NVTC Commission Meeting
November 4, 2021

The meeting will start momentarily.

Meeting materials available at www.novatransit.org
1. Opening Remarks

2. **ACTION ITEM:** Approve the October 7, 2021 NVTC Meeting Minutes

3. **ACTION ITEM:** Consent Agenda

4. Transit Technology Program
   - Zero-Emissions Bus Roundtable

5. Commuter Choice Program
   - **ACTION ITEM:** Authorize the Executive Director to Issue a Call for Projects for I-66 Corridor Round Five

6. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

7. Legislative Update
   - Proposed 2022 NVTC Legislative and Policy Agenda

8. Virginia Railway Express

9. Department of Rail and Public Transportation
   - Transit Equity and Modernization Study

10. Executive Director Report

11. Closed Session
1. Opening Remarks

2. Approve Minutes

**ACTION ITEM:** Approve the Meeting Minutes from the October 7, 2021 Commission Meeting

3. Consent Agenda

A. Approve the 2022 NVTC Meeting Schedule

B. **Authorize the Chair to Sign a Letter of Endorsement** for Arlington County’s Application to NVTA for the Ballston Metro Station Second Entrance
4. Transit Technology Program

A. Zero/Low-Emission Bus Roundtable
   • Josh Baker, DASH GM/CEO
   • Patricia Happ, NVTC Transit Technology Program Manager
   • Allan Fye, NVTC Director of Programs and Policy

B. Northern Virginia Regional Fare Collection Update (written update in kit materials)
ZEB PROGRAM GOALS

• Environmental:
  • Eco-City Alexandria: 2040 goals of 50% emissions reduction by 2030 and 100% reduction by 2050
  • Non-attainment zone, highly polluted region of the US
  • Significant regional and local support for zero emission vehicles
  • Purchase only Zero Emissions Buses by 2027
  • Full fleet transition to 100% Zero Emissions Buses by 2035

• Fiscal:
  • Desire to reduce operating cost, recognition of unpredictable fuel costs
  • Excessive expense of maintaining clean diesel technology/unreliability
  • Operating environment is low mileage stop and go, ideal for Electric
STUDIES AND RESEARCH

- ZEB Feasibility Study (Completed 2019) – CTE
- ZEB Implementation Study Phase 1 (Completed 2021) - WSP
- ZEB Implementation Study Phase 2 (In Progress)
- Future studies to evaluate performance of vehicles, driver habits, and other metrics from the fleet
SUCCESSES & CHALLENGES

SUCCESSES

• Early buses showing more reliable than diesel counterparts
• In good weather/operating conditions, range has been adequate
• Drivers and Passengers happy with vehicles
• Initial observations (Maintenance cost per Mile)
  • Electric: $.33-.47/mi
  • Diesel: $1.00-1.20/mi

CHALLENGES

• Early adopter challenges: quality, range expectations, build process.
• Heating significantly reduces range.
• Despite standards, interoperability between buses and chargers continue to be an issue.
• Timeframes:
  • Bus build: 9 – 20 months
  • Revenue service: 2-3 months after delivery
  • Chargers can take even longer
FACILITY PROGRAM

DESIGN & ENGINEERING

CHARGING STRATEGIES
NEXT STEPS

- Service design that elevates ZEB productivity
- Sustainable contract sources and joint procurements
- Ongoing training for rapidly changing ZEB technologies
- Data collection and analysis
- Pursuing ongoing technical assistance
- Identifying sustainable funding sources for fleet electrification
- Seeking alternative sources of electricity (i.e. solar/renewable sources)
- Driving partnerships with utility providers
50 Participants including jurisdictional and regional partner staff members

Provided a platform to highlight, learn, and discuss zero-emission bus planning, implementation and procurement

Designed to better understand regional zero-emission bus vision and goals

Increased regional expertise through collaborative discussion

First look: What we learned

- Start early and strategize for long-term: engage leaders, partner with utilities, and identify funding
- Plan for bus performance and range, charging infrastructure and strategy
- Workforce, procurement, and resiliency planning is key
- Focus on regional coordination with local flexibility
## Regional Partner Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Interested</th>
<th>Studies or Pilots</th>
<th>Testing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arlington Transit</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUE</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DASH</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfax Connector</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loudoun Transit</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OmniRide</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Potential Implementation Partners

- Federal Transit Administration
- Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
- VDOT
- Energy Utilities

### Zero-Emission Bus Studies or Pilots

#### Charging Infrastructure

- Buses

---

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission 13
Options for NVTC’s Role in Zero/Low-Emission Buses

• **Continue to engage with transit providers** in NoVA and DC area regarding plans to transition to zero/low-emission buses

• **Identify resources to support and coordinate** planning and implementation of zero/low-emission buses in NoVA
  - Ex. DRPT Technical Assistance Grant (FY 2023) for a *Northern Virginia Zero/Low-Emission Bus Strategic Plan*

• **Provide regular updates** to Committees and Commission

• **Identify changes** to Commuter Choice program at the appropriate time
5. Commuter Choice Program

A. ACTION ITEM: Authorize the Executive Director to Issue a Call for Projects for I-66 Round 5

B. I-395/95 Corridor Update (written update in kit materials)
Commuter Choice on the I-66 Corridor
Round Five (FY 2023-FY 2024) Call for Projects

**Fall**
- Commission approves Call for Projects *(Nov.)*
- Application period opens *(Nov.)*

**Winter**
- Application period closes *(Jan.)*
- Project evaluation
- Development of draft program

**Spring**
- Public meeting and comment period

**June**
- Commission selects program
- CTB approves program for inclusion in SYIP

$12M conservatively expected to be available
6. WMATA

A. WMATA COVID-19 Response
B. Report from the Virginia WMATA Board Members
C. Other WMATA News
D. Report from the Chair of the NVTC WMATA Committee
   • Presentation: Draft 2021 Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA
Strategies to Reduce the Growth in Costs and Improve Efficiencies

Highlighted Strategies from the 2021 Report Update

• Leverage federal coronavirus relief aid to prevent layoffs, sustain and improve service levels throughout a multi-year recovery period, and position WMATA for a sustainable long-term ridership and revenue recovery.

• 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.

• Implement fare and parking policy changes that improve revenue and ridership, remove barriers to access and retain newly returning riders.

• Adapt rail service to anticipate demand during the COVID-19 pandemic and the region’s subsequent recovery period

• Continue focus on ongoing initiatives to reduce the growth in operating costs and improve operational efficiencies using NVTC’s previously recommended strategies.
**FY 2021 Uses of the Dedicated WMATA Capital Fund**

- The Commonwealth’s 2018 transit funding legislation created dedicated capital funding for WMATA. Virginia’s share of the regional $500 million in dedicated capital funding is $154 million.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CIP Category</th>
<th>FY 2021 Actual Expenditures (millions)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Railcar Investments</td>
<td>$10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rail Systems Investments</td>
<td>$18.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track and Structures Rehabilitation Improvements</td>
<td>$17.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stations and Passenger Facilities Investments</td>
<td>$49.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus and Paratransit Investments</td>
<td>$8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Support Investments</td>
<td>$50.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Capital Programs</strong></td>
<td><strong>$154.9</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Due to the timing of the publication of this report, these expenditures are preliminary and do not represent final audited expenditures.

**FY 2021 WMATA Capital Program Highlights**

- As of Q1 FY 2022, 17 of 20 outdoor stations have been reconstructed
- Metrobus and Metrorail fleet reliability at an all-time high
- Mobile App introduced for Apple and Android, bus farebox replacements, and new Metrorail faregates
- By installing fiber and upgrading radio communications, WMATA made cellular and data service available in all tunnels.
Next Steps

• Update remaining safety, reliability, ridership, and financial performance chapters when NTD data becomes available.

• Incorporate comments by the NVTC WMATA Committee and Commissioners
  • Add appropriate content and context regarding the Blue Line derailment
  • Add context for predicted gradual ridership recovery and extent of federal aid remaining

• Prepare the full report for action at the December 2 Commission Meeting.

• Submit report by December 15 legislative deadline.
7. Report from the Chair of the Legislative & Policy Committee

A. Report from the Chair of the Legislative and Policy Agenda
   • Presentation: Proposed NVTC 2022 Legislative and Policy Agenda

B. Federal Update

C. Annual Joint NVTC-PRTC Legislative Briefing
8. Virginia Railway Express

A. VRE COVID-19 Response
B. VRE CEO Report and Minutes
C. Draft VRE 2022 Legislative Agenda
# Timeline of Operations Board Action on CROC-Backed Debt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 2020</td>
<td>• Authorization to execute VRE-VPRA Funding Agreement (executed March 2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2021</td>
<td>• Approval and referral of amended Financial and Debt Management Principles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2021</td>
<td>• Anticipated approval/referral to conclude Phase 1 financing analysis and proceed with Phase 2 steps to issue debt (due diligence, indicative credit ratings, selection of underwriter, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early 2022 (TBD)</td>
<td>• Anticipated approval/referral of formal debt documents ahead of final credit ratings and marketing and sale of bonds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Credit Factors for Special Tax Bonds

- Underlying economic drivers of the revenue streams
- Breadth & concentration of tax base
- Revenue trends/ performance, diversity & volatility/sensitivity of pledged streams
- Revenue collection mechanics
- Debt service coverage
- Legal protections for bond holders, i.e., bond covenants such as ABT, reserves, flow of funds
## Comparable Virginia Credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>C-ROC Preliminary</th>
<th>I-81 Senior Lien</th>
<th>HRTAC Senior Lien</th>
<th>NVTA Senior Lien</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moody’s</td>
<td>Aa3</td>
<td>Aa1</td>
<td>Aa2</td>
<td>Aa1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S&amp;P</td>
<td>A+ or AA-</td>
<td>AA-</td>
<td>AA</td>
<td>AA+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitch</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>AA+</td>
<td>AA+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As of Date</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>July 2021</td>
<td>July 2020</td>
<td>June 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Select Features**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>C-ROC Preliminary</th>
<th>I-81 Senior Lien</th>
<th>HRTAC Senior Lien</th>
<th>NVTA Senior Lien</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Additional Bonds Test (ABT)</td>
<td>2.0x</td>
<td>2.0x</td>
<td>2.0x</td>
<td>2.0x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service Reserve Fund (DSRF)</td>
<td>3-prong test</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>MADs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overview of Financing Options

• Public Bond Issue
• Virginia Resources Authority (VRA)
• USDOT Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Program
• USDOT Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) Program
• Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (VTIB) Loan
9. Department of Rail and Public Transportation

A. DRPT Monthly Report
B. WMATA Annual Reporting Requirements
C. Transit Equity Study Update
Virginia Transit Equity & Modernization Study

NVTC

November 4, 2021
What is the Equity & Modernization Study?

• HJ 542 requires DRPT to develop a needs assessment and action plan for advancing equitable and modern public transit

• Emphasis on engagement opportunities for underrepresented and underserved communities

• Six technical topic areas must be addressed in the study
Study Process & Timeline

2021

- JUL: Data Collection
- AUG: Baseline Conditions
- SEPT - NOV
- DEC: Action Plan

2022

- JAN - JUN
- JUL
- AUG: Final Report Development

Interim Study Report (December 2021)

Final Study Report (August 2022)
## Progress To-Date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Phase</th>
<th>Completed</th>
<th>In Progress</th>
<th>Upcoming</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Data Collection</td>
<td>o Baseline Conditions</td>
<td>o Action Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Transit Agency Survey</td>
<td>o Study Website</td>
<td>o Interim Study Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Rider Focus Groups</td>
<td>o Transit Equity Committee</td>
<td>o Virtual Transit Equity Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Transit Agency Outreach Kits</td>
<td>o Technical Working Groups</td>
<td>o Final Study Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>o Stakeholder Meetings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Study Action Plan

• Findings from the Baseline Conditions Assessment and Interim Study Report will inform the development of a Study Action Plan.

• The Study Action Plan will include recommendations and implementation strategies that address barriers by topic area and will describe specific actions, next steps, coordination required, timeline for implementation and responsible agencies.

• DRPT anticipates that the Study Action Plan will advise changes to DRPT funding programs and policies, and the development of future plans.
Questions?

www.VAtransitequity.com
10. Executive Director’s Report: October Highlights

Clean Cities Awards for Katie Cristol & Arlington Transit

NVTC on stage at International Tolling Conference

Goodbye Dan Goldfarb

Chair Cristol speaks to the Alliance
NVTC AND PRTC PRESENT

ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

Join transit leaders and special guests for an in-person overview of federal and state issues affecting transit in Northern Virginia

SAVE THE DATE

8:30 a.m.-11 a.m.
Monday, December 6, 2021
Embassy Suites by Hilton
8100 Loisdale Rd, Springfield, VA
Chair Cristol will request a motion to move into Closed Session.
NVTC Commission is in Closed Session.

For the listening public, if there is an interruption in the live feed, please go to NVTC’s YouTube channel to connect to a new live feed.
NVTC Commission is back in Open Session.

Chair Cristol will request a motion to certify the Closed Session.
Commissioner Comments

Chair Cristol will open the floor for any final questions and comments from Commissioners.

Next Commission Meeting is December 2, 2021.
NVTC Commission Meeting
November 4, 2021

Meeting is adjourned. Thank you for attending.

Visit us at www.novatransit.org