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State Board Approves \$3.8 Million Program of Projects to Improve Commutes on the I-66 Corridor

Low-cost, low-risk projects adapt to changes in commuting

Arlington, VA - The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) voted Wednesday and authorized the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) to use toll revenues from the 66 Express Lanes to fund [six low-cost, low-risk transit and multimodal projects](#) in Northern Virginia. "Thanks to the support of the CTB, we're growing the Commuter Choice program, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 public health emergency," said NVTC Executive Director Kate Mattice. "We're expanding the transportation network now using a conservative strategy focused on low-cost projects and longstanding assets to ensure access to convenient, safe and reliable choices whenever people are ready to commute."

The competitive grant application process resulted in a group of projects that will improve access to the McLean Metrorail Station, continue service for three existing, high-performing express bus services and allow buses to travel more quickly along Lee Highway in Arlington. Due to the steep decline in toll revenues from the 66 Express Lanes, a funding source for the Commuter Choice program, staff proposed a moderate approach to support a single year of the two-year program, providing continuity for some projects while adding long-term capital infrastructure. NVTC continues to work closely with the Commonwealth of Virginia to monitor trends in toll revenues and expects to identify the full availability of funds for the remaining projects under consideration next spring.

NVTC previously funded 36 projects, investing over \$60 million into multimodal improvements in both the I-66 and I-395 corridors, as highlighted in the [2020 annual report](#). Commuter Choice, a partnership between the Commonwealth of Virginia and NVTC, makes the Northern Virginia transportation network better by investing toll revenues into public transit and other multimodal projects along two expressway corridors, I-66 and I-395/95. The projects funded through Commuter Choice move more people, support

the regional economy, increase mobility options and reduce congestion and emissions.

**Approved Projects for the Initial Round Four (FY 2021-2022) Program:
Project Scores and Funding Requests***

Rank	Applicant	Application Title	Application Score <small>(max. 100 points)</small>	Funding Request
1	Fairfax County	McLean Metrorail Station North Entrance	85	\$1,000,000
2	OmniRide	Renewal of Bus Service from Gainesville to Pentagon/Navy Yard	80	\$461,100
3	OmniRide	Renewal of Bus Service from Haymarket to Rosslyn	71	\$137,100
4	City of Fairfax	City of Fairfax Bike Share Implementation	59	\$460,000
5	Arlington County	Lee Highway HOV and Bus-Only Lane in Rosslyn	57	\$710,000
6	Loudoun County	Renewal of Purcellville Metro Connection Bus Service	52	\$709,030
TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST				\$ 3,477,230

*Staff recommended the above program as it minimizes the risk around the uncertainty of a return to pre-pandemic traffic volumes and makes the best use of the minimal available toll revenues.

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Kate Mattice, NVTC Executive Director

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 www.novatransit.org or call 703.524.3322 to learn more.

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