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NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Commission Meeting Alert

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 29, 2021

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COMMISSIONERS TO REVIEW ZERO AND REDUCED-FARE TRANSIT Commissioners will also welcome Rep. Don Beyer at their July meeting

Arlington, Va. - Members of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission will review efforts from across Virginia to promote access and equity in public transit through zero-fare and reduced-fare policies and welcome special guest speaker Rep. Don Beyer at their monthly meeting this Thursday.

Discussion of zero-fare and reduced-fare transit policies

The Commission will <u>receive presentations</u> from NVTC, DASH and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) as part of a roundtable discussion regarding zero-fare and reduced-fare programs. These types of initiatives have gained new attention in the pandemic recovery period as transit systems look to increase access and equity in their services.

- NVTC Director of Programs and Policy Allan Fye will provide an overview of zero-fare and reduced-fare options that bus providers in Northern Virginia could consider as well as a summary of implementation, policy and funding considerations.
- DASH General Manager/CEO Josh Baker will provide an overview of the effort it took to make DASH the first transit agency in Northern Virginia and the Commonwealth to go fully zero-fare.
- DRPT Chief of Public Transportation Jennifer DeBruhl will provide an overview of the new Transit Ridership Incentive (TRIP) program which was created during the historic revamp of transportation funding in Virginia. The <u>TRIP</u> program is a competitive grant program that provides funding to support zero-fare and reduced-fare programs in the five largest metropolitan areas in Virginia.

Congressman Don Beyer speaks to the Commission

Rep. Don Beyer will join the Commission virtually to make remarks and have a discussion with the Commission.

Congressman Don Beyer is serving his fourth term as the U.S. Representative from Virginia's 8th District, representing Arlington County, City of Alexandria, City of Falls Church and parts of Fairfax County, all of which fall in NVTC's jurisdiction.

Meeting time and location

The Commission meeting will be held Thursday, July 1 at 7 p.m. at NVTC's offices: 2300 Wilson Boulevard, First Floor Conference Room, Arlington, Virginia, 22201. We strongly encourage members of the public to watch on NVTC <u>YouTube</u> page. Full meeting materials are posted <u>online</u>. Members of the public wishing to provide public comment to the Commission can do so <u>here</u>, 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 <u>NoVaTransit.org</u> or call 703-524-3322 to learn more.



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