



Amazon's selection of Northern Virginia as the site for half of its second headquarters will significantly impact the region's transportation network and offers opportunities for reimagining our transit network. More than a half billion dollars has been pledged by the Commonwealth, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria to improve transit. Plans for what Amazon is calling [National Landing](#) include an additional entrance to the Crystal City Metro station, a second entrance for the planned Potomac Yard station, a pedestrian bridge from Reagan National Airport to Crystal City, and expansion of Metroway, the region's only bus rapid transit system.

As NVTC begins to explore HQ2's impact on transit, we have lined up meetings with those who have a vested interest in improving bus and rail service in the region. Earlier this month, Allan Fye and I met with a representative of JBG Smith to learn about the real estate developer's interest in improving Metrorail access and connections between Virginia Railway Express and National Airport. These meetings will be key to helping us rethink a mass transportation network that is more robust, modern, high speed, and abundant.

The framework for this future world-class transit network is in place. This year's [landmark omnibus transit funding bill](#), which dedicated \$154 million annually to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and \$15 million per year to Virginia Railway Express (VRE), demonstrated Virginia's commitment to elevating the level of rail service in the region. The new regional gas tax floor, which will allow the Commonwealth to commit to its share of dedicated funding for WMATA and provide NVTC and OmniRide/PRTC with an additional \$45.2 million annually, sent a similar message.

Moving forward, we must ensure that our bus systems have the funding they need to serve those who will fill the 25,000 new jobs that Amazon will bring to Northern Virginia over the next decade. Amazon's announcement also places a premium on funding [Virginia's Atlantic Gateway](#), a group of multimodal projects – including much-needed improvements to the Long Bridge – that would expedite travel along the I-95 corridor between Fredericksburg and Washington, D.C.

Given that both the District of Columbia and Maryland view Amazon's HQ2 as win for the region, we look forward to partnering with them and business and nonprofit organizations to ensure that our transit network is a viable and attractive option for commuters. Now is the time to think big and bold. We must explore all transit options – both local and cross-jurisdictional – to meet the transportation needs of our constituents.



Executive Director

Inside this Issue

- [Transit Key to Amazon HQ2 Decision](#) 2
- [NVTC to Host Mobile Ticketing Day](#) 3
- [NVTC/PRTC Legislative Briefing](#) 3
- [VA to Help Localities Buy Electric Buses](#) 4
- [Improvements to King St Bus Loop](#) 4
- [NVTC Submits WMATA Report](#) 4
- [NVTC Briefs VTA Board on Transit Funding Formulas](#) 5
- [NVTC Takes Part in Metro Emergency Drill](#) 5
- [I-66 Commuter Choice Call for Projects](#) 5
- [Yellow Line Shutdown Begins Nov. 26](#) 6
- [New Bike Route Finder Released](#) 6
- [Register for Transportation Camp](#) 6
- [Join TPB's Citizen Advisory Committee](#) 6



Northern Virginia Transportation Commission
2300 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 620
Arlington, VA 22201
www.novatransit.org



NVTC's Dec. 6 meeting will be at 2311 Wilson Blvd. in Arlington. A photo ID will be required for admittance to the building.

Key Dates

Dec 4-5	CTB Monthly Meeting
Dec 6	NVTC Monthly Meeting
Dec 10	NVTC/PRTC Legislative Briefing
Dec 13	WMATA Board Meeting
Dec 13	NVTA Monthly Meeting
Dec 14	VRE Operations Board Meeting
Dec 19	TPB Monthly Meeting
Jan 3	NVTC Monthly Meeting

Existing Transit Instrumental in Securing Amazon Second Headquarters

A cornerstone of Northern Virginia's successful bid for Amazon's second headquarters was the emphasis on existing public transportation as well as a promise of additional transit investment. Amazon's National Landing, which encompasses parts of Crystal City in Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, is served by commuter and heavy rail, bus rapid transit, local and commuter buses and bike share.

Transportation and mobility were among Amazon's key criteria for a new headquarters and Northern Virginia checked the boxes: direct access to mass transit, an international airport no more than 45 minutes away, and major highways or arteries within a few miles.

The region's selection is a testament to its robust transit network. Metro General Manager Paul J. Wiedefeld said Amazon officials made a point of riding Metro when they were touring the area during site visits. "That sent a signal that they were extremely serious about transit and they were extremely serious about Metro's role in the region," he said.

A review of available transportation services, facilities, and associated capacity by the Commonwealth indicates that the regional and local transit systems have significant unused capacity, even during peak travel periods. In Seattle, Amazon employees' transit costs are fully covered by company-subsidized passes. That's in part why transportation officials in Northern Virginia expect

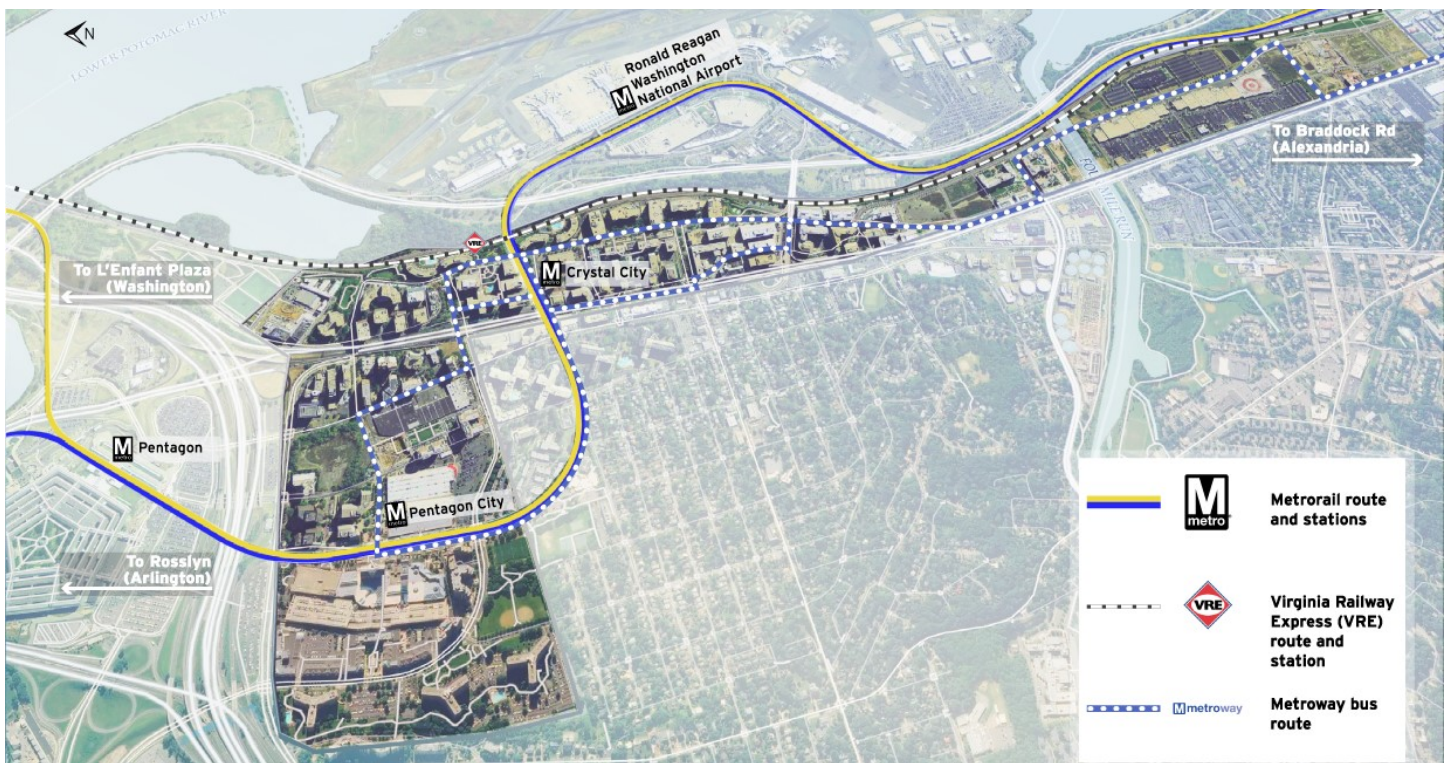
that most of Amazon's employees will utilize public transit, walk, bike, or carpool on their commutes each day. Here are some of their options.

Metrorail has two stations – Crystal City and Pentagon City – that provide access to National Landing and connections to National Airport and Washington, D.C. via the Blue and Yellow lines. Metrorail ridership in Virginia was more than 24.5 million in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2018, a 4 percent increase over the same period in 2017, when SafeTrack was underway.

Virginia Railway Express, which NVTC co-owns, has a station in Crystal City that serves the commuter railroad's two lines. The 60-mile Fredericksburg Line runs north-south while the 35-mile Manassas Line runs east-west. VRE ridership in the fourth quarter of 2018 was over 1.2 million, a 1 percent increase over 2017.

Metroway, the region's only bus rapid transit system, runs between the Pentagon City Metro station in Arlington and Braddock Road station in Alexandria. Metroway has seen its weekly ridership climb to over 2,400 since it opened in 2014.

Capital Bikeshare has 500 stations, more than a dozen of which are in National Landing, and over 4,300 bicycles. With stations in the District, Maryland and Virginia, Capital Bikeshare has expanded rapidly since opening in 2010. It now has more than 32,000 members.



NVTC to Host Mobile Ticketing Industry Day

To help Northern Virginia’s seven transit agencies better understand current market trends and identify potential features and solutions for a regional fare collection mobile app, NVTC will hold a Mobile Ticketing Industry Day on December 5. The event at DASH’s headquarters in Alexandria is part of a larger effort to coordinate mobile ticketing activities among Northern Virginia transit systems and promote seamless regional mobility. Several firms will present their solutions and capabilities for a regional, mobile-based fare collection system. Firms will focus on functions and features for a multi-transit mo-



bile app that would go beyond the basic cloud-hosted, ticket-purchase, and trip-planning features available today. They also will address administrative features, such as revenue distribution and new mode integration, personalized payments and trip planning. Each company will have 45 minutes to present its solution and concept. A 15-minute question and answer session will follow.



NVTC/PRTC Annual Legislative Briefing

Join NVTC and PRTC Commissioners for an overview of federal and state issues affecting transit in Northern Virginia

*Monday, December 10, 2018 from 9-11 a.m.
Embassy Suites by Hilton, 8100 Loisdale Road, Springfield, VA*

Featuring

Remarks on the Importance of Transit in Securing Amazon’s Second Headquarters
Matt Kelly, CEO, JBG Smith

What Recent Legislation Means for Transit in Northern Virginia

Paul Wiedefeld
*General Manager/CEO
WMATA*

Jennifer Mitchell
*Director
Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation*

Doug Allen
*CEO
VRE*

Kate Mattice
NVTC Executive Director

Bob Schneider
PRTC Executive Director

Remarks

Paul Smedberg
NVTC Chair

Ruth Anderson
PRTC Chair

Virginia to Help Localities Purchase All-Electric Buses

Virginia will invest \$14 million to fund the deployment of all-electric transit buses across the Commonwealth. The amount, [according to Governor Ralph Northam](#), represents 15 percent of Virginia's \$93.6 million settlement with Volkswagen. "Electric transportation is a critical part of our climate strategy to reduce pollution and advance the clean economy," he said. "This funding will support the move to 21st-century transit and help make Virginia an even better place to live, work, play, start a business, and raise a family."

"Not only does this program help ensure transit projects can provide the safe and reliable services our citizens deserve," said Transportation Secretary Shannon Valentine, "but it makes public transit in Virginia environmentally sustainable and cost-effective for years to come."

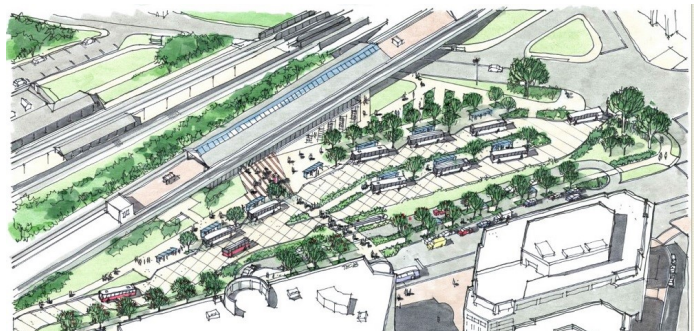
The Department of Environmental Quality will provide funds to replace heavy and medium-duty polluting vehicles with cleaner vehicles. The project will be part of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation's annual capital grant cycle known as MERIT (Making Efficient and Responsible Investments in Transit), which runs from December 1, 2018 through February 1, 2019.

While electric vehicles have no tailpipe emissions, their carbon footprint depends on the electricity grid that charges them. On average, electric vehicles in Virginia produce 70 percent fewer carbon emissions than their gasoline-powered counterparts, according to data from the U.S. Department of Energy. A study earlier this year by the Union of Concerned Scientists rated Virginia as one of the best places for electric buses based on carbon pollution. Diesel buses emit 200-300 percent more carbon pollution than electric buses in Virginia.

Construction at King Street-Old Town Metrorail Bus Loop Underway

Improvements to the King Street-Old Town Metrorail station bus loop began November 18. [The project will improve pedestrian access and safety, add three bus bays, and designate areas for bikes, shuttles, kiss-and-ride, taxis and car share.](#) Construction is expected to be completed by mid-2020. The project aligns with the city's Vision Zero initiative, designed to eliminate pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities. During construction, the King Street-Old Town Metrorail Station remains open with no impact to train service. There are, however, significant changes outside the station. This project will overlap with WMATA's planned closure of six stations

south of Reagan National Airport in summer 2019 to rehabilitate decaying station platforms.



NVTC Submits WMATA Report to Governor & General Assembly

As required by the [2018 omnibus transit funding bill](#), NVTC prepared and submitted its [Report on the Performance and Condition of the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority](#) to the Commonwealth. The report, due each year by November 1, presents data vital to understanding how Metrorail and Metrobus are performing and articulates the Commission's priorities for controlling WMATA's operating costs. NVTC Executive Director Kate Mattice will present the report's findings at the December 4 Commonwealth Transportation Board meeting in Richmond.



NVTC Briefs VTA Board on Proposed Changes to State Transit Funding

New [allocation formulas for state funding of transit capital and operations](#) was the topic of NVTC Executive Director Kate Mattice's presentation to the Virginia Transit Association (VTA) Board of Directors in early November. Mattice, who represents VTA on the Commonwealth's Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee, noted that transit agencies need to prepare for changes to the amount they receive from the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT). [The Commonwealth Transportation Board has approved DRPT's recommendations for prioritizing requests for transit capital funds](#) and will be briefed on recommendations for a DRPT's proposed approach to allocating transit operating funds in December and January, with a vote on the measure in February. Equitable funding among transit systems and modes - be they urban, suburban, rural, bus or rail - remains a concern, Mattice noted in her presentation, but TSDAC is working with DRPT to ensure that different

transit service types, such as commuter buses, are not inadvertently disadvantaged by the proposed approach. DRPT is required to develop an allocation formula under the 2018 omnibus transit funding bill.



NVTC Participates in Metro Emergency Drill in Springfield

NVTC's Matt Cheng, who coordinates Northern Virginia's emergency transit response, joined Metro Transit Police, Fairfax County and regional partners for a full-scale emergency drill at the Franconia-Springfield Metrorail Station on November 4. The exercise, which included the evacuation of a train on the roadway, was designed to gauge how well emergency responders handled the situation. Those participating in the drill included the Fairfax County Fire Department and Police, Alexandria Fire Department, Prince George's County Fire & EMS, Loudoun County Fire & Rescue, and Fort Belvoir Fire Department.



NVTC Issues Call for Projects through I-66 Commuter Choice



Following Commission approval in November, NVTC began soliciting [projects for funding through its I-66 Commuter Choice program](#). NVTC anticipates that up to \$20 million will be available to fund capital improvements, operations and mobility initiatives to improve the efficiency and reliability of travel for I-66 toll payers between the Beltway and Potomac River. The program has funded more than \$22 million to support 25 projects in the I-66 corridor. Juris-

diction in Virginia Planning District 8 — which are the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William; the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park; and the towns of Dumfries, Herndon, Leesburg, Purcellville and Vienna — and the transit agencies that serve them (including Metro, Virginia Railway Express and OmniRide) may seek funds to improve commutes on and along I-66. Applications are due by January 16, 2019.

WMATA



A continuous, 14-day capital improvement project will [close Metro's Yellow Line from November 26 to December 9](#). The project will include structural repairs and rail infrastructure improvements, such as grout pad reconstruction and fastener replacement along the Yellow Line bridge over the Potomac River. WMATA recommends that Virginia riders use the Blue Line when possible. NVTC has been working with WMATA and Northern Virginia transit agencies to help mitigate the closure with supplemental shuttles and other travel alternatives.



Mobility Lab



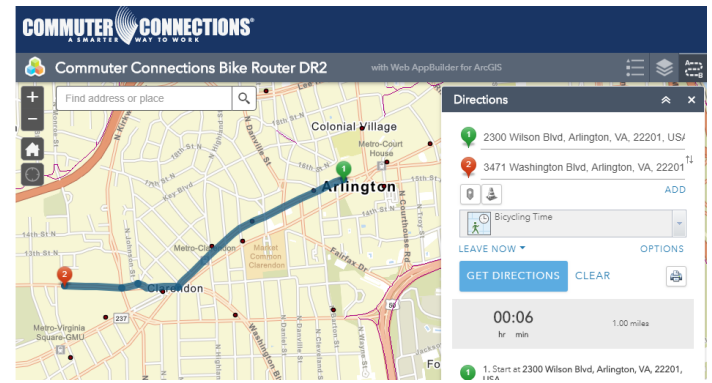
The annual D.C. installment of [Transportation Camp](#) is set for January 12 at George Mason University's Founders Hall. Transportation Camp provides a forum for experts and transportation-minded individuals to share their work and ideas and serves as an incubator for innovation. Hosted by Mobility Lab, the one-day event will feature attendee-led events, breakfast and lunch, and an evening reception. The camp, which occurs the day before the Transportation Planning Board Annual Meeting, will attract industry leaders, young professionals, and students from around the nation and world to Northern Virginia.



Commuter Connections



Commuter Connections has [launched a new Bicycle Route Finder](#), a web service that makes getting around the metropolitan Washington region on a bicycle easier and more fun. The free database includes more than 2,150 miles of trails, on-street lanes, paths and facilities; 37,371 path segments; and 35,485 path junctions. It also allows users to check availability of bikes and bays at Capital Bikeshare locations. The Bicycle Route Finder is available to members on the [Commuter Connections' website](#). Membership is free and comes with a wide range of commuter options.



Transportation Planning Board



The TPB is recruiting for its [Citizens Advisory Committee \(CAC\)](#), which weighs in on specific proposals and provides guidance on public engagement. CAC members bring different perspectives from across the region to help the board and staff better explain how the transportation planning process works. The CAC has 15 voting members and nine non-voting alternate members, each of whom serve one-year terms. Members must either be elected by the outgoing CAC or appointed by the three incoming officers of the TPB. The application deadline is December 12 and new members will begin serving in February.

