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NVTC Urges Fair & Equitable Process for Awarding of State Transit Funds

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NVTC Urges Fair & Equitable Process for Awarding of State Transit Funds

Testimony to Commonwealth Transportation Board Highlights Needs of Transit Systems in Northern Virginia

Arlington, VA - A mandate by the Virginia General Assembly to develop a prioritization process for the awarding of state transit capital funds must be fair and equitable, said Northern Virginia Transportation Commission Chairman Paul Smedberg. [In testimony submitted to the Commonwealth Transportation Board](#) (CTB) Monday night, Smedberg noted the importance of transit to economic development and the quality of life in the region. "We feel strongly that transit agencies with a history of poor maintenance not be rewarded with additional funds for bus replacement. We trust that when it comes time for the CTB to adopt new processes to award these funds, you will consider how vital transit is to our region and the limited resources available to the well-managed transit systems in Northern Virginia," he said.

Smedberg also thanked the Commonwealth for approving a historic Metro funding bill, though he noted that "NVTC will continue to seek different revenue sources to support this dedicated capital fund." He also expressed appreciation for the establishment of a Commuter Rail Operating and Capital Fund. "While Virginia Railway Express' needs are great, the \$15 million to be set aside

Press Release

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Given transit's importance to economic development and the quality of life in our region, a fair and equitable process for the awarding of state transit capital funds is imperative.

**-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 Transit), WMATA (Metrorail/ Metrobus) and the Virginia Railway Express. Visit www.NoVaTransit.org

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In conclusion, he asked for the CTB's support of Northern Virginia's [Smart Scale](#) submissions, which include bicycle and pedestrian, bus and rail transit, and transportation demand management projects. "When you consider the growing demand for transit and the record of NVTC jurisdictions in providing quality transit service, the need for your continued support is clear. The economic health of the region and the Commonwealth depends on it," he said.

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