



Advancing transit in
Northern Virginia
since 1964



December
2025

Executive Director
Newsletter

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A Message From **Kate Mattice**

Each December we turn our attention to legislative matters, preparing for next year's General Assembly and Congressional sessions. We craft an annual Legislative and Policy Agenda distilling Northern Virginia's priorities on public transit and transportation, enabling us to effectively talk to our legislators about the progress we hope to see in Richmond and on Capitol Hill.

This year's Legislative and Policy Agenda reflects a remarkable effort to reimagine how Northern Virginia and our partners in the District of Columbia and Maryland pay for public transit, ensuring that Metro, Virginia Railway Express (VRE) and the local bus systems have a sustainable funding stream enshrined in law.

NVTC's 2026 Legislative and Policy Agenda reflects the hard work of the General Assembly's SJ 28 Growing Needs of Northern Virginia Transportation Joint Subcommittee and DMVMoves, the task force created by Metro and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. I'm grateful to NVTC staff for the extensive technical support and invaluable contributions they provided for both efforts.

We also host our marquee annual event—the Legislative Forum, in partnership with the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission and VRE, this month. This year's event, held Monday, December 15, will cover the path to sustainable transit funding and give leaders of the region's transit agencies an opportunity to talk about the issues confronting them.

We invite our elected officials, including newly elected state and local leaders, to come learn more about our priorities and why they matter. We also look forward to working closely with Gov.-elect Abigail Spanberger and General Assembly members to secure a solid financial future for public transit in the Commonwealth.


Executive Director

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December 9-10
Commonwealth
Transportation Board

December 15
NVTC/PRTC/VRE
Legislative Forum

December 19
VRE Operations Board

January 6
Commonwealth
Transportation Board

January 8 (special date)
Commission Meeting

January 16
VRE Operations Board

January 29
Joint WMATA & Legislative
and Policy Committees

February 5
Legislative Reception
(Richmond)

February 17
Commonwealth
Transportation Board

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Two major efforts to establish future transit funding approved

The General Assembly's SJ 28 Northern Virginia Growing Needs of Public Transit Joint Subcommittee held its last meeting on November 5, approving a [resolution](#) that identified 11 recommendations to support long-term, sustainable transit funding in Northern Virginia. These recommendations support the DMVMoves capital [funding levels](#) for Metro in Virginia, as well as endorse funding levels for Virginia's Metro operating subsidy needs, Virginia Railway Express, our local bus systems and OmniRide.

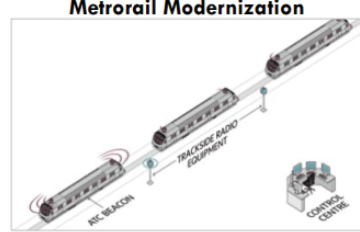

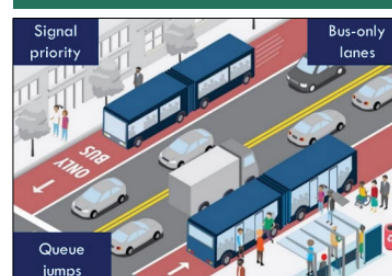

The Metro Board and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) Board [met jointly](#) the following week to endorse the final DMVMoves regional investment and action plan, including a proposal for \$460 million in new annual capital funding for Metro beginning in FY 2028.

NVTC participated throughout the process as part of the Government Partners Advisory Group, helping shape recommendations to improve Metro's long-term financial stability and strengthen coordination among regional transit operators. With the plan formally advanced by both boards, NVTC endorsed both the DMVMoves and SJ 28 efforts at its November Commission meeting.

NVTC and its partners are preparing to advocate for the legislation needed to implement these recommendations during the upcoming General Assembly session, in alignment with the funding solutions identified by the joint subcommittee.

DMVMoves Plan: Transit Investments

DMVMoves Plan summary

<p>Additional Funding for Metro</p> <p>Reinvesting in/Modernizing Metro</p> <p>Metrorail Modernization</p>  <p>Maintaining and Reinvesting in Metro</p>  <p>\$460M before FY29* + 3% per year</p> <p><small>*In advance of reaching debt capacity limit</small></p>	<p>Metro + Jurisdictional Partnerships</p> <p>Regional Bus Priority Network</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint project development • Discretionary and local funding for priority infrastructure • Metro operates fast, frequent service all day/all week <p>\$ To be determined</p>	<p>Separate State and Local Needs</p> <p>Improved Local Bus Service</p> <p>Indication of need to implement new, customer-focused regional service guidelines.</p> <p>\$65-80M + 3% per year</p> <p>Commuter Rail to Regional Rail</p> <p>Maintaining existing service and systems:</p> <p>\$60M + 3% per year</p> <p>Leveraging recent investments to provide regional rail service:</p> <p>\$ To be determined</p> 
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+ Implementation of Action Plan for Transit Integration

Ground broken for Alexandria passenger rail projects

Executive Director Kate Mattice attended a [groundbreaking ceremony](#) at Alexandria Union Station on November 15 for several rail projects that will significantly improve passenger rail service in Northern Virginia.

The Alexandria Fourth Track project—a collaboration between the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority, Virginia Railway Express, Amtrak, CSX and the City of Alexandria—will separate passenger and freight rail traffic along a six-mile stretch of track, creating more efficient and reliable service for commuters and travelers. Also planned are projects to enhance

Alexandria Union Station itself, which is one of Virginia's busiest transit hubs, replace the King & Commonwealth rail bridges and improve the surrounding streetscape to better connect the station to the nearby neighborhoods.

Transportation Secretary Shep Miller and Reps. James Walkinshaw and Don Beyer were among the elected officials who addressed attendees and highlighted how these investments will benefit the entire region by strengthening rail connectivity and supporting economic growth.





Envision Route 7 completes outreach effort

In-person community outreach for the [Envision Route 7](#) bus rapid transit system Phase 4-2 concluded in early November, following an open house, five bus stop chats and five pop-ins throughout the corridor. In addition, NVTC staff visited key employment and cultural centers, such as St. Anthony of Padua Church and Seven Corners Center to further share information about the project.

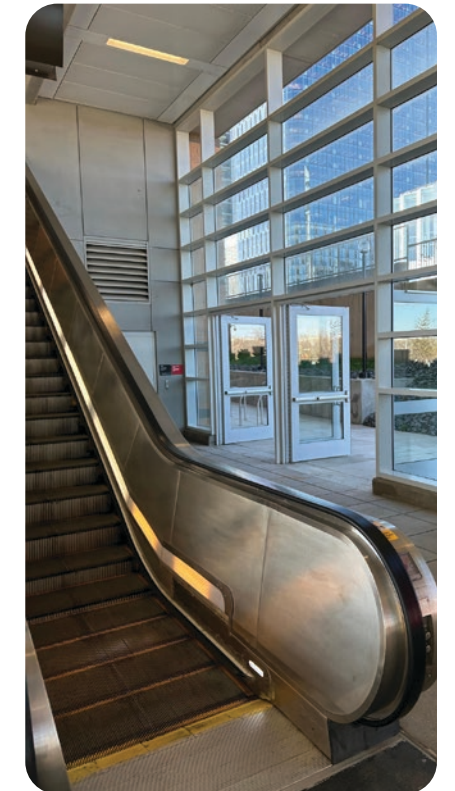
Community outreach provides qualitative data on how public transit impacts the daily lives of residents and businesses along the corridor. It captures perceptions and desires for improvements that complement traffic volume and ridership data. Additional outreach includes a [newsletter](#), community conversations and an online [explorer](#) to educate the public about the project.

NVTC and project partners look forward to returning to the community in the spring to share results and to get feedback from the community.

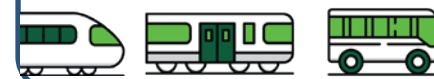


Commuter Choice funded McLean Station entrance opens

Metro and Fairfax County formally opened a new north entrance at the McLean Station in November. Funded through the I-66 Commuter Choice program, the new entrance will provide enhanced access to Capital One's corporate headquarters and other retail, entertainment and residential destinations in Tysons. We appreciate the partnership with Metro, Fairfax County and Capital One in supporting high-quality transit investments in our region.



Images courtesy of Metro





Metro Board hears final budget preview

Metro staff offered a final [budget preview](#) regarding the FY 2027 operating budget and FY 2027-2032 capital program at the November 20 Metro Board [meeting](#). Metro expects continued ridership and revenue growth, which could be reinvested into improving service and reducing reliance on preventive maintenance transfers. Increased ridership will also benefit the capital program, which is focused on state of good repair and rail modernization efforts. The GM/

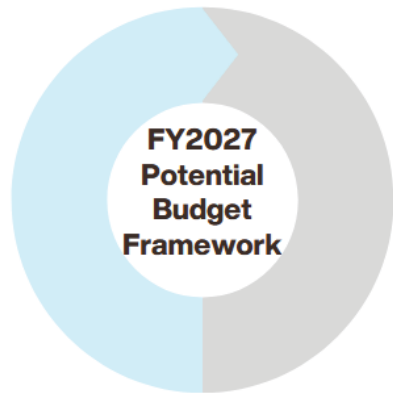
CEO Proposed FY 2027 Operating Budget and FY 2027-2032 Capital Improvement Program will be presented to the Board in December, followed by public hearings before adoption in March.

The Board also reviewed FY 2026 Q1 financials and approved solicitation for joint development at the Braddock Road Station.

Opportunities for Operating Savings & Reinvestments

Revenue and Efficiencies

- Revenue Growth**
Continued ridership growth drives passenger and parking revenue
- Bus Scheduling Efficiencies**
Continued savings from optimizing bus schedules, reducing deadhead and increasing share of productive time
- Automatic Train Operations**
More efficient schedules and faster travel times from return to automatic train operations and design speeds
- Workforce Optimization**
Align staffing with modernization efforts; reduce positions through vacancy reductions



Reinvestments

- Service Improvements**
Improve Metrobus frequency, span, and coverage, address crowding and enhance all-day Metrorail service
- Organization Modernization Initiatives**
Continue transformation of Metro's service delivery, organizational development and digital modernization
- Preventive Maintenance**
Continue to reduce reliance on capital funding for operating maintenance expenses

Metro continues strong performance in first quarter

The Metro Board received a [briefing](#) on the FY 2026 first quarter Service Excellence Report during its November 6 meeting. Board members heard that 65% of key performance indicators, ranging from crime rate and crowding to on-time performance and escalator availability, either met their target or trended in the right direction. Customers took nearly 68 million trips across rail, bus and paratransit in Q1 of FY 2026, a 5% increase over Q1 in FY 2025, marking 54 consecutive months of growth.

Service reliability also improved with bus on-time performance hitting its highest level in four years and rail on-time performance outpacing the last two years, thanks to time savings from Automatic Train Operation (ATO) on all lines. Crime remains at an eight-year low and customer perception of safety from crime continues to meet targets for both bus and rail.

17 Measures Meeting or Moving Toward Target In Q1

Metric	Result	Right trend? Q1 vs. Q4	Featured	Metric	Result	Right trend? Q1 vs. Q4	Featured
Goal 1: Service excellence				Objective 1B: Reliability			
Customer satisfaction				On-time performance			
Metrorail	84%		+	Metrorail	88.9%	✓	+
Metrobus	76%		+	Metrobus	76.5%	✓	+
MetroAccess	78%		+	MetroAccess	90.2%	✓	+
Objective 1A: Safety and security				Percent of scheduled service delivered			
Part 1 crime rate	3.2		+	Metrorail	97.1%	✓	
Transit worker assault rate	52.8			Metrobus	97.2%	✓	
Customer dissatisfaction: safety from crime				MetroAccess	98.4%		
Metrorail	9%			Percent of Metrorail planned service delivered			
Metrobus	14%			Metrorail	91.3%		
Customer injury rate	32.5	✓		Elevator Availability			
Employee injury rate	5.3	✓		Escalator Availability			
Crowding				Objective 1C: Convenience			
Metrorail	1.1%	✓		Accuracy of real-time arrival information			
Metrobus	2.2%	✓		Metrorail	97.3%		
				Metrobus	89.0%		
				Availability of real-time bus arrival information			
				Metrorail 93.4%			
				Customer satisfaction: cleanliness			
				Metrorail 74%			
				Metrobus 67%			
				Last-mile connectivity / bicycle access			
				1.4% (2022)			



Commission commends Rep. Walkinshaw, welcomes Supv. Jimenez

Commissioners lauded Rep. James Walkinshaw during their monthly meeting November 6. Walkinshaw served nearly five years on the Commission before being elected to Congress to fill the seat of the late Rep. Gerry Connolly. He also served on the VRE Operations Board.

Chair David F. Snyder also swore in Mason District Supervisor Andres Jimenez of Fairfax County as an Alternate Commissioner.

Rep. James Walkinshaw and NVTC's Executive Committee (top); Chair David F. Snyder swears in Alternate Commissioner Andres Jimenez (bottom left); November's Commission meeting (bottom right)



New Beltway toll lanes open with transit option

NVTC staff attended the ribbon-cutting for the I-495 Express Lanes Northern Extension, also known as 495 NEXT, November 21. Gov. Glenn Youngkin, Secretary of Transportation Shep Miller and representatives from the Virginia Department of Transportation and Transurban celebrated the completion of the 495 Express Lanes. The project extended the Express Lanes by 2.5 miles from the Dulles Corridor interchange to the George Washington Memorial Parkway near the American Legion Bridge.

The project includes dedicated funding to support transit improvements in the corridor, including Fairfax Connector bus service running between Tysons and Bethesda.

Ribbon-cutting (top); Fairfax County Chair Jeff McKay (bottom)



Welcome Hwajung Kim

We're excited to announce that Hwajung Kim has joined NVTC as a Senior Accountant. Hwajung will be helping to track NVTC's financial activity, prepare financial reports and perform a variety of other accounting functions.

Hwajung comes to NVTC from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) where she was responsible for the accounting of several of the agency's funds. Hwajung is a Certified Public Accountant and holds a master's degree in public management.



Happy 25 years, Scott Kalkwarf



Congratulations go out to Scott Kalkwarf for 25 years at NVTC! Scott serves as the director of finance and administration, providing a steady hand to our financial management and ensuring that NVTC passes annual audits with flying colors.



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