



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **NVTC to Study Transportation Needs of Northern Virginia's Seniors**

**ARLINGTON, VA** – The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) announced today that it will conduct a study to learn more about the transportation needs of senior citizens in Northern Virginia. The mobility of our aging population is a pivotal transportation policy issue. Nationally, the number of older Americans age 65 and older is expected to double over the next 25 years. Here in Northern Virginia, the number of residents age 65 and older is expected to more than double by 2030, from five percent to about 14 percent of the total population. At the same time, the use of transit among residents aged 65 and older has been declining for decades. Taken together these two trends could have a profound effect on the region's transportation system and the manner in which resources are programmed to serve this growing segment of our population.

NVTC will conduct telephone interviews and focus groups in order to:

- Identify the current and future gaps in services that are available to meet the travel needs of seniors;
- Understand whether there are mobility differences among seniors residing in communities of differing land use patterns and between seniors who drive and those who do not drive;
- Determine the types of transportation used;
- Determine desired frequency of preferred types of transportation;
- Determine seniors' attitudes towards public and specialized transportation services;
- Identify cost effective service improvements that are acceptable to Northern Virginia's seniors.

A random sample of Northern Virginia senior citizens (75 years and older) will be called to take part in the interviews. Telephone interviews will be conducted in April 2005. Focus groups will be conducted in May, 2005. Participation by those contacted will help NVTC identify the special transportation needs of seniors in Northern Virginia.

## more ##

NVTC is undergoing this study in cooperation with Area Agencies on Aging and transportation service providers, and has received funding support from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission.

NVTC has commissioned WB&A Market Research to conduct the telephone survey and focus groups. WB&A has been servicing clients in a wide range of industries since 1987, with particular concentration in transportation research. For more information, contact Steve Markenson at SMarkenson@WBandA.com.

**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, ridesharing networks, and other transportation solutions. 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.

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The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission

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