

NVTC NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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Free Bus Rides to Combat 7th Worst Air Quality in Nation

An American Lung Association report released yesterday ranks the ozone pollution in the Washington-Baltimore area as the seventh-worst in the nation. The report's release coincides with the beginning of the local "Code Red" season, in which the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) makes a daily forecast of ozone levels and air quality based on pollution factors. A Code Red day is one on which ozone levels are extremely high and air quality is very poor.

To encourage citizens to drive less during the summer and help the region stay within federal clean air standards, **bus service providers in Northern Virginia will automatically suspend fare collection for a day that has been forecast as Code Red.** Funding for this project is provided through a federal transportation grant obtained by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) for the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC).

For more air quality information, next day forecasts, tips on improving air quality, and links to other air quality sites, contact Clean Air Partners at www.cleanairpartners.net or (202) 962-3299. Specific route information can be obtained by calling these transportation providers:

Alexandria DASH	(703) 370-DASH (3274)
Arlington Transit (ART)	(703) 228-RIDE (7433)
Fairfax City CUE	(703) 385-7859
Fairfax Connector	(703) 339-7200
Loudoun Commuter Bus	(703) 771-5665/Metro (703) 478-8433
Metrobus (NOVA)	(202) 637-7000
OmniRide/OmniLink	(703) 730-OMNI (6664)