FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMISSIONERS TO VOTE ON PROJECTS TO MOVE MORE PEOPLE THROUGH THE I-395/95 CORRIDOR

Commissioners will also be asked to authorize the next step for Bus Rapid Transit connecting Tysons and Alexandria

Arlington, Va. - Members of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission will vote on a list of projects designed to move more people through the I-395/95 corridor each morning; be asked to authorize the next phase of study for a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system connecting Tysons, Falls Church, Arlington and Alexandria; and be asked to authorize purchase of new railcars for Virginia Railway Express at their monthly meeting this Thursday.

Commuter Choice on the I-395/95 corridor approval of projects

The Commission will be asked to approve a slate of projects under NVTC’s Commuter Choice program designed to move an additional 1,000 people through the I-395/95 corridor each morning. Taken together, the projects also:

- Connect people to 24 activity centers in Virginia and the District of Columbia
- Enhance three popular local bus routes in the City of Alexandria and Fairfax County to provide frequent all-day service, improving connections for both peak and off-peak commuters
- Support efforts to rebuild ridership post-pandemic and prepare for expected future travel patterns through two park-and-ride capacity expansions, financial incentives for new and returning vanpools and expansion of Virginia Railway Express feeder bus service
- Continues six new and enhanced bus services

If approved, the $22.7 million in projects would be referred to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for final action later in June.

Envision Route 7 Bus Rapid Transit study authorization

The Commission will be asked to authorize a Request for Proposals for the next study phase for a planned Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system connecting Tysons and Alexandria by way of Falls Church, Seven Corners and Bailey's Crossroads. Study objectives include:
- Determine the mobility benefits to travelers of a BRT running along Route 7
- Understand the impacts of BRT on traffic and traffic operations along Route 7
- Conduct a comprehensive public and stakeholder engagement process that facilitates an understanding of how a BRT would operate along Route 7

VRE railcar purchase authorization

In its role as co-owner of Virginia Railway Express, the Commission will be asked to authorize the purchase of 21 passenger railcars, featuring modern amenities and accessibility features. The railcars would be built by Alstom Transportation Inc. of New York.

The contract will be for the design, manufacture and delivery of a base order of 21 new multi-level passenger railcars with restrooms featuring 148 seats per car. The order will help fulfill VRE’s goals of lengthening trains and expanding seating capacity. The proposed contract includes an option to purchase up to 48 additional railcars.

Meeting time and location

The Commission meeting will be held Thursday, June 3 at 7 p.m. and can be viewed on the NVTC YouTube page. There will NOT be an in-person meeting. Full meeting materials are posted online. Members of the public wishing to provide public comment to the Commission can do so here, until 3 p.m. Thursday.

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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.