NVTC NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

June 26, 2001

Julie Bourbon (703) 524-3322

Code Red Day Tomorrow Means Free Bus Rides on N. Virginia Routes

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) has issued a bad air alert for tomorrow, Wednesday, June 27. Ozone levels are predicted to be extremely high and air quality 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 suspend fare collection tomorrow and any other days declared by MWCOG to be Code Red. Funding for this free fare 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 (202) 637-7000

OmniRide/OmniLink (703) 730-OMNI (6664)