



# VRE Mobile User's Guide

June 27, 2013

## Introduction:

The VRE Mobile application runs on Android 2.3.3 or later and provides the ability to view VRE schedules as well as real-time data from your Android device.

## Home Page:

The home page provides 3 options (plus an "About" page):



**System Map:** View a Google map with the current locations of VRE trains.



**Trip Planner:** View the schedule of trains that service your start and end station on a specified day. If used on the current day, train status information will also be provided so you can know if a train is running late. Alerts that apply to the entire VRE system, your start and end station, the train line, and the specific trains shown on this page are also available.



**Alerts:** View all alerts that are currently active, system-wide. Alerts are the same messages that appear at train stations, although VRE may choose to not publish some station messages on the Alert feed, so this could be a subset of all station messages.

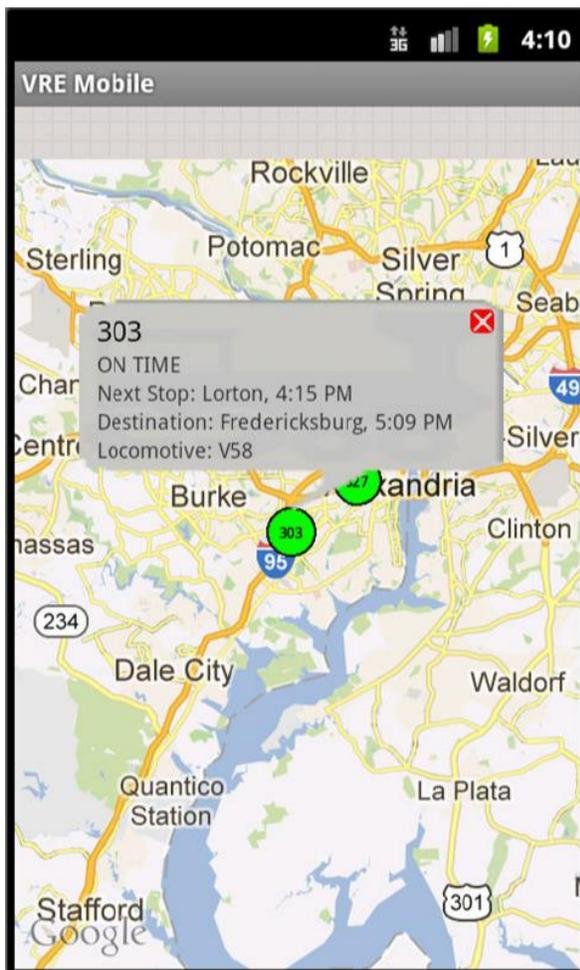
## System Map



The system map is a standard Google map, with train locations shown as circle icons. VRE stations also appear on this map. The color of a train icon indicates its status:

Green: on time, Red: delayed, Yellow: canceled, Gray: communication error (actual location unknown, last known location shown)

Tapping/clicking a train icon will cause a popup to appear that shows the train status, its next stop and scheduled stop time, its destination station and scheduled arrival time, and the locomotive placard that identifies the train.



You can also click on a station icon and a popup will show the name of the station.

## Trip Planner

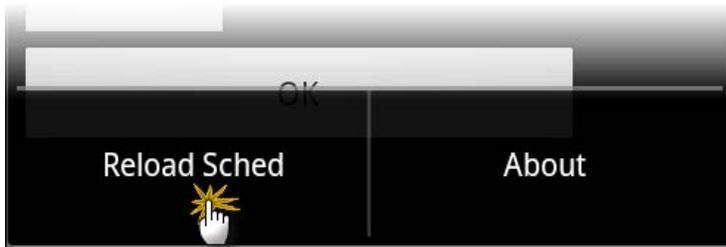


The trip planner allows you to enter your starting and ending station and select the date of travel, and it will show you the trains scheduled to make that trip. You can also choose to reverse the trip for your return trip.

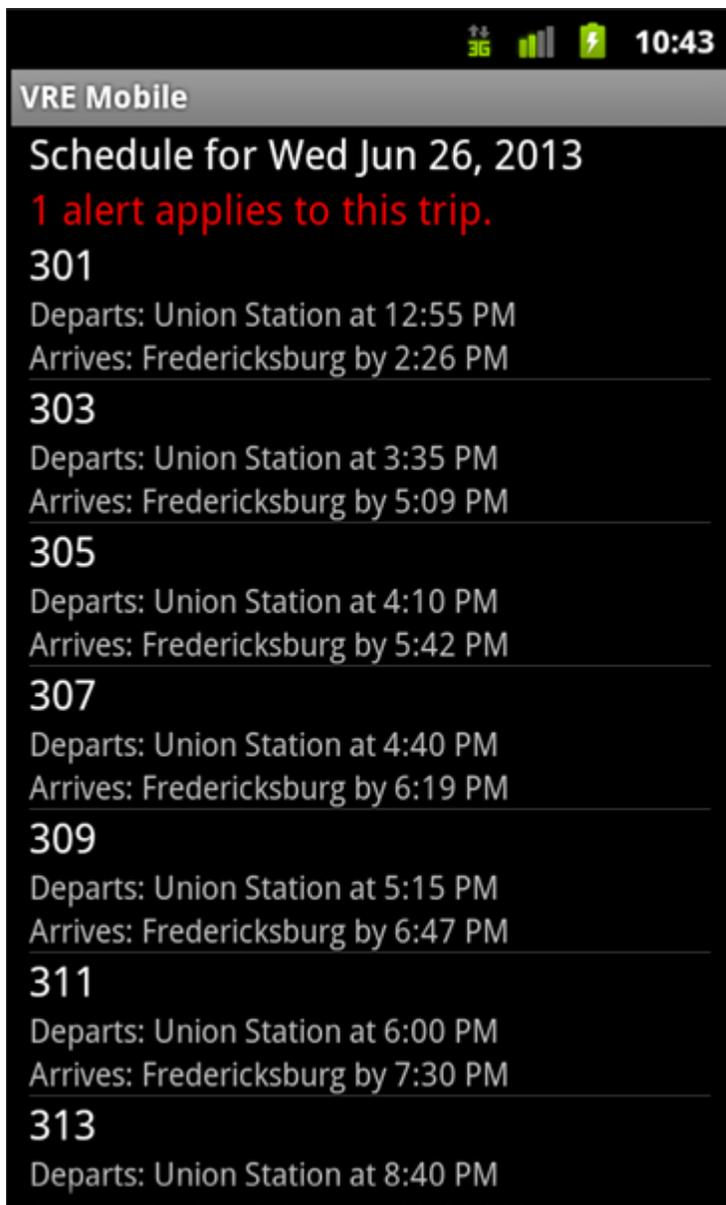
A screenshot of the VRE Mobile app's Trip Planner interface. The screen is dark-themed. At the top, the status bar shows '3G' signal strength, a battery icon, and the time '10:40'. Below the status bar is a grey header with the text 'VRE Mobile'. The main content area is black. It starts with the label 'Travel Date:' followed by three large, light-grey buttons with '+' and '-' symbols. The buttons are labeled 'Jun', '26', and '2013' respectively. Below this is the label 'Select Start:' followed by a dropdown menu showing 'Union Station'. Below that is the label 'Select Destination:' followed by a dropdown menu showing 'Fredericksburg'. There is a button labeled 'Reverse Trip' and a large 'OK' button at the bottom.

After you tap/click OK, the trains that service your selected trip on the specified day will be shown, complete with the scheduled departure and arrival times (see below).

**Note:** While usually not necessary, as the VRE train schedule is usually planned months or years in advance, you can view the menu for this page and choose to reload the VRE train schedule:



*This can be helpful on days with inclement weather (snow) as VRE sometimes enacts an "S" schedule. The application loads the schedule when the application is started, but if it is currently snowing and you are wondering if VRE will enact an "S" schedule, you can just choose to reload the schedule instead of exiting the application and starting it again. Reloading the schedule will pick up any "S" schedule that has been enacted recently, and resulting trips will reflect the "S" schedule.*



If there are any active alerts that apply to the entire VRE system, the start or end stations you selected, the train line where your start and end stations are located, or any of the trains shown, a message will appear near the top of the page to let you know there are 1 or more alerts that apply:



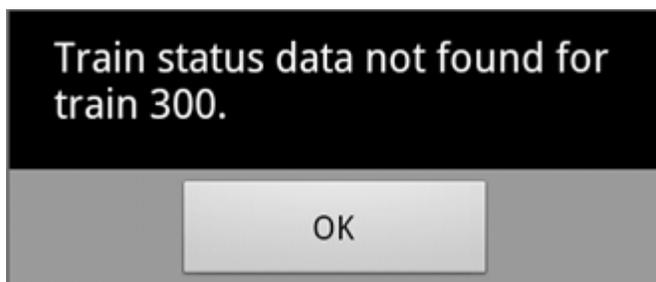
Tap/click the alert message to view the Alerts page, filtered to show only the alerts that are applicable to your selected trip.

If you are viewing the schedule for the current day, and VRE trains are currently active, the schedule list provides additional features. If status data is available for a train, the status will appear in parenthesis next to the train number:



Any time you see status next to a train number (including if the status is "ON TIME"), you can tap/click on that train number to zoom to that train's current location on a Google map.

If you tap/click on a train that does not show train status in parenthesis, you will see a message that indicates no status is available (unless status for that train has become available after you made your trip planner query).



If there are any alerts that apply specifically to a train, the number of alerts that apply (usually 1 at the most) will be shown next to the train status:

DELAYED 15 MINS) (1 ALERT)  
ion Station at 8:40 PM

Additionally, the title for the first alert for the train will appear below the departure and arrival times for the train:

Departs: Union Station at 8:40 PM  
Arrives: Fredericksburg by 10:23 PM  
ALERT 1 of 1: Train 313 Delayed



You can tap/click on the alert for the train as shown above and a popup will appear that shows all alerts (usually only one) that apply specifically to that train:

Alert(s) for train 300

This is a sample train information message for train 300. If this were a real message it would provide details about the status of train 300, such as the reason for a delay.

OK

**Note:** If you don't tap/click specifically on the alert line for the train, the current location for the train will be shown on the map (or the "train status data not found" message will appear). If this occurs, try to make sure you focus your tap/click on the red alert line, or use the red alert message at the top of the page to view all alerts, then view the train alerts.

## Alerts

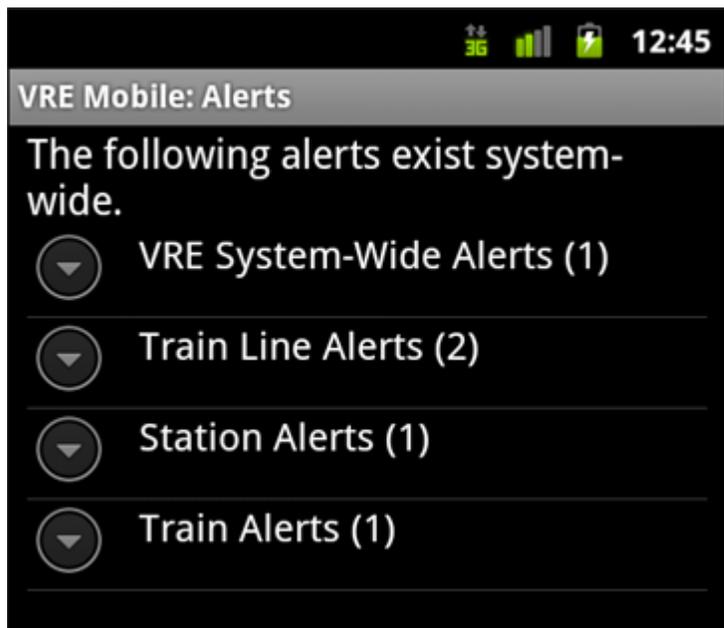


The alerts tool allows you to view all alerts that are currently active in the VRE system. Every alert shown in VRE Mobile is actually a message that appears at VRE stations. VRE Operations Staff determine whether or not messages they show at stations will also appear in the data feed made available to mobile applications, so the Alerts page may not show all station messages, but it will show all messages that VRE staff have deemed important enough to be considered an alert.

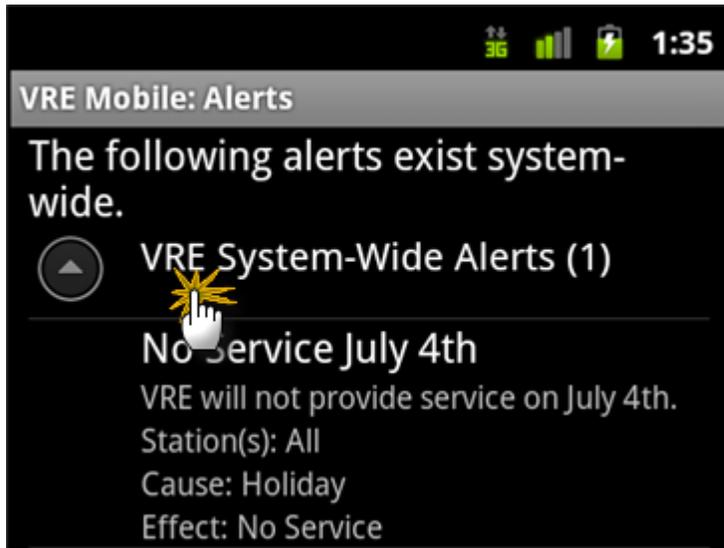
Alerts are grouped into categories as follows:

- **VRE System-Wide Alerts:**  
Alerts that apply to all VRE stations
- **Train Line Alerts:**  
Alerts that apply to all VRE stations on the Fredericksburg line or all stations on the Manassas line
- **Station Alerts:**  
Alerts that apply to specific stations, but don't apply to all stations on a train line or all VRE stations.
- **Train Alerts:**  
Alerts that apply to a specific train.

The Alerts page initially shows only the heading for each group of alerts, along with the number of alerts of each type that exist:



To view the alerts of any of the types, simply click on the alert group (or the down arrow):



## About

The About page shows information about the application and its developers. The application is developed by R. Doyle, a professional software developer with 24 years of experience, and B. Doyle, a junior in college majoring in computer science. K.A. Doyle, a high school sophomore created the icons, and E. Doyle, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, produced the background image of a train found on the pop-ups that appear when you click on a train icon on the map. We thank you for downloading the app and appreciate your \$2 contribution to this effort.