

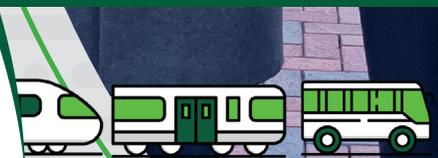
Advancing transit in
Northern Virginia
since 1964



February
2025

Executive Director
Newsletter

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A Message From Kate Mattice

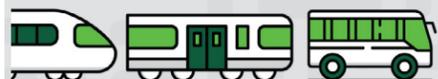
Each January we join elected officials and public transit professionals from across the Commonwealth in Richmond as part of the [Virginia Transit Association's](#) Transit + Rail Advocacy Day. It's an opportunity to come together with one voice to remind members of the General Assembly and administration about the [Value of Transit](#) to Virginia.

This year, I was delighted to be joined by our Chair David Snyder, along with members of the Executive Committee, Commissioners and staff. While we don't have any significant legislative requests for this session, we are continuing the important work of identifying solutions for future transit funding through the GA's SJ 28 Northern Virginia Growing Needs of Public Transit Joint Subcommittee and DMVMoves, the joint task force created by Metro and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

During this year's advocacy day, we met with members of Northern Virginia's delegation who play an important role in these two efforts, building on important relationships with the folks who will help shape future legislation, once funding recommendations are agreed upon.

I'm also grateful to the NVTC staff who have worked tirelessly to support these future funding efforts and I'm reminded of how fortunate we are to have NVTC as a place to foster these important regional discussions.


Executive Director



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February 18
Commonwealth
Transportation Board

February 20
Joint WMATA/Legislative
and Policy Committee
Meeting

February 20
Program Advisory
Committee Meeting

February 21
VRE Operations Board

March 6
Commission Meeting

March 21
VRE Operations Board

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*Matt Letourneau, Sarah Bagley, Matt de Ferranti, David Snyder (left to right)
Matt de Ferranti swears in Maureen Coffey (below)*

NVTC welcomes new Chair, officers and Commissioner

Immediate Past Chair Matt de Ferranti swore in his successor, David Snyder of Falls Church, at the January 16 [Commission meeting](#). Mr. Snyder has served on the Commission since 1994, serving as chair in 2000, 2007 and 2015 and now ties the record for most years as chair. Lee M. Rhodes, also from Falls Church, served as chair in the early years of NVTC, from 1966 through 1969. The Commission also adopted a slate of officers for 2025 with Sarah Bagley of Alexandria serving as vice-chair and Matt Letourneau of Loudoun County as secretary-treasurer.

The Commission also welcomed Maureen Coffey as a new commissioner representing Arlington County. Ms. Coffey replaces Libby Garvey, who retired at the end of 2024.



An historic year for NVTC, ensuring a robust public transit network for Northern Virginia

We released [NVTC's 2024 annual report](#) in January. It details the many reasons to celebrate last year. We honored the 60th anniversary of NVTC, played a significant role in locking in additional state aid to keep Metro running and served as a hub for critical discussions on long-

term, dedicated funding for all of the region's public transit agencies. We also notched records in our Commuter Choice program and published important information to aid the growth and evolution of Northern Virginia's public transit network.

[Click below to watch a message from Kate](#)



NVTC adopts principles for funding public transit

The Commission approved "[Guiding Principles for Future Transit Funding](#)" at their meeting on [January 16](#), setting forth the Commission's policy priorities as two major efforts focused on establishing long-term sustainable funding for public transit move forward this year. NVTC has a seat at the table for both DMVMoves, the task force created by Metro and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, and the Virginia General Assembly's SJ 28 Northern Virginia Growing Needs of Public Transit [Joint Subcommittee](#).



These principles provide consensus position on priorities related to addressing future regional transit funding needs. For all public transit agencies in Northern Virginia, NVTC seeks a long-term, sustainable, dedicated funding solution that:

1. **Provides adequate growth in revenues** to meet current and future operating and capital needs for Metro, Virginia Railway Express (VRE) and local transit operators in Northern Virginia.
2. **Preserves existing local, regional and statewide revenue sources** that support public transit operating and capital expenses.
3. **Aims to reduce pressure on property taxes** as a funding source for transit.
4. **Continues to reflect a diverse range of revenue sources** to reduce the economic risk associated with overreliance on a single revenue source.
5. **Directly distributes revenues to NVTC** for allocation to local bus systems, VRE, and to those jurisdictions funding Metro, matching or similar to NVTC's financial management model.



The "[Guiding Principles for Future Transit Funding](#)" also include specific priorities for funding Metro, recognizing that each of NVTC's member jurisdictions and the Commonwealth of Virginia pay to operate and maintain the Metro system.

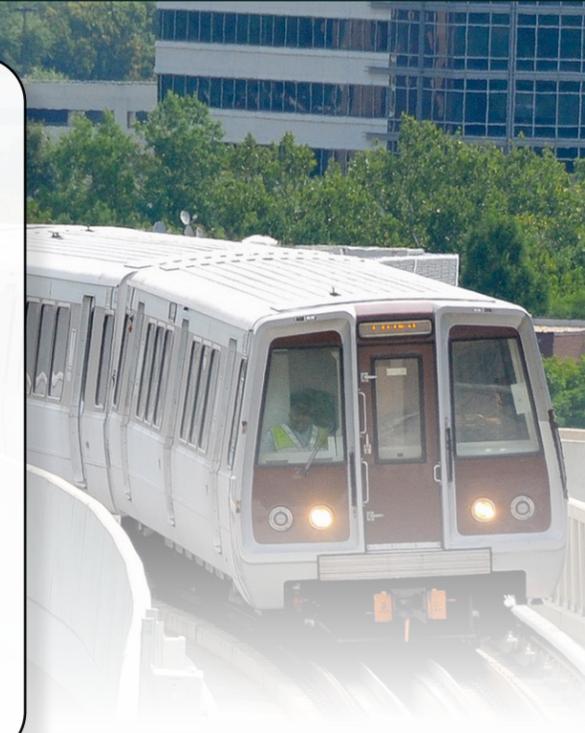


Metro Board holds capital program work session

The Metro Board of Directors met January 30 and held a [work session](#) on the FY 2026 capital budget. Due to fiscal constraints, Metro staff are working with the Board to revise and rescope certain [capital program](#) areas such as heavy rail maintenance and overhaul facilities, electric bus initiatives and traction power upgrades. The agency plans to release a revised proposed FY 2026 budget in February.

The Board also received briefings on human resources initiatives, a public safety update including bus fare enforcement efforts and a potential banning program for those who commit crimes on the system, and a fiscal year 2025 mid-year financial update which highlighted strong growth in fare revenue.

NVTC staff are assembling comments on Metro's proposed budget to share with Commissioners in early February.



Trump return to office mandate meets NVTC & VRE priorities

In one of the first actions after returning to office, President Donald Trump [ordered](#), "Heads of all departments and agencies in the executive branch of Government shall, as soon as practicable, take all necessary steps to terminate remote work arrangements and require employees to return to work in-person."

Trump's executive order aligns with NVTC's 2025 [Legislative Agenda](#), which "Encourage(s) federal return-to-office policies that encourage transit use throughout the work week and secure a replacement for the region's losses in fares from riders using federal transit benefits." Since the easing of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission has recognized the importance of getting federal workers back on Metro, Virginia Railway Express (VRE) and

NVTC's 2025 Legislative Agenda "encourage(s) federal return-to-office policies that encourage transit use throughout the work week and secure a replacement for the region's losses in fares from riders using federal transit benefits."

the other bus systems that serve Northern Virginia. A significant surge of workers resuming in-person work could bring tens of thousands of commuters back each day, bolstering fare revenue and ensuring the long term viability of these public transit agencies.

VRE's 2025 [Legislative Agenda](#) also addresses return-to-office, saying "Follow congressional and administration actions focused on the federal workforce's return to in-office work and permanent work from-home policies."

While we recognize that the order faces potential legal and other challenges, we are hopeful that it leads to a meaningful number of returning commuters.

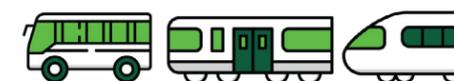


David Snyder, Canek Aguirre, Walter Alcorn, Kate Mattice, Randy Clarke, Andrew D'huyvetter, Greg Potts (left to right) Adam Hager, Ann McGrane, Daniel Knickelbein, Andrew D'huyvetter, Kate Mattice (below, left to right)

NVTC Chair, Commissioners and staff attend VTA day in Richmond

NVTC Chair David Snyder, Vice-Chair Sarah Bagley, Commissioners Canek Aguirre and Walter Alcorn and NVTC staff attended the 2025 Virginia Transit Association's (VTA) Transit and Rail Advocacy Day in Richmond January 27. They joined transit operators and partners from across the Commonwealth. NVTC Commissioners and staff met with members and staff from the NOVA delegation, discussing the [importance of transit](#) to Virginia's economic competitiveness and role in helping reduce congestion. Delegation members were also briefed on NVTC's [2025 Legislative and Policy Agenda](#) and provided an update on two regional efforts, the General

Assembly's [SJ 28](#) Northern Virginia Growing Needs of Public Transit Joint Subcommittee and DMV *Moves*, which study the long-term needs of transit in the region. While in Richmond, NVTC Commissioners and staff also engaged with regional partners including Metro, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority to discuss ongoing legislation. NVTC staff appreciate the opportunity to meet with members of the delegation and look forward to continued discussions on the importance of maintaining a robust transit system for Northern Virginia and across the Commonwealth.



APTA committee reviews nationwide multimodal opportunities

As the co-chair of the newly-formed Multimodal Corridor Planning Subcommittee, Executive Director Kate Mattice participated in the American Public Transit Associations' (APTA) Planning and Program Development Steering [Committee](#) annual business meeting in Washington on January 8. The subcommittee was recently launched to provide focus in developing multimodal solutions to major highway corridors across the U.S. akin to our Commuter Choice program. Committee members heard insights on future state and local initiatives from policy leaders from across the country, dove into federal

surface transportation reauthorization and also received briefings from the Federal Transit Administration on recent planning and Capital Investment Grants guidance.



Loudoun County **LG Transit**

IT'S ELECTRIC!

Two new **Battery Electric Buses** join the Loudoun County Transit fleet in 2025.

The buses are a key step in the county's efforts to achieve the goals of the Loudoun County Energy Strategy, which include reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in transportation and leading by example in county government operations.

Benefits of a Battery Electric Bus (BEB):

- Lower operating and maintenance costs
- Less noise and air pollution
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions

Loudoun shows off its first battery electric bus

NVTC Senior Program Manager Ann McGrane toured Loudoun County Transit's first battery electric bus (BEB) on January 22. The BEB is one of two new BEBs joining the fleet in 2025. Loudoun estimates that each BEB will have a range of approximately 230 miles and reduce annual CO2 emissions by 180,000 pounds. Congratulations to Loudoun on achieving this step in the transition process!



Global conference brings transportation professionals together

Senior Program Manager Xavier Harmony attended the Transportation Research Board (TRB) [Annual Meeting](#) at the Washington Convention Center in early January, the world's largest transportation conference. Xavier moderated a session called "Beyond Ridership: Expanding the Definitions of Transit Success", presented his own poster which will soon be part of a [published book](#), and presided over additional poster sessions.



Image Source: TRB

Farewell Brittany Sumpter and Monique Blyther!

We said farewell to NVTC Senior Grants and Procurement Manager Brittany Sumpter early in January as she accepted a position at Virginia Railway Express (VRE) as the Capital Budget and Grants Manager. At NVTC, Brittany led and assisted project staff with NVTC procurements,

managed contracts and played a key role in the state and federal grant activity of NVTC and its member jurisdictions, as well as NVTC's Commuter Choice program. Brittany will be greatly missed; however, we are pleased she will remain within the NVTC family at VRE.



We said farewell to Marketing and Engagement Manager Monique Blyther at the end of January. Monique joined NVTC a little over three years ago and has been responsible for significantly raising the quality of our visual products. She was instrumental in our 60th anniversary celebrations, including producing

the [documentary](#) on the history of NVTC and led the 2022 regional transit marketing campaign that won awards from the Virginia Transit Association and National Association of Government Communicators. We wish Monique well in her future endeavors.





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