

News Release: NVTC sends additional comments WMATA's proposed budget

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NVTC SUBMITS ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON WMATA'S PROPOSED BUDGET

Letter addresses Metrorail and Metrobus fare proposals, late night Metrorail hours

Arlington, Va. - A key committee of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission sent a second letter to WMATA detailing its concerns regarding the agency's proposed FY2021 budget. The letter was submitted by the NVTC WMATA Committee, the Commission's key policy group on Metrorail and Metrobus issues, as part of WMATA's public comment period and articulates its positions on proposed fare changes for Metrorail and Metrobus.

Advertised Rail Fare Changes

The letter shares the committee's opposition to WMATA's proposal to raise the Metrorail peak max fare from \$6 to \$7, which the committee believes puts an unfair burden on long-distance riders. The committee also told WMATA that a proposed \$1 surcharge for riders using Dulles Airport Station would violate the agency's adopted fare policy principle of establishing equitable fares. **Late Night Metrorail**

NVTC's WMATA Committee continues to be concerned that extending late-night Metrorail hours should not compromise the safety and maintenance of the system. The Commission wants to hear the position of the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission (WMSC) before changing the closing time of the system.

Advertised Weekend Fares

The committee does not support the three weekend flat-fare proposals. WMATA's own analysis finds each would lead to a loss of revenue. Two of the proposals would also reduce ridership.

Bus Fare Changes

NVTC's WMATA Committee also also noted opposition to a proposal to charge more for Metrobus Extra routes. The Committee also encourages a phased reduction in the cost of bus-to-rail and rail-to-bus transfers due to the fact that the proposed elimination of the transfer fee would negatively impact the budgets of Northern