



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION RELEASES NEW TRANSIT RIDERSHIP RESULTS FOR FY 2007**

**Arlington, VA**—The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) has just released its annual compilation of ridership results for the several public transit systems serving Northern Virginia. The information reflects the experience of these transit systems during FY 2007 (July 1, 2006—June 30, 2007). The information is provided to NVTC by the transit systems and matches the totals reported to the Federal Transit Administration's National Transit Database.

Results for FY 2007 were generally positive. Average weekday transit ridership in Northern Virginia grew to 466,443 from 463,353 in FY 2006, a gain of less than one percent. Annual ridership totaled 137.5 million in FY 2007, up from 137.3 million. Transit systems with the strongest growth were Arlington's ART (14.3%), Loudoun County Transit (8.3%), PRTC's OmniRide (8%) and Alexandria's DASH (5.0%). Two transit systems experienced slight reductions in Virginia ridership: Metrorail (-0.5%) and VRE (-5.0%).

Metrorail ridership did show strength at many stations in Northern Virginia. On weekdays at Eisenhower Avenue ridership jumped 5% in FY 2007 compared to FY 2006, by 8% at Virginia Square and by 4% at Crystal City. But these gains were offset by losses at such heavily used stations as Vienna (-2%), Huntington (-2%) and Franconia/ Springfield (-3%).

So far in FY 2008, VRE has shown five straight months of increased ridership resulting from track improvements and greater emphasis on on-time VRE performance by VRE's freight railroad partners.

Both VRE and Metrorail will stand to gain from the new taxes and fees to be collected beginning January 1, 2008 by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. VRE will receive up to \$25

million annually for such items as new locomotives and WMATA will receive up to \$50 million annually for capital items such as railcars, buses and track and signal improvements. With increased capacity and improved service reliability stronger ridership gains should be realized in the future.

Nationwide, the American Public Transportation Association recently announced that transit ridership grew 2% in the July-September, 2007 quarter, compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Detailed tables and charts depicting these results for Northern Virginia and links to each transit system and the APTA data are available on NVTC's website ([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 more information please visit [www.thinkoutsidethecar.org](http://www.thinkoutsidethecar.org) or call 703-524-3322.**

**## NVTC ##**