

NVTC NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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NVTC Urges Full Budgetary Support for N. Virginia Transit

Arlington – NVTC Chairman David F. Snyder (Falls Church City Council) testified yesterday at the Virginia General Assembly's House Appropriations and Senate Budget Committees' Regional Budget Hearing. Hearings were scheduled throughout the state for January 3 and 4.

Chairman Snyder cited public transit's exceptional performance in Northern Virginia: transit and ridesharing account for well over half of all persons traveling in peak periods in all of the major commuting corridors in Northern Virginia as far out as the Beltway (*Mode Share Comparisons for Northern Virginia's Major Transportation Corridors*). He also reported that the taxes collected on Metrorail-induced economic activity are expected to equal three times the Commonwealth's annual contributions to Metrorail (*KPMG Peat Marwick study for NVTC*).

Chairman Snyder went on to urge the General Assembly to direct VDOT to sell transit bonds it authorized in 1999. Several vital transit projects are to be funded from that bond sale, including the purchase of additional Metro railcars (\$16 million), King Street Metrorail station improvements (\$4.2 million) and Ballston Metrorail station improvements (\$6.2 million).

Chairman Snyder also advocated the full funding of existing state transit programs. An additional \$35 million is needed as of FY2001 to meet the statutory matching ratios established by the General Assembly to help local governments continue their successful public transit systems. Northern Virginia's portion of that amount (\$26 million) would support the 264,000 daily riders of public transit in NVTC's district and facilitate job creation and business activity.

Copies of Chairman Snyder's testimony are available from NVTC and on the Commission's website (www.cns.state.va.us/nvtc). Copies of NVTC studies are also available.