

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission's Executive Director Retires;
Recruitment for his Successor Begins

The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission's (NVTC) Executive Director is retiring after 29 years of service. According to NVTC Board Chairman Jay Fiset, "Rick Taube has been a driving force behind Northern Virginia's successful development and expansion of public transit. Rick joined NVTC in January 1984 and has led the regional agency through a series of major accomplishments in funding and advocacy for public transit."

Mr. Taube led the commission's efforts to establish the Virginia Railway Express which began service in 1992 and now is the tenth largest commuter rail system in the U.S. with annual ridership of over 4 million and assets of \$377 million. In addition, five of NVTC's six local jurisdictions today operate successful local bus systems using SmarTrip fare collection systems coordinated by NVTC. Three-quarters of all of Virginia's transit ridership occurs in Northern Virginia.

NVTC was established by the Virginia General Assembly in 1964 to help plan and implement the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). The WMATA Compact gives NVTC the responsibility of appointing Virginia's members of the WMATA Board. NVTC receives, allocates and holds in trust for its member jurisdictions up to \$200 million annually for public transit operations and capital projects.

NVTC's Board consists of 20 state and local elected officials from Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church. The designee of Virginia's Secretary of Transportation also serves on NVTC's Board. NVTC's district comprises over 1,000 square miles with a population of 3.7 million.

In announcing his retirement, Mr. Taube praised his talented staff and dedicated board members, noting that several well known officials have chaired NVTC during his tenure, including members of Congress such as Tom Davis III, Jim Moran and Gerry Connolly; a Virginia Secretary of Transportation, John Milliken; and many state Senators and Delegates who championed public transit causes together with local board and council members.

NVTC Vice-Chair Jeff McKay praised Mr. Taube's fiscal management, saying "Rick deserves enormous respect for establishing a set of stringent internal controls resulting in unblemished independent audits despite the complexity of NVTC's financial role."

Under his leadership, NVTC has emphasized testing and disseminating new transit technology that enhances transit productivity. NVTC also compiles and reports detailed transit performance information that generates millions of dollars each year of federal financial assistance for the entire region.

Chairman Fiset is leading a nationwide recruiting effort to identify Mr. Taube's successor. A complete job announcement is available on NVTC's website at www.thinkoutsidethecar.org. Applications will be accepted through January 25, 2013 with the target selection date set for March 7, 2013.



