



MEDIA RELEASE

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CHAIRMAN PAUL SMEDBERG TO TESTIFY AT CTB HEARING THIS WEEK: TRANSIT IS AN ECONOMY BUILDER AND JOB CREATOR IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Arlington, VA— On October 16, 2014, NVTC Chairman Paul Smedberg (city of Alexandria) will testify before the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) on the Revised FY2015-FY2020 Six Year Improvement Plan. Chairman Smedberg's testimony will focus on the role that transit plays as a Northern Virginia economy builder and job creator to make the case for increased state investment and transit funding. The launch of several high profile transit projects like the Silver Line and the region's first Bus Rapid Transit System, Metroway in Alexandria and Arlington.

"The growing demand for transit in this region, along with the NVTC's fifty year track record of support for high quality transit service, merits the Commonwealth's continued investment in regional transit projects. When our state and local governments work in partnership with NVTC we can achieve our mutual goal of a well-funded, fully integrated and connected transit network in Northern Virginia," said Smedberg.

Mr. Smedberg's testimony will highlight:

- Recent transit service expansion like the Silver Line, Metroway (Bus Rapid Transit), multi-modal centers and increased bus connectivity;
- Appreciation for the continued partnership with the Commonwealth – including \$50M annually for Metro;
- The need for dedicated, stable and reliable funding for transit;
- The need for support of Virginia Railway Express' newly adopted System Plan - expanding and doubling service;
- NVTC's desire to support the Commonwealth's VTRANS transportation plan update; and
- NVTC's support of the development of the Commonwealth Transportation Board's new project prioritization effort outlined in HB2.

Making the Business Case for Transit

As part of NVTC's 50th Anniversary year, Chairman Smedberg and the Commission continue to make the case for transit and to highlight the economic benefits that it provides to the region: a way to get people to work and how transit connects businesses to the customers and workers needed for retail, hospitality, health care, and technology businesses. Transit is also a proven, cost-effective way to ease congestion on roadways.

- Each work day over 550,000 trips are made to work, entertainment, shopping, schools and doctors' appointments in Northern Virginia.

- On VRE alone, there are 20,000 daily riders--an amount equivalent to another lane on I-95 and I-66 during rush hour.
- In the Metro area, two million jobs are within 1/4 mile of a Metrorail station.

New Prioritization and Evaluation Process Impacting Projects in the Six Year Improvement Plan

The revised FY2015-2020 Six Year Improvement Plan (SYIP) has cut over \$400 million from the previously approved plan to allow the CTB to prioritize projects using a new evaluation process outlined in HB 2. The Secretary of the Commonwealth has cautioned that there are more needs than funding and prioritization efforts will better illuminate how transportation funding decisions are made. NVTC wants to ensure that metrics used to evaluate transit projects are applied appropriately.

Several projects identified in the revised SYIP are critical to Northern Virginia's ability to expand transit capacity and service in the region such as new bus shelters in the city of Falls Church, new buses for the city of Alexandria and Fairfax County, a new bus maintenance facility in Arlington, new VRE rail cars and funding for VRE's track leases, as well as operating and capital assistance for WMATA.

For a copy of NVTC's testimony on October 16, 2014 go to: www.thinkoutsidethecar.org. The hearing will be held at the VDOT Northern Virginia District Office located at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax, VA 22030 beginning at 6:30 pm.

NVTC funds and promotes public transit in a district consisting of the counties of Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church. It is led by 20 Commissioners who are local and state elected officials, including a representative of the Virginia Secretary of Transportation.

NVTC

NVTC is the leading source of information about public transportation issues in Northern Virginia. NVTC is a regional agency with the mission of managing traffic congestion, restoring clean air, boosting the economy and improving the quality of life for all of Northern Virginia's citizens through effective public transit and ridesharing networks. NVTC includes the counties of Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church covering over 1,000 square miles with a population of 1.7 million. The agency manages over \$220 million of state and federal grant funds each year for public transit and serves as a forum for its board of 20 state and local elected officials to resolve issues involving public transit and ridesharing. For more information please visit www.thinkoutsidethecar.org or call 703-524-3322.