



## MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **GOVERNOR KAINE AND THE COMMONWEALTH HEARD NORTHERN VIRGINIANS LOUD AND CLEAR!**

#### **THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (NVTDC) URGES RESIDENTS TO CONTACT THEIR LEGISLATORS IMMEDIATELY!**

Arlington, VA -- Governor Kaine and General Assembly members seem to be getting the message: We need dedicated, sustainable funding to provide transportation choices. They need to hear from Northern Virginians now: ***We believe strongly they are on the right track.***

Several important transportation funding bills have been introduced so far in the ongoing General Assembly session in Richmond, due to conclude on March 11, 2006.

Governor Kaine, Senate leadership and individual delegates have introduced separate proposals which would:

- 1) provide approximately a billion dollars a year in new transportation funding statewide;
- 2) direct more funds to Northern Virginia; prevent diversion of transportation funds to other uses; give local governments more tools to shape growth; and
- 3) dedicate funds for Metro to qualify for \$1.5 billion in new federal assistance.

Many of these bills would specifically provide significant new funds for public transit, including Metro railcars and buses and Virginia Railway Express railcars and locomotives. Those bills deserve our strong support.

##MORE##

The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) gathered extensive public input to develop a plan for priority projects in Northern Virginia's commuting corridors which will make a real difference in relieving congestion.

NVTA's surveys show that the public wants these new investments to provide transportation choices and the public is willing to pay more for such congestion relief.

The new bills would fund many of those NVTA projects. NVTC is asking the public to Take Action! Public support is needed now!

NVTC is urging residents to contact their General Assembly members to support bills that will:

- Provide sustainable increases in statewide funding of at least \$1 billion annually for transportation with a significant share (more than 15 percent) for transit;
- Increase transportation funds directed to Northern Virginia;
- Identify dedicated regional funding for Metro to qualify for \$1.5 billion of new federal funds over 10 years;
- Safeguard transportation revenues from diversion to other uses;
- Give local governments enhanced tools to shape growth to prevent and relieve severe traffic congestion.

Northern Virginia residents can find out who their legislators are by going to <http://www.thinkoutsidethecar.org/legislative.asp>. There they can enter their zip code to identify their individual legislator. Residents can also call the Constituent Viewpoint Operator TOLL FREE at 1-800-889-0229.

For more information contact the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission by going to [www.thinkoutsidethecar.org](http://www.thinkoutsidethecar.org).

**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 \$120 million of state and federal grant funds each year for public transit and serves as a forum for its board of 19 state and local elected officials to resolve issues involving public transit and ridesharing. **For copies of NVTC's draft 2006 work program and approved legislative agenda, and other information about NVTC, please visit [www.thinkoutsidethecar.org](http://www.thinkoutsidethecar.org) or call 703-524-3322.**

## NVTC ##