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## Commission Meeting Alert

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **NVTC NOVEMBER MEETING TO FEATURE TWO MAJOR REPORTS ON METRO**

**Commissioners will also be asked to kick off the I-395/95 Commuter Choice project proposal process**

Arlington, Va. - Members of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission will review a key report which provides recommendations to Metro, authorize submission of a new report examining Virginia's cap on Metro's budget and be asked to authorize the start of the project proposal process for Commuter Choice on the I-395/95 Corridor 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.

#### **NVTC's annual report on Metro**

NVTC staff will [present](#) the draft 2020 Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA Commissioners, as required by Virginia law. This year's report acknowledges the challenges Metro faces due to the COVID-19 global health emergency and looks forward to recovery from the pandemic. Key recommendations include:

- Communicate and encourage a safe return to transit by highlighting and promoting enhanced safety efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic and developing a long-term, post-pandemic marketing and communications strategy to rebuild ridership.
- Adapt rail service to meet changing demands during the COVID-19 pandemic and the region's subsequent recovery period while maintaining an equitable, baseline level of service across all Metrorail lines.
- Leverage regional expertise to improve Northern Virginia's Bus Network by working with local and state partners to improve the efficiency of the bus network, support implementation of bus priority projects, improve bus speeds and optimize transit networks.
- Continue focus on ongoing initiatives to reduce the growth in operating costs and improve operational efficiencies using NVTC's previously recommended strategies in past annual reports on the performance and condition of WMATA.

### **NVTC's new report on Virginia's cap on Metro's budget**

A law passed by the Virginia General Assembly and signed by Gov. Ralph Northam this year directs NVTC to [review](#) the impact of Virginia's 3% cap on the annual growth in operating subsidy payments to Metro. Commissioners will be asked for authorization to submit the final report with the following recommendations:

- No changes be made to the existing 3% cap legislation;
- No additional exclusions to the cap be considered at this time;
- No legislative changes be considered before the cap has been in place for five WMATA budget development cycles; and
- NVTC continue to evaluate the impact of Virginia's 3% cap legislation.

### **Call for Projects for Commuter Choice on the I-395/95 Corridor**

Commissioners will be asked to authorize a call for projects for [Commuter Choice](#) on the I-395/95 Corridor. NVTC anticipates full funding of the two-year program with about \$30 million available for this second round of projects. Projects are selected through a competitive process that considers a project's ability to move more people, support diverse travel choices and enhance transportation safety and travel reliability. Traffic volumes in the corridor have rebounded as much as 80% of pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels, demonstrating Northern Virginia's continued need to provide a range of travel options for the region.

### **Meeting Time and Location**

The Commission meeting will be held Thursday, November 5 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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