



## PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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### **NORTHERN VIRGINIA LEADERS GATHERED LAST WEEK IN RICHMOND TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR DEDICATED FUNDING FOR METRO**

***RESIDENTS URGED TO CONTACT GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS TODAY!***

**Arlington, VA – Northern Virginians may not agree on everything, but they agree on one thing: a dedicated, reliable and sustainable funding source for Metro is needed NOW.**

Last week Northern Virginia elected officials **Gerald E. Connolly**, Chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors along with **David F. Snyder**, Chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) and member of the Falls Church City Council; Virginia General Assembly **Delegate Adam Ebbin** (D-49<sup>th</sup>); and **Barbara Favola**, Chairman of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) and Arlington County board member; along with approximately 30 other elected officials including **Senator Mary Margaret-Whipple** (D-31<sup>st</sup>); and **Delegate David Marsden** (D-41<sup>st</sup>) held a press conference in Richmond, Virginia to discuss the urgent need for a reliable, sustainable and dedicated funding source for Metro and public transportation in Northern Virginia. Joining them in this call to action were also key members of the Smart Growth and Business communities: **Stewart Schwartz** – Coalition for Smarter Growth; **Bill Lecos** – Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce; **Nancy Reed** – Greater Washington Board of Trade; and **Linda McMinimy** – Virginia Transit Association; to name a few.

#### **Officials called for action on various proposals**

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, including Governor Kaine's "*Grow Right, Get There Faster*" transportation plan as well as Senate and newly released House plans for transportation.

**##MORE##**

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

- 1) provide up to a billion dollars a year in new transportation funding statewide;
- 2) direct more funds to Northern Virginia;
- 3) prevent diversion of transportation funds to other uses;
- 4) give local governments more tools to shape growth; and
- 5) 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. But not all of the bills include dedicated funding for Metro which is Northern Virginia's top transportation legislative priority.

**Participants in the event agreed that Governor Kaine and General Assembly members need to hear this message: Don't leave this General Assembly session without enacting dedicated funding for Metro.**

### **Northern Virginians willing to pay for congestion relief**

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. In fact, three-fifths would pay at least a dollar a day.

### **Action is needed now. Residents urged to contact General Assembly members.**

NVTC is distributing flyers today at the following Northern Virginia Metrorail Stations between 3pm and 7pm:

- ◆ Braddock Road
- ◆ King Street
- ◆ Ballston
- ◆ Rosslyn
- ◆ Vienna
- ◆ West falls Church
- ◆ Huntington
- ◆ Franconia-Springfield

These stations are among the most heavily used during the week-day commute.

**##MORE##**

Volunteers will distribute 50,000 flyers to commuters and Northern Virginia residents which urge Delegates and Senators: ***"Don't Come Home"*** without a dedicated funding

source for Metro and permanent increased funding for transportation priorities in Northern Virginia. The flyer provides residents with a web address to get more information and a toll free constituent hotline to call and make their voices heard on this issue. NVTC is asking the public to Take Action. Public support is needed now. NVTC wants residents to ask Governor Kaine and the General Assembly members to enact dedicated funding for Metro.

Permanent funding from sources other than General Funds and related policy changes should be provided to accomplish the following:

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

A one time diversion of money from the General Fund is not sufficient.

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 ##**