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NVTC Commends General Assembly for Action on Rail Funding Bill

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## NVTC Applauds Passage of Metro/VRE Funding Bill

### *General Assembly Adopts Dedicated Funding for Both Rail Systems*

**Arlington, VA** - In approving \$154 million in dedicated funding for Metro today, the Virginia General Assembly took a significant step, one that will allow the transit agency to address issues of safety and reliability and accommodate regional growth. “We commend state lawmakers and the Northam administration for working together to identify funding for Metro,” said Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) Chairman Paul Smedberg. “They recognize that Virginia’s economic success is tied to Metro’s success and that dedicated funding is key to Metro’s long-term viability.”

The \$154 million is Virginia’s share of the \$500 million that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) has said it needs to address Metro’s immediate and longer-term capital needs. Dedicated funding for Metro and the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) have been two of [NVTC’s top legislative priorities](#), along with the establishment of a floor on the regional 2.1 percent gas tax, which the General Assembly approved Friday.

The rail bill also includes funding for VRE, which NVTC co-owns. It establishes the Commuter Rail Operating and Capital program, which will provide money for capital and

### Press Release

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**-Paul Smedberg  
NVTC Chairman**

*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*

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VRE continues to provide quality service to passengers throughout Northern Virginia, as far south as Fredericksburg and west as Manassas,” said Smedberg. “VRE is a critical component of our region’s transportation network.” The railroad carries on average more than 19,000 riders each weekday.

The Metro funding bill also includes provisions pertaining to governance reforms. The provisions are consistent with [NVTC’s principles on WMATA reform](#).

“We are pleased to see the Virginia General Assembly pave the way for full funding for Metro,” said Smedberg, “and look forward to seeing Maryland’s legislature and the D.C. Council follow suit.”

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.

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