



PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

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NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL PARTNERS GATHER TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR DEDICATED FUNDING FOR METRO

***BUSINESSES, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AND
TRANSIT RIDERS ARE URGING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO TAKE ACTION TO
PROVIDE DEDICATED FUNDING FOR METRO NOW!***

Arlington, VA – For all editors and members of the electronic and print media covering Northern Virginia Transportation issues, local politics and the 2006 Virginia General Assembly.

Northern Virginians may not agree on everything, but they agree on one thing: a dedicated funding source for Metro is needed now.

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; **Jay Fiset** Chairman of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and member of the Arlington County Board; **John Jenkins**, member of the Prince William County Board of County Supervisors; **Cheryl Cort** Executive Director of the Washington Regional Network for Livable Communities (WRN); representatives from **Prince William County business community** including **Mike Anzilotti**, President of Virginia Commerce Bank; **Prince William County Metro Riders** and other officials will hold a press conference in Prince William County, Virginia to discuss the urgent need for dedicated funding for Metro.

##MORE##

Date: Tuesday April 11, 2006

Time: 6:30 am – 7:30 am*
(*Speakers 6:45 to 7:15)

Location: Horner Road Park & Ride Lot
VA-639 at I-95 – Take Exit 158 (the first exit) from I-95
<http://www.hovcalculator.com/pnr/pnr-hornerd.asp>

FREE Krispy Kreme Doughnuts and Coffee will be served to Prince William County commuters and event attendees!!!!
--Generously provided by the Greater Washington Board of Trade

Camera Visual, Radio and Print Press Opportunities

- Prime opportunity for “person on the street” interviews of Prince William County commuters on the controversy of their delegates opposing the right of local elected officials in regional organizations to inform their constituents about this issue and voting down additional funding for Metro (even though 10,000 Prince William County residents use Metro each day and would not be asked to pay more under the proposal supported by the regional partners);
- Live shot for morning broadcast;
- Commuters in the morning including long slug-lines;
- Lots of movement with buses arriving every 5-10 minutes;
- Great view of bumper to bumper traffic on I-95 in the distance;
- You’ll have many of the local leaders and partners in one place to weigh in on the issues. Can spend the remaining AM (while traffic is still horrendous) to interview Prince William County officials locally.

The Facts

- More than 10,000 Prince William County (PWC) residents use Metrorail EACH work day;
- Almost 30% of PWC VRE riders transfer to Metrorail or buses each day;
- Metrorail provides the equivalent of 12 lanes of peak hour highway capacity, freeing up roadways for PWC drivers and businesses;
- Providing dedicated funding for Metro would allow the region to join Maryland and DC in qualifying for \$1.5 billion in federal funds. Without such funding, the federal assistance will be lost.
- The regional partners support a legislative proposal to raise \$55 million annually with a quarter-cent sales tax in the five local jurisdictions supporting Metro. The new tax will NOT be collected in Prince William County.

##MORE##

Unprecedented Support

The broad regional support for this effort is unprecedented— more than 30 partners have joined together to support dedicated funding for Metro, including:

- Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)
- Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC)
- Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)
- Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)
- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC)
- Transportation Planning Board of the National Capital Region (TPB)
- Coalition for Smarter Growth (CSG)
- Greater Washington Board of Trade (GWBOT)
- Virginia Transit Association (VTA)
- Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce
- Counties of: Arlington & Fairfax
- Cities of: Alexandria, Fairfax & Falls Church
- Arlington Coalition for Sensible Transportation
- Transportation Association of Greater Springfield (TAGS)
- Sierra Club – Virginia Chapter
- Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce
- Dulles Area Transportation Association (DATA)
- Dulles Corridor Rail Association (DCRA)
- Southern Environmental Law Center
- Piedmont Environmental Council
- Clean Water Action
- Washington Regional Network for Livable Communities
- Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR)
- Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA)
- Business Transportation Action Coalition (BTRAC)
- Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance (NVTA)
- Federal City Council
- Northern Virginia Building Industry Association (NVBIA)
- Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTC)

Officials call for action

The Prince William County Board of Supervisors last week passed, unanimously, a resolution supporting dedicated funding for Metro.

The Virginia Senate's budget bill includes a ¼ cent sales tax increase proposal for the counties of Fairfax and Arlington and the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax. This tax will enable localities to secure the \$1.5 billion in dedicated funding proposed by Congressman Tom Davis.

Governor Kaine and General Assembly members need to hear this message for their ongoing Special Session: Don't leave this General Assembly Special Session without enacting dedicated funding for Metro.

##MORE##

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. The proposed sales tax for Metro proposed would cost about \$42.00 per person annually in the five jurisdictions.

Partial list of participants:

Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	(Fairfax County/NVTC)	- Speaker (Confirmed)
Hon. David F. Snyder	(Falls Church/NVTA)	- Speaker (Confirmed)
Hon. Jay Fisette	(Arlington County/COG)	- Speaker (Confirmed)
Hon. John Jenkins	(Prince William)	- Speaker (Confirmed)
TBD	(Prince William Business)	- Speaker
Cheryl Cort	(WRN)	- Speaker (Confirmed)
TBD	PWC Metro Riders	- Speaker (Invited)
Hon. Dana Kauffman	(Metro Board)	- Speaker (Invited)

For more information contact the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission by going to 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 or call 703-524-3322.**

NVTC