

## Agenda Item #10: NVTC Transit Resource Center



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**TO:** Chair Cristol and NVTC Commissioners

**FROM:** Kate Mattice and Dan Goldfarb, PE and Dinah Girma

**DATE:** December 2020

**SUBJECT:** NVTC Transit Resource Center

At the December meeting the Commission will receive an update on the FY 2021 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Transit Performance Report and the FY 2021 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Parking Utilization Report (Average Weekday).

### A. FY 2021 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Transit Ridership Report<sup>1</sup>

Transit usage continues to be dramatically lower than last year for the region. Transit modes that primarily serve commuter trips (long haul bus, commuter rail, Metrorail) show the highest loss of ridership as compared to last year at this time. As reported in the [MWCOC 2020 Employer Telework Survey](#), this reflects the 82% of survey respondents that reported in June that they have been teleworking since COVID-19 pandemic began, versus 36% pre-pandemic. The levels of telework continue to impact ridership through the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of FY 2021.

Transit Boardings in Virginia by System 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter FY 2020 (July-September)			
System	FY 20 Q1	FY 21 Q1	Percent Change (2020-2021)
Arlington Transit*	815,512	382,648	-53%
Alexandria DASH	923,564	359,519	-61%
Fairfax County Connector	2,153,065	1,127,328	-48%
Fairfax City CUE	155,217	74,972	-52%
Loudoun County Transit	480,173	77,515	-84%
Omni Ride	601,000	171,014	-72%
Virginia Railway Express	1,192,708	75,990	-94%
Metrobus	4,454,560	1,525,827	-66%
MetroAccess	88,033	30,435	-65%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,863,832</b>	<b>3,825,248</b>	<b>-65%</b>

Source: OLGA and WMATA | \* September data for Arlington Transit was estimated based on existing trends. The data was not available at the time of preparing this report.

#NVTC's FY2021 Quarterly Transit Performance Report is a reframed effort that provides an overview of the transit service in Northern Virginia focused on quarterly ridership and parking utilization. The report is compiled at the end of each quarter during the current fiscal year and reflects transit boardings for all modes as well as quarterly parking utilization at WMATA rail facilities. All WMATA related data is provided by WMATA; all local system and VRE data is submitted to Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) by transit agency staff.

Transit ridership increased by 9% from July to August. A typical, non-pandemic August usually sees ridership drop due to end of summer travel, so an overall increase in transit ridership during the pandemic indicates that some people are returning to transit. September showed ridership increases of 23% over August, some of which may be related to the start of school since some schools in the region did have in-person classes. However, during the pandemic it is more difficult to accurately determine ridership trends.

Fairfax County showed the lowest percent decrease as compared to this time last year. Metrobus has higher ridership than Metrorail for this quarter, the opposite of non-pandemic ridership trends. Generally speaking, transit providers report weekday ridership is around 30% to 40% of typical ridership, while weekend ridership is almost equal to pre-pandemic levels. Most providers anticipate resuming fare collection in early 2021 (consistent with Metrobus which resumes fare collection on January 1, 2021) and are installing equipment now to provide safety for drivers and allowing front door boarding.

<b>WMATA Metrorail Virginia Station Entries</b>			
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter FY 2021 (July – September)</b>			
	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter FY 2020</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter FY 2021</b>	<b>Percent Change (2020-2021)</b>
Total	10,299,217	1,180,689	-89%
Weekday Average	275,261	3,719	-99%
Saturday Average	113,953	2,298	-98%
Sunday Average	75,596	1,743	-98%

Source: WMATA

Metrorail ridership in Virginia is still significantly impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but Metrorail experienced a 6% increase in ridership when comparing the previous quarter (FY 2020 Q4). To allow for social distancing, WMATA added more buses and trains in August throughout the system which was 75% of pre-pandemic service. WMATA continues to implement its COVID-19 cleaning protocols which include high-touch surfaces wiped down and disinfected and routine deep-cleaning at stations.

Although the pandemic impacted ridership, WMATA took the opportunity of reduced ridership to complete the second round of platform reconstruction at six stations in Fairfax County that had been closed since May 2020; stations were reopened in August and September 2020.



Platform reconstruction work at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport Station is underway through December 2020; the station will remain open throughout construction.

The attached [Metrorail Ridership by Station in Virginia](#) provides data for the first quarter of FY 2021. The following chart shows those Virginia stations and the change in Metrorail ridership compared to first quarter of FY 2019 and first quarter of FY 2020.

<b>Metrorail Ridership by Virginia Station</b>	
<b>Station</b>	<b>Change from FY 2019 Q1 to FY 2020 Q1</b>
Vienna	-100%
Pentagon	-100%
Dunn Loring	-100%
McLean	-100%
East Falls Church	-100%
Wiehle-Reston East	-100%
Arlington Cemetery	-99%
Crystal City	-99%
Virginia Square	-99%
Greensboro	-99%
Court House	-99%
Spring Hill	-99%
Rosslyn	-99%
Tysons Corner	-99%
Clarendon	-99%
West Falls Church	-99%
Ballston	-99%
Pentagon City	-99%
National Airport	-98%
Eisenhower Avenue	-97%
Franconia Springfield	-96%
Van Dorn	-96%
Braddock Road	-96%
Huntington	-96%
King Street	-94%

Source: WMATA. Ridership is based on station entries only.

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## **B. FY 2021 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Parking Utilization Report**

The data table below provides a broader comparison of parking usage daily averages between FY 2020 and FY 2021. The map on the following page shows the average daily percent of parking being used at Metro stations in Northern Virginia.

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<b>WMATA Virginia Parking Facility Usage (Average Weekday)</b>							
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter FY 2021</b>							
<b>Station/Lot</b>	<b>FY 20 Lot Capacity</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter FY 20 Lot Usage</b>		<b>FY 21 Lot Capacity</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter FY 21 Lot Usage</b>		<b>Utilization Percent Change (2020- 2021)</b>
		<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Daily Average</b>		<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Daily Average</b>	
<b>Huntington*</b>	2,732	19%	519	2,732	7%	91	-82%
<b>West Falls Church</b>	2,009	63%	1,266	1,520	3%	20	-98%
<b>Dunn Loring</b>	1,964	50%	982	1,964	4%	26	-97%
<b>Vienna**</b>	4,719	73%	3,461	4,240	4%	57	-98%
<b>Franconia</b>	5,069	16%	794	5,069	7%	186	-77%
<b>Van Dorn</b>	361	26%	94	361	16%	30	-68%
<b>East Falls Church</b>	422	119%	502	422	4%	6	-99%
<b>Wiehle- Reston East</b>	2,300	94%	2,162	2,300	7%	84	-96%
<b>Northern Virginia Total<sup>1</sup></b>	19,576	58%	9,780	18,608	7%	500	-95%

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Source: WMATA

\*Huntington South Garage closed August 2018

\*\*Garage rehab at Vienna NG, 450 spaces; Vienna Lot 1, 479 spaces as of 3/15/20

<sup>1</sup>Parking lots at following stations were used to stage equipment since March: Vienna, Dunn Loring, West Falls Church, East Falls Church