



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**  
October 23, 2006

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**NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**  
**CHAIRMAN, GERRY CONNOLLY, EARNS**  
**2006 LOCAL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD FROM THE**  
**AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION (APTA)**

***LOCAL LEADER ACKNOWLEDGED FOR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS IN***  
***NORTHERN VIRGINIA TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION THROUGH POLICY,***  
***LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE, AND LEADERSHIP.***

**Arlington, VA** – On October 11, 2006 prestigious awards were presented to the top public transportation agencies and transit leaders in North America by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). Nearly 2,000 public and private sector transit leaders from North America attended the 2006 Annual Meeting in San Jose, CA representing APTA's 1,500 member transit agencies and suppliers. Among those honored were Gerry Connolly (D - Fairfax), chairman of Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors received APTA's Local Distinguished Service Award.

Chairman Connolly's commitment to improving public transportation is a key part of his mission as NVTC chairman and as chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Connolly has served on NVTC since 1999 and, in addition to his duties as chairman of NVTC, currently chairs NVTC's Executive and Legislative committees.

NVTC vice-chairman David Snyder applauded APTA for acknowledging Connolly. "Northern Virginia couldn't ask for a better champion for public transportation. He has been at the forefront of this regional issue every step of the way."

Connolly has long been an advocate for dedicated transit funding, transit oriented development, and the expansion on Metrorail through Tyson's Corner and the Dulles Corridor. He is also a steadfast supporter of the Fairfax Connector bus system, as well as the Richmond Highway Express (REX) bus rapid transit-style system which connects Fort Belvoir with the Huntington

Metro Station, along the Route 1 corridor. Both systems continue to grow under his leadership. Ridership on the Fairfax Connector is up 12 percent in the past year and up 39 percent since 2001.

Chairman Connolly is also a member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) and is an alternate member of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) Transportation Planning Board (TPB). He earned the Outstanding Contribution to Public Transit award from the Virginia Transit Association (VTA) in 2005.

Virginia Governor Tim Kaine acknowledged Connolly's dedication to transportation, "As transportation was a central theme for the 2006 legislative session in Virginia, Chairman Connolly made sure that the discussion recognized the important role that public transportation plays in reducing congestion and creating livable communities. Chairman Connolly is a staunch advocate for transit, and I'm pleased to see him honored for his consistent support."

Mr. Connolly was pleased by APTA's acknowledgment of his support for transportation in Northern Virginia, "I hope that my work here in Northern Virginia and the work of my colleagues throughout the region, serves to inspire other local elected officials throughout the United States to embrace public transportation as a viable solution to solving the nation's transportation challenges. We cannot pave our way out of gridlock and oil is a precious resource. The more we do now to find alternatives, the better off we will all be."

Mr. Connolly went on to say, "Maintaining and expanding our public transportation network is vital to keeping the region moving and giving citizens choices to get where they need to go. Providing transportation options is the centerpiece of Northern Virginia's recently adopted TransAction 2030 plan, along with being good policy."

NVTC was honored by APTA as the outstanding government agency supporting public transit in 1996.

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 ##**