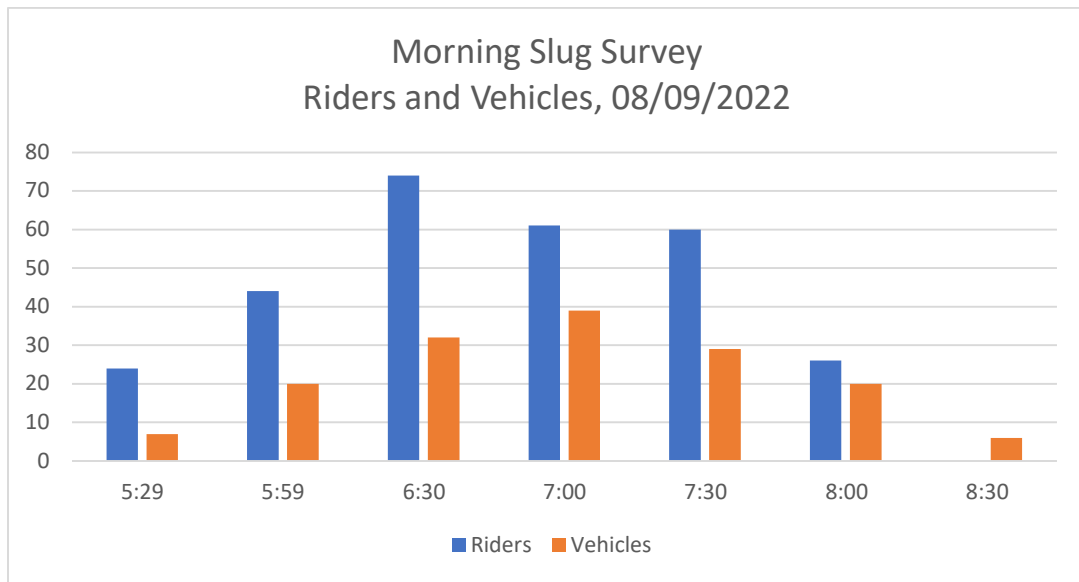
The count was planned to take place on the mornings of Tuesday and Wednesday, August 9th and 10th, but due to no slugging activity recorded on the first morning for all except the Route 610 Staffordboro lot, the count was only conducted in that lot for Wednesday.

Results

Slug Survey						
	Tuesday, 08/09/2022			Wednesday, 08/10/2022		
	Riders	Drivers	Headway (min)	Riders	Drivers	Headway (min)
Route 3	1	1	0	1	1	0
Route 17	0	0	0	-	-	-
Route 630	0	0	0	-	-	-
Route 610M	0	0	0	-	-	-
Route 610	289	153	1.38	263	142	1.45

Route 610 Staffordboro Rd (610) on Tuesday, August 9, 2022

Slug Survey, 08/09/2022					
Slugs		Vehicles			Time
Counter Readout	Time Interval Total	Counter Readout	Time Interval Total	Average Headway (minutes)	Count began at 4:59 AM
24	24	7	7	4.29	5:29
68	44	27	20	1.50	5:59
142	74	59	32	0.97	6:30
203	61	98	39	0.77	7:00
263	60	127	29	1.03	7:30
289	26	147	20	1.50	8:00
289	0	153	6	5.00	8:30
Total	289		153		
Average Headway				1.38	



Route 610 Staffordboro Rd (610) on Wednesday, August 10, 2022

Slug Survey, 08/10/2022				
Slugs				Time
Counter Readout	Time Interval Total	Appeared Female	Appeared Male	Count began at 4:00 AM
2	2	0	2	4:30
5	3	2	1	4:55
12	7	1	6	5:30
50	38	3	35	6:00
98	48	11	37	6:30
161	63	7	56	7:00
219	58	17	41	7:31
254	35	10	25	8:03
263	9	3	6	8:26
Total	263	54	209	

	Female	Male
Slugs	21%	79%
Drivers	19%	81%

Slug Count Survey, 08/10/2022					
Vehicles					Time
Counter Readout	Time Interval Total	Appeared Female	Appeared Male	Average Headway (minutes)	Count began at 4:00 AM
0	0	0	0	-	4:30
0	0	0	0	-	4:55
7	7	2	5	5.00	5:30
22	15	3	12	2.00	6:00
51	29	4	25	1.03	6:30
82	31	6	25	0.97	7:00
115	33	8	25	0.94	7:31
138	23	3	20	1.39	8:03
142	4	1	3	5.75	8:26
Total	142	27	115		
Average Headway				1.45	

Notes

- On Wednesday, there was a major accident on Northbound I-95 just before the 610 exit causing a later start to slugging than normal.
- Both mornings were clear, hot, and muggy.
 - Tuesday 5:00 am temperature was 78°; 8:45 am temperature was 90° in the lot
 - Wednesday 4:00 am temperature was 76°
- Many slugs were dropped off at the lot. One slug appeared to have taken a cab to the lot.
- Many drivers would take a 3rd rider if the line was long or if it was late in the morning.
- The most popular destination from lot 610 Staffordboro is the Pentagon. However, a few riders were also picked up for 14th Street, Rosslyn, and Crystal City.
- There were no riders after 8:00 am on Tuesday so six cars left without slugs. The cars waited an average of 7 minutes before leaving (15, 15, 6, 3, 3, <1).
- Route 610 Mine Rd had 3 people picked up at the slug line, but these appeared to be pre-arranged rides (formal carpools).
- Route 630 had 6 people picked up at the slug line, but these appeared to be pre-arranged rides (formal carpools).
- The 610 lot has a Facebook page that many riders/drivers use.

Requests from sluggers

- Sunshade / rain cover would be greatly appreciated
- A sign at the Pentagon for Rt. 630 drop off would help slugging at that lot take off.
- It is better to keep riders in one line at a pickup location instead of separating by destination.
- Don't set up the lots so that slugs must face East in the mornings
- Requested that we bring doughnuts next time.

