



NEWS RELEASE

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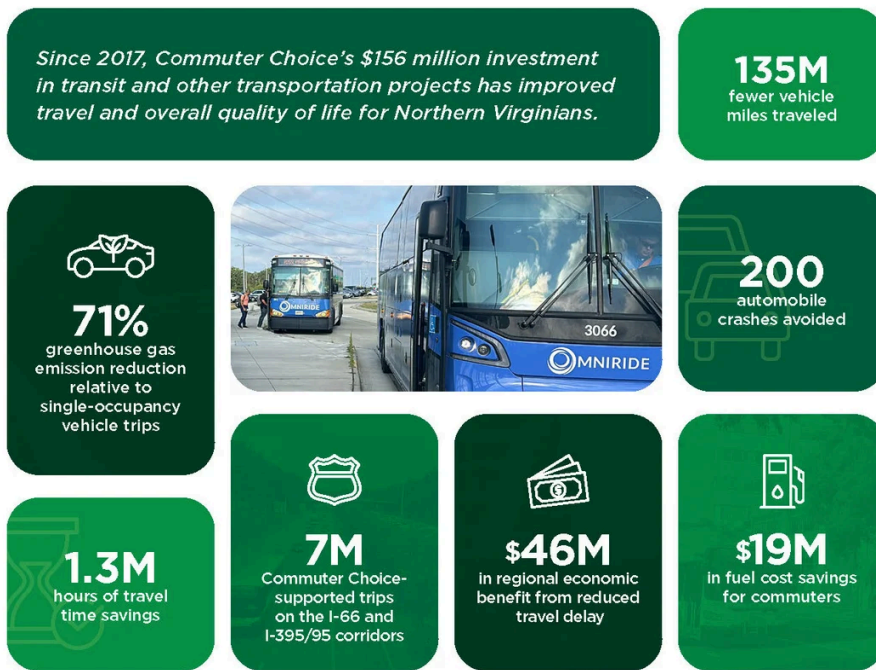
NVTC'S COMMUTER CHOICE PROGRAM REACHES 7 MILLION TRIPS, REDUCING TRAVEL TIME AND EMISSIONS

Reinvestment of toll revenues provides benefits in the I-66 and I-395/95 corridors

Arlington, Va. - Projects funded by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission's Commuter Choice program have supported over seven million trips in the I-395/95 and I-66 corridors since the program kicked off, with ridership reaching a record of 7,500 trips each weekday.

Commuter Choice reinvests toll revenues in projects that move more people more efficiently through the two congested corridors. Through FY 2024, Commuter Choice had invested a total of \$156 million on projects in the two corridors. Implementation is underway on an additional \$22 million in I-66 Commuter Choice projects funded under the FY 2025-2026 Program of Projects.

"Commuter Choice's awards to date leverage over \$1.1 billion in federal, state, regional and local matching contributions," said NVTC Chair Matt de Ferranti. "These investments produce real world benefits for commuters, cutting travel time, greenhouse gas emissions and fuel costs, all while providing residents and visitors with more ways to get around our region."



Beyond these benefits, the report discusses how Commuter Choice projects support a prosperous, livable Northern Virginia by bolstering economic growth and resilience, providing new and expanded transit services throughout the two corridors that offer convenient and reliable travel, addressing public requests for additional travel options and reinvesting Northern Virginia-generated revenues in the region.

NVTC expects Commuter Choice's cumulative benefits to continue to grow as more projects come online. For instance, the 12 projects in the I-66 Commuter Choice FY 2025-2026 Program of Projects include:

- Fairfax Connector, Loudoun County Transit, OmniRide and Arlington Transit service improvements
- Continued half-fares on I-66 OmniRide commuter routes
- Reinstatement of Virginia Railway Express's (VRE) Amtrak Step-Up program on the Manassas Line
- The final \$8 million needed for Virginia Railway Express's construction of an expanded and relocated Crystal City station.

Looking further ahead, NVTC will study I-66 corridor travel needs and potential projects that Commuter Choice could support. The assessment will also consider how Commuter Choice could support transformative major capital improvements proposed, such as rail transit capacity expansions and bus rapid transit (BRT).

Learn more in this year's [Commuter Choice annual report](#).

About Commuter Choice

[Commuter Choice](#) a trailblazing, innovative and competitive grant program, reinvests Express Lanes toll revenues in public transit and other transportation improvements along the I-66 and I-395/95 corridors in Northern Virginia. A partnership between the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and the Commonwealth of Virginia, Commuter Choice improves commuters' travel in two of the most congested corridors in the nation. NVTC selects projects for funding through a

competitive process that considers each project's ability to support the program's goals: moving more people, supporting diverse travel choices and enhancing mobility, transportation safety and travel reliability. Commuter Choice projects benefit Express Lanes toll payers in two main ways:

- By offering more options, toll road users and transit riders can choose the means of travel that gets them to the places that they want to go.
- By moving people more efficiently, Commuter Choice projects lessen congestion and support more consistent travel speeds for Express Lanes users.

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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), Metro and the Virginia Railway Express. Visit [NoVaTransit.org](https://www.nova-transit.org) or call 703-524-3322 to learn more.

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