

## Commission Meeting Alert

January 13, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

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### **NVTC JANUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE USE OF I-66 TOLL MONEY FOR RAIL PROJECTS, A LETTER EXPRESSING CONCERNS OVER WMATA'S PROPOSED BUDGET, INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS AND COMMISSIONERS**

**The Commission will also hear public comments on the NVTC 2020-2021 Work Plan**

Arlington, Va. - The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, January 16. The Commission will be asked to give final approval for a proposal to modify an existing agreement in order to free up money to support the Long Bridge passenger rail improvement project. Commissioners will also be asked to approve a letter addressing concerns with WMATA's FY2021 budget. On the operations side, NVTC will appoint new officers for 2020 and swear-in four new Commissioners and one alternate. Additionally, NVTC will hold its annual public comment period.

#### **MODIFICATION OF INSIDE THE BELTWAY AGREEMENT**

The Commission will be asked to approve amendments to the 2017 Amended and Restated Transform66 Inside the Beltway [Memorandum of Agreement](#) (MOA). The changes would allow the Commonwealth to use revenues for debt service and pay-go expenses for rail transit capital improvements; provide funding guarantees for the Commuter Choice program; and provide greater flexibility for funding transit operations. The proposed changes align with Gov. Ralph Northam's [announcement](#) last month of a plan to build a passenger rail bridge across the Potomac River and purchase railroad right of way in Virginia, which would allow for a significant expansion of VRE and Amtrak service in the Commonwealth.

#### **LETTER TO WMATA**

The Commission will be asked to authorize the Chair to submit comments to WMATA on its FY2021 Budget. A [letter](#) drafted by the NVTC WMATA Committee concludes the FY2021 budget does not appear to exceed Virginia's legislatively required 3% cap, but there are concerns that the budget does not find the right balance between fare increases, Metrobus service cuts and new initiatives to increase ridership.

#### **NEW NVTC LEADERSHIP AND COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioners will be asked to approve a new slate of officers for 2020. The NVTC Executive Committee recommends the following

- Chair: Katie Cristol from Arlington County
- Vice-Chair: Canek Aguirre from the City of Alexandria
- Secretary-Treasurer: Jeff McKay from Fairfax County

In addition, NVTC will swear-in new Commissioners and one alternate:

- Walter Alcorn from Fairfax County\*
- Dalia Palchik from Fairfax County\*
- James Walkinshaw from Fairfax County\*

- Daniel G. Storck (alternate) from Fairfax County\*
- Michael Turner from Loudoun County

The Virginia General Assembly will appoint one member from the Senate and three members from the House of Delegates later in the 2020 session.

*\*Pending appointment to NVTC*

## **ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING**

At each January meeting the public is given an opportunity to provide comments to the Commission regarding NVTC's upcoming Work Plan. The proposed NVTC [2020 Work Plan](#), which covers the time period of January 2020 to June 2021, is consistent with the previous 2019 Work Plan. Members of the public will have the opportunity to publicly address the Commission and/or submit written comments. NVTC also accepted public comments through our website.

## **MEETING LOCATION AND TIME**

The meeting is open to the public and will be held at 2300 Wilson Boulevard, first floor conference room, Arlington, Virginia at 7 p.m. The full agenda for the meeting can be found [here](#). The meeting will be livestreamed on [YouTube](#).

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*NVTC works to ensure that businesses and residents are served by a high capacity, high quality network of transit systems that allows the region to thrive. It funds and promotes transit in the counties of Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church. NVTC supports five local bus systems (ART, CUE, DASH, Fairfax Connector, Loudoun County Transit), WMATA (Metrorail/Metrobus) and the Virginia Railway Express. Visit [www.NoVaTransit.org](http://www.NoVaTransit.org) or call 703-524-3322 to learn more.*

**Check out our #NoVaRides Trip Planning page**



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