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Commission Meeting Alert

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NVTC TO WELCOME METRO GM/CEO PAUL WIEDEFELD **I-66 Commuter Choice projects also up for approval**

Arlington, Va. - Members of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission will hear from Metro GM/CEO Paul Wiedefeld, consider moving forward with a slate of projects for Commuter Choice on the I-66 Corridor and receive a briefing on NVTC's Annual Transit Performance Report at their monthly meeting Thursday. This meeting will be online-only and can be viewed on [YouTube](#). There will NOT be an in-person meeting.

Metro General Manager/CEO Paul Wiedefeld

[Metro General Manager/CEO Paul Wiedefeld](#) will join the Commission at its October meeting to discuss topics including the agency's COVID-19 response and financial picture. Mr. Wiedefeld's appearance at the meeting comes as Metro seeks public comment on budget adjustments that reflect the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. NVTC appoints Virginia's members of the Metro Board of Directors and manages Virginia's dedicated funds for Metro and this meeting provides Commissioners an opportunity to ask questions and hear directly from Mr. Wiedefeld.

Commuter Choice on the I-66 Corridor

The Commission will be asked to approve the [Commuter Choice on the I-66 Corridor](#) Initial Round Four (FY 2021) Program of Projects. Influenced by the decline in toll revenues on the I-66 Express Lanes due to the COVID-19 public health emergency response, NVTC and the Commuter Choice program pivoted to a very conservative approach to funding only a single year of the two-year Round Four (FY 2021-2022) program. The recommended program will provide a total of \$3,777,230 for six low-risk, low-cost strategies that demonstrate robust benefits to toll payers and provide continuity for corridor commuters.

Collectively, the recommended Initial (FY 2021) Program will achieve the following benefits upon full implementation and as travel patterns revert to more typical conditions:

- Moves an additional 1,000 people through the corridor during the morning peak period
- Saves approximately 47,000 hours of travel delay per year during the commute peak periods
- Connects people to 10 activity centers in Virginia and the District of Columbia
- Continues three existing, high-performing express bus services in the I-66 corridor
- Improves access to two Metrorail stations, one each along the Orange and Silver Lines, for nearby residents and commuters

- Allows buses on several busy routes to travel more quickly along Lee Highway in Arlington, reducing travel times and operating costs

Yearly transit ridership presentation

NVTC staff will present the [Annual Transit Performance Report](#) covering the 2020 fiscal year (July 2019 through June 2020). The report found that ridership across Northern Virginia rose 5% compared to the previous year in the months before the COVID-19 pandemic started to impact transit systems. The report provides breakdowns by transit agency and mode -- Metrorail, Metrobus, VRE, ART, City of Fairfax-CUE, DASH, Fairfax Connector, Loudoun County Transit and OmniRide. It also provides a listing of average boardings at Virginia's individual Metrorail stations.

Meeting Time and Location

The Commission meeting will be held Thursday, October 1 at 7 p.m. and can be viewed on the NVTC [YouTube](#) page. 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.



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