

Advancing transit in
Northern Virginia
since 1964



January
2025

Executive Director
Newsletter



A Message From **Kate Mattice**

As we welcome the new year, we gain a fresh opportunity to focus on what lies ahead for 2025. Each of NVTC's programs will focus on major accomplishments this year as we push forward on our efforts to make Northern Virginia's public transit network connected, reliable and safe.

Much of our attention will be on the efforts to establish long-term sustainable funding for public transit through the General Assembly's Northern Virginia Growing Needs of Public Transit Joint Subcommittee and Metro and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's DMVMoves task force. We expect recommendations from both by the end of the year to get ready for legislative sessions in 2026.

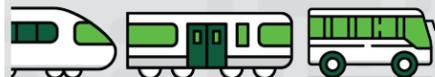
Our Commuter Choice program will seek funding approval for projects in the I-395/95 corridor while we work with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) to conduct a study in the I-66 corridor. The needs assessment will review current and future travel needs between Haymarket and Rosslyn, while identifying potential projects for funding.

The final mobility study for Route 7's planned bus rapid transit (BRT) system will examine the segment from Seven Corners in Fairfax County to the Mark Center in Alexandria and expand on operational options in the City of Falls Church.

We will complete a feasibility study for shared, on-route charging battery electric buses at locations where their layovers overlap. NVTC has worked closely with ART, DASH, Fairfax Connector and Metro to maximize future coordination on infrastructure.

That's just a taste of what to expect in 2025 and I'm excited for what we will achieve together.

Kate A. Mattice
Executive Director



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January 14
Commonwealth Transportation Board

January 17
VRE Operations Board

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

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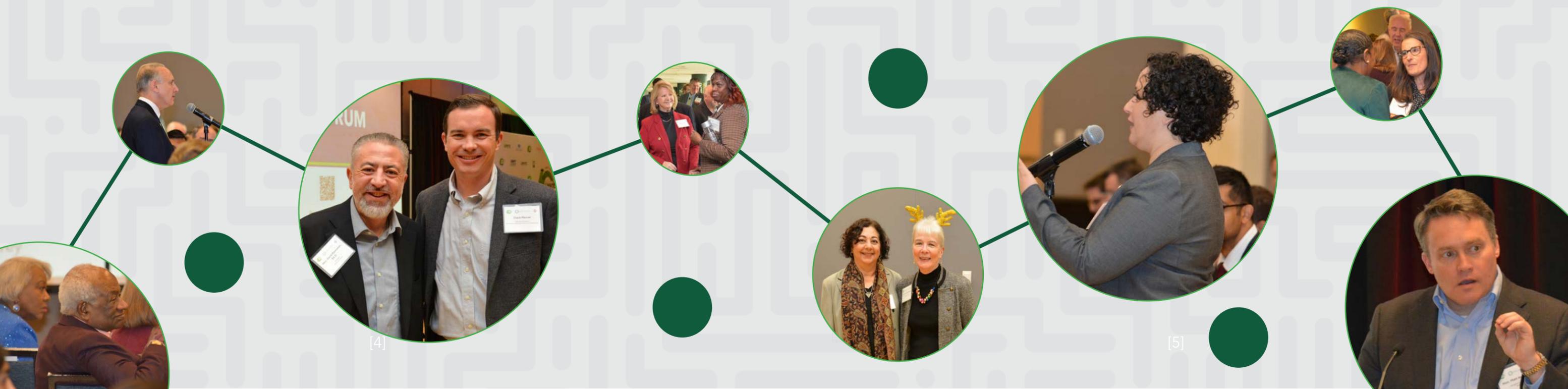


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LEGISLATIVE FORUM



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Legislative Forum tackles the future of public transit

Thank you to everyone who spoke at and attended our 11th annual [Legislative Forum](#) on December 13. NVTC Executive Director Kate Mattice also extends her gratitude to our co-sponsors, the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission and Virginia Railway Express. We had record turnout for the event, which featured Sens. Louise Lucas, Adam Ebbin and Jennifer Boysko; Del. Mark Sickles, Chair Jeff McKay, Metro GM/CEO Randy Clarke, VRE CEO Rich Dalton, OmniRide Executive Director Dr. Bob Schneider, DASH GM/CEO Josh Baker, Capitol Transportation Partners Principal Nick Donohue, and our Commission Chairs Matt de Ferranti and Victor Angry.

We are grateful that all of our speakers recognize the importance of transit to Northern Virginia, as well as the entire Commonwealth of Virginia and the Greater Washington region. The Forum gave panelists an opportunity to talk about the ongoing work to establish sustainable, long-term funding for transit through the General Assembly's [Joint Subcommittee](#) and Metro and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' [DMVMoves](#) task force.



Legislative Agenda

The forum followed the adoption of NVTC's [Legislative Agenda](#). Our state priorities focus on advocating for long-term, sustainable, dedicated funding for Metro and all Northern Virginia transit providers, as well as preserving the additional state aid for Metro and operating

cap re-baselining contained in the two-year state budget. NVTC's federal legislative priorities emphasize maximizing the region's access to federal transportation funding programs, with federal programs funded at or above those authorized in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).





Review process to begin for I-395/95 Commuter Choice applications

The FY 2026-2027 I-395/95 [Commuter Choice](#) Call for Projects closed Friday, December 13. NVTC received 15 applications from six applicants requesting \$37.5 million in Commuter Choice funding. We expect to be able to provide between \$25 and \$30 million in awards during this round. Of the 15 applications received, 12

are bus service enhancement projects, one is for a new bus route, one is a commuter rail station improvement, and one is a multi-use trail project. Staff have begun application scoring and eligibility reviews, and a full list of applications received will be shared with the Commission in January.



NVTC's work shared at annual transportation public meeting

Executive Director Kate Mattice [shared](#) NVTC's key initiatives and programs at the 2024 Northern Virginia Joint Transportation Meeting, held at the Virginia Department of Public Transportation Northern Virginia district office on December 2. She gave attendees an overview of the region's transit network, which moves two million people each week, and described our efforts to improve bus service along Route 7, our investments

through our Commuter Choice program and our work with the General Assembly's joint subcommittee and DMVMoves task force to find long-term sustainable funding for public transit.

The [annual meeting](#) brings together seven agencies working on transportation issues in Northern Virginia.





Metro Board reviews FY 26 \$5 billion budget proposal

Metro's Board of Directors met [December 13](#) and authorized public hearings for the General Manager/CEO's FY 2026 [Proposed Budget](#). The proposal uses the recently approved restructured subsidy allocation formulas and 2025 Better Bus Network, reflects 3% year-over-year gross expense growth and a series of service optimization concepts and methods to close what currently stands as an operating budget gap of \$217 million. The Proposed Budget totals \$5.0 billion between the operating and capital budgets.

Metro intends to implement the recently approved Year One (2025) Better Bus Network to enhance Metrobus service by adding 11 more routes to the Frequent Service Network and connect more destinations, add peak capacity in several places

around the core, extend half of the Yellow Line to Greenbelt on the Metrorail system and maintain FY 2025 fares. There are also plans to open the Metrorail system an hour earlier and keep the system open an hour later on the weekends.

Metro will begin extensive public outreach over the winter to inform customers and the public of the details of the FY 2026 Proposed Budget. NVTc's WMATA Committee will also discuss the proposal and submit a letter as part of the public comment process. After public hearings, Board Q&A and budget workshops over the winter months, the Board is expected to adopt the FY 2026 budget in March. FY 2026 begins on July 1, 2025.



Arlington opens new ART Operations and Maintenance Facility

Congratulations to Arlington County and ART on their new state of the art operations and maintenance facility (AOMF). Executive Director Kate Mattice was on hand December 10 as officials and staff cut the ribbon on the \$81 million dollar project in the county's Green Valley neighborhood. The AOMF consolidates multiple existing buildings and includes infrastructure to support future battery electric buses.



\$5.0B

Operating*

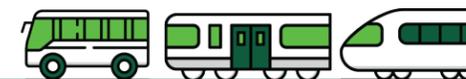
- Implement Year One of Better Bus Network
- Better, more reliable, automated rail service
- Complete system-wide rollout of Open Payments
- New funding formula supporting service changes and fiscal predictability

*Includes reimbursables and debt service

Capital

- Continue investments in state of good repair
- Continue investments that increase operational efficiency
- Production of 8000 series railcars
- Complete underway projects and continue ongoing programs

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NVTC says goodbye to Commissioner Garvey, welcomes new DRPT director

The Commission bid a [fond farewell](#) to Commissioner Libby Garvey at their December meeting. NVTC Chair Matt de Ferranti presented her with a resolution recognizing her service on the Commission since 2017, work on our Program Advisory and Legislative and Policy Committees, as well as her appointment by NVTC to the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Operations Board. Good luck in retirement from public life!

We also heard remarks from Tiffany P. Robinson, the new Director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, as she became our newest Commissioner. Welcome aboard!



Good luck Mirna!

We said goodbye to Transit Fellow Mirna Armanious in December. A recent graduate from Virginia Tech, where she earned a master's degree in urban and regional planning, Mirna joined us in September and supported the development of our 2024 "Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA" and several key research efforts related to NVTC's work identifying long-term, sustainable funding for public transit. We wish Mirna the very best for the future and thank our partners at the Department of Rail and Public Transportation for supporting our Transit Fellow Program.



VRE Santa Train spreads Christmas cheer

NVTC Commuter Choice and Policy Program Manager Daniel Knickelbein (right) and his husband donned elf costumes in December as part of Virginia Railway Express' wildly popular Santa Train.



Happy Holidays!

NVTC hopes you and yours had a lovely holiday season and a happy start to the new year!





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2300 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 230
Arlington, VA 22201

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