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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NVTC URGES METRO TO PROVIDE DEPENDABLE, SUFFICIENT SERVICE NVTC letter outlines comments on Metro's proposed FY 2022 budget

Arlington, Va. - Representing the cities and counties that fund Metro in Virginia, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission outlined its priorities for Metro's proposed FY 2022 budget in a letter submitted for the public record. While the Commission recognizes the major funding relief made possible by the American Rescue Plan Act, the Commission presses Metro to:

- Maintain a dependable and sufficient level of rail and bus service throughout FY 2022
- Open Silver Line Phase 2 as soon as possible
- Rebuild ridership
- Minimize shifting operating expenses to the capital program

NVTC notes that the recently-signed American Rescue Plan Act and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, which became law in December, provided much-needed relief funding that will allow Metro to maintain a dependable and sufficient level of service across the entire fiscal year. "We are grateful to our Northern Virginia's Congressional delegation and the delegations from Maryland and Washington, D.C. for recognizing that Metro keeps our region moving," said NVTC Chair Katie Cristol, adding, "ensuring that Metro can provide robust service in the coming years will go a long way to supporting essential workers and boosting the region's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic."

Additionally, the Commission applauds Metro's commitment to opening the Silver Line Phase 2 during FY 2022. Opening all stations through to Ashburn as soon as possible will provide Metrorail service to the fast-growing Dulles corridor and further promote Northern Virginia's mobility, accessibility, economic development and congestion relief goals. Metro serves the riding public. As vaccines roll out and as employers, schools and individuals consider their reopening and recovery plans and strategies, the Commission encourages Metro to actively market the system with the goals of rebuilding ridership and demonstrating that it is safe to return to transit.

Finally, NVTC urges Metro to limit shifting operating expenses to the capital program for preventive maintenance. Our region has invested billions of dollars in maintaining and rebuilding Metro and we must not fall back upon unsustainable budget actions that undermine efforts to bolster system safety and reliability.

Read the [full letter](#) to Metro.

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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 NoVaTransit.org or call 703-524-3322 to learn more.



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