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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NVTC REPORT PRESSES METRO TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO RIDE METRORAIL AND METROBUS Report also asks Metro to align service to demand

Arlington, Va. - Today the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) delivered the *2020 Report on the Performance and Condition of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)* to the Virginia General Assembly, as required by law.

NVTC continues to press Metro to encourage riders to return to the system, align service to demand and work closely with our Northern Virginia transit operators to improve the efficiency of the bus transit network, all through the lens of the COVID-19 pandemic and the systemic challenges that will linger in the years ahead. The report also presents the last annual set of performance and condition data prior to the stay at home orders issued in the region and travel changes stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

NVTC's strategies for Metro to reduce costs and become more efficient

The General Assembly requires NVTC to recommend potential strategies to Metro to reduce the growth in operating costs and to improve the efficiency of operations. NVTC's 2020 Annual Report on WMATA includes recommended strategies for Metro to become more financially sustainable and a more effective transit system and mobility provider by rebuilding ridership. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Metro made significant progress in implementing several of NVTC's past recommendations and had seen promising signs that improvements in system reliability were rebuilding customer confidence and that rail and bus ridership were not just stable but increasing.

NVTC's 2020 recommendations to Metro

- **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.

Read the full *2020 Report on the Performance and Condition of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)* [here](#).

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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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