



MEDIA RELEASE

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THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ENDORSES BLUE RIBBON PANEL REPORT ON METRO FUNDING

Arlington, VA – At its January 6, 2005 meeting, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission voted to commend the Blue Ribbon Panel for effectively examining the outlook for WMATA and its need for dedicated funding. The Panel, chaired by Rudolph Penner of the Urban Institute, released its final report earlier that day.

NVTC also voted to endorse serious consideration of a regional sales tax applicable to the Metro Compact jurisdictions as proposed by the Blue Ribbon Panel, provided such a dedicated regional funding source is apportioned equitably and reflects the current allocation formulas for sharing Metro's costs among the Compact jurisdictions.

Further, NVTC expressed its intention to help the region advance the initial work of the Blue Ribbon Panel by exploring how to develop further information about the details of the proposal and how it could be implemented. In particular, NVTC will assist other regional bodies in developing an understanding of the nature of WMATA's funding requirements, the immediacy of need, and the desirability of both a dedicated revenue source and adequate federal participation in ensuring appropriate levels of capital maintenance and system enhancement for the region's most important transportation investment.

NVTC is the leading source of information about public transportation issues in Northern Virginia. NVTC is a regional agency with the mission of managing traffic congestion, restoring clean air, boosting the economy and improving the quality of life for all of Northern Virginia's citizens through effective public transit and ridesharing networks. NVTC includes the counties of Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church covering over 1,000 square miles with a population of 1.5 million. The agency manages over \$100 million of state and federal grant funds each year for public transit and serves as a forum for its board of 20 state and local elected officials to resolve issues involving public transit and ridesharing. **For information about NVTC, please visit www.thinkoutsidethecar.org or call 703-524-3322.**