



## PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Kala Quintana  
703/ 524-3322 ext. 104  
Mobile: 703/ 597-4970

[kala@nvtdc.org](mailto:kala@nvtdc.org)

### **ANNUAL TRANSIT RIDERSHIP IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA UP 17 PERCENT SINCE FY 2002**

*TRANSIT PERFORMANCE IS STRONG AND TRENDING UPWARD IN  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA BUT MORE FUNDING IS NEEDED TO KEEP PACE  
WITH GROWING DEMAND*

**Arlington, VA** – The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) annually compiles transit performance data from transit systems serving Northern Virginia. The report includes detailed data from FY 2002 – FY 2006 on daily ridership, passenger-mile and on-time transit performance. The report clearly shows that transit performance is strong and trending upward over the last five years.

Highlights of the Northern Virginia report include:

- Annual transit ridership is up 17% to 137 million
- Average week-day transit trips are up 14% to 463,353
- Annual passenger miles on transit are up 20% to 868 million
- Annual bus and rail miles are up 34% to 52 million

The final results and a complete set of the transit performance data can be found on NVTC's web site at:

[http://www.thinkoutsidethecar.org/transit/performance\\_data.asp](http://www.thinkoutsidethecar.org/transit/performance_data.asp)

Local bus systems included are Alexandria DASH, Arlington ART, City of Fairfax CUE, City of Falls Church George, Fairfax Connector, Loudoun County's LC Transit and PRTC OmniRide and OmniLink. Regional systems include Metrorail, Metrobus and the Virginia Railway Express.

**##MORE##**

According to NVTC Chairman and Falls Church city council member David Snyder, "These statistics underscore the ongoing and urgent need to give our residents choices to get where they're going. In Northern Virginia we recognize the value that public transportation adds to our region. But without sufficient and reliable funding for transportation, including public transportation, we will not be able to make enhancements to our transportation network to give residents more and better choices."

Governor Kaine is currently considering HB 3202, which was passed by both houses of the General Assembly of Virginia on the final day of the 2007 regular session. All 140 members of the General Assembly are up for re-election in November, 2007.

Chairman Snyder noted that, in a March 2, 2007 letter to Governor Kaine, NVTC urged the Governor to:

- reduce reliance on General Funds to pay for transportation;
- require enactment by the commonwealth of taxes and fees for regional programs;
- allow the \$25 million annually for VRE from the new regional program to be used for both operations and capital funding;
- not encroach on tax bases of local governments that are already in place;
- not shift planning, construction and secondary road maintenance responsibilities to local governments; and
- give local Governments the tools to deny development on the basis of inadequate public facilities.

"We continue to urge Governor Kaine to adequately fund transit in Northern Virginia. As the package stands now, funds for transit are limited. Our transportation network is suffering from overcrowding," said Snyder. "Funding transit in Northern Virginia is also critical to supporting and creating jobs here that, in turn, pay the taxes that are needed by the rest of the state. We are bursting at the seams. We hope that Governor Kaine will recognize Northern Virginia's unique regional needs and fund them accordingly."

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 1.6 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 20 state and local elected officials to resolve issues involving public transit and ridesharing. For information about NVTC, please visit [www.thinkoutsidethecar.org](http://www.thinkoutsidethecar.org) or call 703-524-3322.

**## NVTC ##**