

Combined
Blue Items/Handouts
for
February 2, 2023
NVTC Meeting

***Updated Section B**

TO: Chair Palchik and NVTC Commissioners
FROM: Kate Mattice
DATE: February 2, 2023
SUBJECT: Consent Agenda

At the February meeting, the Commission will be asked to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes four action items regarding the committee roster, state assistance applications, contract award for regional bus analysis, and a grant endorsement letter for Arlington County.

ACTION: Approve the Consent Agenda (subject to approval of chair)

A. ACTION: Approve the Updated 2023 Committee Roster

The Commission will be asked to approve the updated 2023 Committee Roster to include newly-appointed City of Fairfax Commissioner, Catherine Read, to the committee roster. Ms. Read has agreed to serve on the Legislative and Policy Committee.

B. ACTION: Approve Resolution #2496: Approve the FY 2024 State Assistance Applications to DRPT

The Commission is asked to approve Resolution #2496 approving the FY 2024 state transit assistance applications to DRPT and will authorize the executive director, or her designee, to submit the state assistance applications to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) for the following. Detailed tables are attached the amounts of each form of assistance being requested, with comparisons to FY 2023.

▪ **State Aid on behalf of Localities and the Virginia Railway Express**

State operating, capital and technical assistance on behalf of NVTC's five original WMATA jurisdictions for their local bus systems and transit capital costs. The applications total \$164.0 million in eligible operating costs, \$75.8 million in total capital expenses, and \$100,000 in eligible technical assistance costs for FY 2024.

FY 2024 state assistance applications on behalf of VRE include \$73.6 million in eligible operating costs and \$32.1 million in total capital costs.

▪ **NVTC Technical Assistance Grants and NVTC Transit Fellow Grant**

FY 2024 in state assistance to support NVTC's Transit Fellow Program in the amount of \$50,000, with the state share of 80%, and the local match funded through NVTC's G&A budget.

FY 2024 in Technical Assistance to support NVTC's Envision Route 7 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Planning and NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Analysis Project in the amount of \$1,000,000, with the state share of 50%, and the local match funded by the NVTC project jurisdictions (Cities of Alexandria and Falls Church and Counties of Arlington and Fairfax). As in the previous BRT planning efforts, NVTC will execute a MOA for this project.

C. ACTION: Authorize the Executive Director to Award the Contract for the Northern Virginia Regional Bus Analysis

The Commission will be asked to authorize the executive director to execute a contract with Cambridge Systematics for the Northern Virginia Regional Bus Transit Analysis. This effort will provide a regional context and analysis of existing and planned services by Northern Virginia's six bus transit providers and serve as an additional strategic planning resource for the Commission and its jurisdictional members. The project is also designed to provide more in-depth analysis of bus transit in Northern Virginia to complement the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority (WMATA) Better Bus Network Redesign project as well as provide analysis to support any future bus rapid transit planning activities that may be conducted by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. The contract will not exceed \$299,900 and is expected to take approximately 12 months.

This effort is funded through a DRPT Technical Assistance grant (50%) in the Commonwealth Transportation Board's FY 2023-2028 Six-Year Improvement Plan (SYIP) and the local match (50%) is provided by NVTC's member jurisdictions.

The Commission authorized the release of the Request for Proposals (RFP) at the October 2022 Commission meeting and subsequently received five proposals. Staff followed NVTC's Administrative Regulations and the Virginia Public Procurement Act, which details the procedures to competitively procure consultant services.

D. ACTION: Authorize the Chair to Send a Letter of Endorsement for Arlington County's Application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant

The Commission is asked to authorize the chair to sign a [letter of endorsement for Arlington County's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's RAISE discretionary program for \\$15 million to construct the Arlington Memorial Trail which will provide bike and pedestrian connections to the Arlington Cemetery Metrorail Station and other Arlington County trails.](#)



RESOLUTION #2496

SUBJECT: Approve the FY 2024 State Transit Assistance Applications to DRPT

WHEREAS: The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) wishes to obtain state and federal grants to help defray NVTC, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), local bus systems and Virginia Railway Express (VRE) operating and capital costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hereby authorizes the executive director, or her designee, for and on behalf of NVTC and as an agent for its members:

- 1) To execute and file applications to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) for grants of public transportation assistance for FY 2024 commencing July 1, 2023 in the amount of \$164.0 million in eligible local transit operating costs to defray a portion of the public transportation cost of NVTC and its members for operations;
- 2) To accept from DRPT and execute grants in such amounts as may be awarded; and
- 3) To furnish DRPT such documents and other information as may be required for processing the grant requests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC authorizes the executive director, or her designee, for and on behalf of NVTC and as an agent for its members:

- 1) To file applications to DRPT for grants of public transportation assistance for FY 2024 for capital expenses totaling \$75.8 million in costs to defray the costs borne by NVTC and its members for capital expenditures;
- 2) To revise the capital portion of the application to reflect refined estimates by the local governments when they become available;
- 3) To accept from DRPT and execute grants in such amounts as may be awarded; and
- 4) To furnish to DRPT such documents and other information as may be required for processing the grant request.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC authorizes the executive director, or her designee, for and on behalf of NVTC and as an agent for its members:

- 1) To file an application to DRPT for technical assistance for FY 2024 for \$100,000 in costs with the state share provided at 50 percent;
- 2) To accept from DRPT and execute grants in such amounts as may be awarded; and
- 3) To furnish to DRPT such documents and other information as may be required for processing the grant request.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC authorizes the executive director, or her designee, for and on behalf of NVTC and PRTC and their members:

- 1) To file FY 2024 VRE applications to DRPT in the amount of \$73.6 million in eligible operating costs and \$32.1 million in eligible state costs for capital;
- 2) To revise the application to reflect refined estimates by VRE;
- 3) To accept from DRPT and execute grants in such amounts as may be awarded; and
- 4) To furnish to DRPT such documents and other information as may be required for processing the grant request.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC authorizes the executive director, or her designee, for and on behalf of NVTC:

- 1) To execute and file an application to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) for an intern grant to help support NVTC's Transit Fellows Program for FY 2024 commencing July 1, 2023 in the amount of \$50,000, with the state share provided at 80%;
- 2) To accept from DRPT and execute grants in such amounts as may be awarded; and
- 3) To furnish DRPT such documents and other information as may be required for processing the grant requests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC authorizes the executive director, or her designee, for and on behalf of NVTC:

- 4) To execute and file an application to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) for a technical assistance grant to help support NVTC's Envision Route 7 Bus Rapid Transit Planning and NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Analysis Project for FY 2024 commencing July 1, 2023 in the amount of \$1,000,000, with the state share provided at 50%;
- 5) To accept from DRPT and execute grants in such amounts as may be awarded; and
- 6) To furnish DRPT such documents and other information as may be required for processing the grant requests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC authorizes the executive director, or her designee, for and on behalf of NVTC:

- 1) To accept from DRPT and execute the grant for WMATA capital and operating purposes per Section 33.2-1526.1 of the Code of Virginia in such amounts as may be awarded; and
- 2) To furnish to DRPT such documents and other information as may be required for processing the grant request.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC certifies that the funds for all of the above grants will be used in accordance with the requirements of Section 58.1 638.A.4 of the Code of Virginia, that NVTC will provide matching funds in the ratio required by the Act, that the records of receipts of expenditures of funds granted to NVTC may be subject to audit by DRPT and

by the State Auditor of Public Accounts, and that funds granted to NVTC for defraying the public transportation expenses of NVTC shall be used only for such purposes as authorized in the Code of Virginia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC authorizes the executive director, or her designee, for and on behalf of NVTC and its members, to furnish to the Transportation Planning Board, the Commonwealth Transportation Board, and other state and federal funding agencies such documents, information, assurances and certifications as may be required for pursuing the above grant requests and continuing previously awarded grants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC authorizes the executive director, or her designee, to amend the above-described applications at the request of NVTC's member jurisdictions to include the most recent information and project costs.

Approved this 2nd day of February 2023.

Dalia Palchik
Chair

David F. Snyder
Secretary-Treasurer

NVTC**SUMMARY OF DRPT CAPITAL AND OPERATING ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS**

	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2023</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>
<u>NVTC</u>			
<u>CAPITAL ASSISTANCE (Schedule A)</u>			
Local Systems Capital			
Alexandria	\$ 5,864,589	\$ 4,830,774	\$ 1,033,815
City of Fairfax	103,000	174,457	(71,457)
Fairfax County	53,028,047	34,472,631	18,555,416
Arlington	16,785,485	3,405,800	13,379,685
Falls Church	-	-	-
Total	<u>\$ 75,781,121</u>	<u>\$ 42,883,662</u>	<u>\$ 32,897,459</u>
<u>OPERATING ASSISTANCE (Schedule B)</u>			
Local Systems Operating			
Prior Year Operating Expenses (50%)	\$ 163,953,250	\$ 145,530,874	18,422,376
Prior Year Ridership (30%)	12,614,211	15,686,308	(3,072,097)
Prior Year Vehicle Hours (10%)	1,356,410	1,274,972	81,438
Prior Year Vehicle Miles (10%)	17,774,323	15,242,604	2,531,719
<u>VRE</u>			
<u>CAPITAL ASSISTANCE (Schedule C)</u>			
State Cost	<u>\$ 32,084,000</u>	<u>\$ 5,207,198</u>	<u>\$ 26,876,802</u>
<u>OPERATING ASSISTANCE</u>			
Prior Year Operating Expenses	\$ 73,553,559	\$ 58,373,136	\$ 15,180,423
Prior Year Ridership (33.3%)	821,936	341,627	480,309
Prior Year Vehicle Hours (33.3%)	71,732	49,907	21,825
Prior Year Vehicle Miles (33.3%)	2,197,853	1,560,552	637,301
<u>OTHER ASSISTANCE (Schedule D)</u>	<u>\$ 1,150,000</u>	<u>\$ 820,000</u>	<u>\$ 330,000</u>

Notes:

Effective FY2019, NVTC does not apply for WMATA capital and operating assistance, as it receives a percentage of the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund for distribution to WMATA for capital and operating purposes (VA Code 33.2-1526.1).

SCHEDULE A**STATE TRANSIT CAPITAL ASSISTANCE
LOCAL SYSTEMS
FY2024**

	<u>Project Type</u>	<u>As Applied</u>
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA		
Replace 35-40' buses (10)	State of Good Repair	\$ 5,864,589
Replace 35" trolleys (5)	State of Good Repair	3,325,000
Total		<u>5,864,589</u>
CITY OF FAIRFAX		
Replace support vehicles (1)	State of Good Repair	40,000
Rehabilitate maintenance facility - canopy	State of Good Repair	63,000
Total		<u>103,000</u>
FAIRFAX COUNTY		
Replace shop equipment	State of Good Repair	660,000
3rd Party project management	State of Good Repair	1,100,000
Replace passenger shelters and amenities	State of Good Repair	1,200,000
Relocation of Tysons West Park Transit Center	Minor Expansion	1,800,000
Rehabilitation of Burke VRE facility	Minor Expansion	250,000
Replace 35-40' buses (45)	State of Good Repair	31,238,049
Bus mid-life cycle overhaul (19)	State of Good Repair	2,599,998
Replacement of fare box equipment	State of Good Repair	14,000,000
Replacement of support vehicles (2)	State of Good Repair	180,000
Total		<u>53,028,047</u>
ARLINGTON COUNTY		
Purchase electric buses and charging equipment (4)	Minor Expansion	4,800,000
Replace 35-40' buses (15)	State of Good Repair	11,353,485
Replace passenger shelters	State of Good Repair	632,000
Total		<u>16,785,485</u>
CITY OF FALLS CHURCH		
		-
Total		<u>-</u>
TOTAL LOCAL CAPITAL		<u>\$ 75,781,121</u>

SCHEDULE A**STATE TRANSIT CAPITAL ASSISTANCE
LOCAL SYSTEMS
FY2023**

	<u>Project Type</u>	<u>As Applied</u>
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA		
Purchase 35-40' replacement buses (8)	State of Good Repair	\$ 4,830,774
Total		<u>4,830,774</u>
CITY OF FAIRFAX		
Purchase vehicle support equipment - security	State of Good Repair	4,457
Purchase vehicle support equipment - misc.	State of Good Repair	120,000
Transit infrastructure - route signage	State of Good Repair	50,000
Total		<u>174,457</u>
FAIRFAX COUNTY		
Purchase replacement support vehicles (4)	State of Good Repair	125,000
3rd party project management - Maintenance	State of Good Repair	650,000
Replace shop equipment	State of Good Repair	660,000
Renovation of maintenance facility - Huntington	State of Good Repair	216,995
Bus stop inventory and safety program	State of Good Repair	1,200,000
Facilities equipment - fire alarm replacement West Ox	State of Good Repair	260,000
Tysons West Park Transit Center renovations	Minor Expansion	2,200,000
Rehabilitate/rebuild buses - mid-life overhaul (35)	State of Good Repair	3,850,000
Bus ITS project	Minor Expansion	1,140,000
Purchase 35-40' replacement leased diesel buses (26)	State of Good Repair	14,845,636
Purchase 35-40' replacement leased electric buses (6)	State of Good Repair	6,300,000
Purchase vehicle support equipment chargers (3)	Minor Expansion	925,000
SmarTrip program updates	State of Good Repair	2,100,000
Total		<u>34,472,631</u>
ARLINGTON COUNTY		
Bus stop shelter program	Minor Enhancement	652,000
Transit signal priority	Minor Enhancement	463,000
Bus stop accessibility improvements program	State of Good Repair	710,000
Arlington Transit ITS and security program	State of Good Repair	915,000
Transitway state of good repair	State of Good Repair	550,000
Fare collection equipment (20)	State of Good Repair	115,800
Total		<u>3,405,800</u>
CITY OF FALLS CHURCH		
		-
Total		<u>-</u>
TOTAL LOCAL CAPITAL		<u><u>\$ 42,883,662</u></u>

NVTC
STATE TRANSIT OPERATING ASSISTANCE
LOCAL SYSTEMS

SCHEDULE B

	LOCAL SYSTEMS				
	Alexandria	City of Fairfax	Fairfax County	Arlington County	Total
FY 2024					
FY2022 Operating Expenses (50%)	27,337,752	5,346,157	106,626,943	24,642,398	163,953,250
FY2022 Ridership (30%)	3,047,077	536,627	7,214,550	1,815,957	12,614,211
FY2022 Revenue Vehicle Hours (10%)	276,476	35,046	840,428	204,460	1,356,410
FY2022 Revenue Vehicle Miles (10%)	4,400,129	434,290	10,856,360	2,083,544	17,774,323
confirm percentages					
FY 2023					
FY2021 Operating Expenses (50%)	24,027,193	4,566,109	95,984,114	20,953,458	145,530,874
FY2019 Ridership (30%)	3,831,061	601,578	8,334,820	2,918,849	15,686,308
FY2019 Revenue Vehicle Hours (10%)	251,751	34,280	762,124	226,817	1,274,972
FY2019 Revenue Vehicle Miles (10%)	2,363,882	435,847	10,124,159	2,318,716	15,242,604

NVTC
STATE TRANSIT CAPITAL ASSISTANCE
VRE

SCHEDULE C

	<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Federal</u>	<u>Other Funding</u>	<u>State Cost</u>
FY2024					
Manassas Park garage and pedestrian bridge additional funding	Major Expansion	32,084,000	-	-	32,084,000
FY2023					
Crystal City Station improvements	Major Expansion	50,114,619	10,950,770	36,973,695	2,190,154
Fleet expansion coaches - 21 rail cars	Major Expansion	84,624,563	17,768,097	63,839,422	3,017,044
		<u>\$134,739,182</u>	<u>\$ 28,718,867</u>	<u>\$ 100,813,117</u>	<u>\$ 5,207,198</u>

NVTC
OTHER STATE TRANSIT ASSISTANCE

SCHEDULE D

	Eligible Costs	
	FY2024	FY2023
Workforce Development Program (Intern Program)		
NVTC fellows program	\$ 50,000	\$ 40,000
Technical Assistance		
NVTC-Envision Route 7 Bus Rapid Transit Planning and NEPA Analysis	1,000,000	-
City of Fairfax-CUE Transit Development Plan and Zero-Fare Evaluation	100,000	-
NVTC Regional Zero-Emission Bus Strategic Plan	-	480,000
NVTC Regional Bus Transit Analysis	-	300,000
	<u>\$ 1,150,000</u>	<u>\$ 820,000</u>

TO: Chair Palchik and NVTC Commissioners
FROM: Kate Mattice, Ben Owen and Adam Hager
DATE: February 2, 2023
SUBJECT: Commuter Choice Program

A. I-395/95 Commuter Choice FY 2024-FY 2025 Summary of Applications Received

The application period for the I-395/95 Commuter Choice FY 2024-2025 Call for Projects closed at the end of the day on Friday, January 27. In total, NVTC received 18 project applications from seven applicants. The cumulative \$110 million funding request is the largest to date in any funding round in either the I-66 or I-395/95 corridor.

Approximately \$45-48 million will be available for the FY 2024-2025 Program of Projects. Within this amount, approximately \$16 million will be available for transit operations, as the [I-395/95 Corridor Memorandum of Agreement](#) (MOA) limits the overall share of program funds that may be allocated to this category of expense. To maximize the program's support for transit service improvements, NVTC defines transit operations narrowly, to comprise the labor and materials costs directly related to operating service.

The 18 applications include:

- Nine bus service improvements, all but one of which are proposed continuations of improvements funded initially in prior funding rounds;
- Three bus capital improvements, comprising support for construction of a bus rapid transit line, a bus-only lane project and a project to procure larger buses for a high-ridership bus route serving the corridor;
- Three rail capital expansions, namely improvements to stations in the corridor;
- One commuter rail service improvement;
- One park and ride lot construction project; and
- One transportation demand management strategy, entailing a fare buy-down campaign to expand corridor commuters' rail service options.

Table 1 below identifies the applications in alphabetical order.

Table 1: I-395/95 Commuter Choice FY 2024-2025 Applications

Applicant	Application Title	Funding Requested
Arlington County	Metrobus 16M Service Enhancement: Skyline to Crystal City	\$6,400,000
DASH	DASH Line 35 Service Enhancement: Van Dorn Street Station to the Pentagon (<i>Continuation</i>)	\$7,290,000
DASH	DASH Line 36A/B Service Enhancement: Mark Center to Potomac Yard-VT Station (<i>Continuation</i>)	\$3,774,000
DASH	DASH Line 35 Bus Fleet Capacity Expansion: Van Dorn Street Station to the Pentagon	\$14,740,000
Fairfax County	Fairfax Connector Route 396: Backlick North Park and Ride to the Pentagon (<i>Continuation</i>)	\$1,750,915
Fairfax County	Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit Implementation: Fort Belvoir to Huntington Station	\$20,000,000
Fredericksburg Regional Transit	FRED Central Station Park and Ride Lot Construction	\$869,349
OmniRide	OmniRide Route D-200 Service Enhancement: Dale City to Ballston (<i>Continuation</i>)	\$304,626
OmniRide	OmniRide Prince William Metro Express Service Enhancement: Dale City to Franconia-Springfield Station (<i>Continuation</i>)	\$671,677
OmniRide	OmniRide Route 1 Local Service Enhancement: Quantico to Woodbridge Station (<i>Continuation</i>)	\$755,019
OmniRide	OmniRide Route 543: Staffordboro to Downtown Washington, D.C. (<i>Continuation</i>)	\$1,025,441
OmniRide	OmniRide Route 942: Staffordboro to the Pentagon (<i>Continuation</i>)	\$1,638,926
Prince William County	Dale Blvd. Bus Priority Improvements: Dale City Commuter Lot to Interstate 95	\$8,500,000
Virginia Railway Express	TDM Strategy: Amtrak Step-Up Reinstatement on VRE Fredericksburg and Manassas Lines	\$1,897,445
Virginia Railway Express	VRE Fredericksburg and Manassas Line Service Enhancement	\$9,200,767
Virginia Railway Express	Crystal City Station Expansion	\$18,786,281
Virginia Railway Express	Alexandria Station Expansion	\$5,710,322
Virginia Railway Express	Franconia-Springfield Station Expansion	\$6,449,948
Total Funding Request		\$109,764,716

B. I-395/95 Commuter Choice FY 2024-2025 Program of Projects Development Process

Staff anticipate approval of a Program of Projects by the Commission (NVTC), the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) this June. Key steps in the process are shown in Table 2. Staff have already commenced the

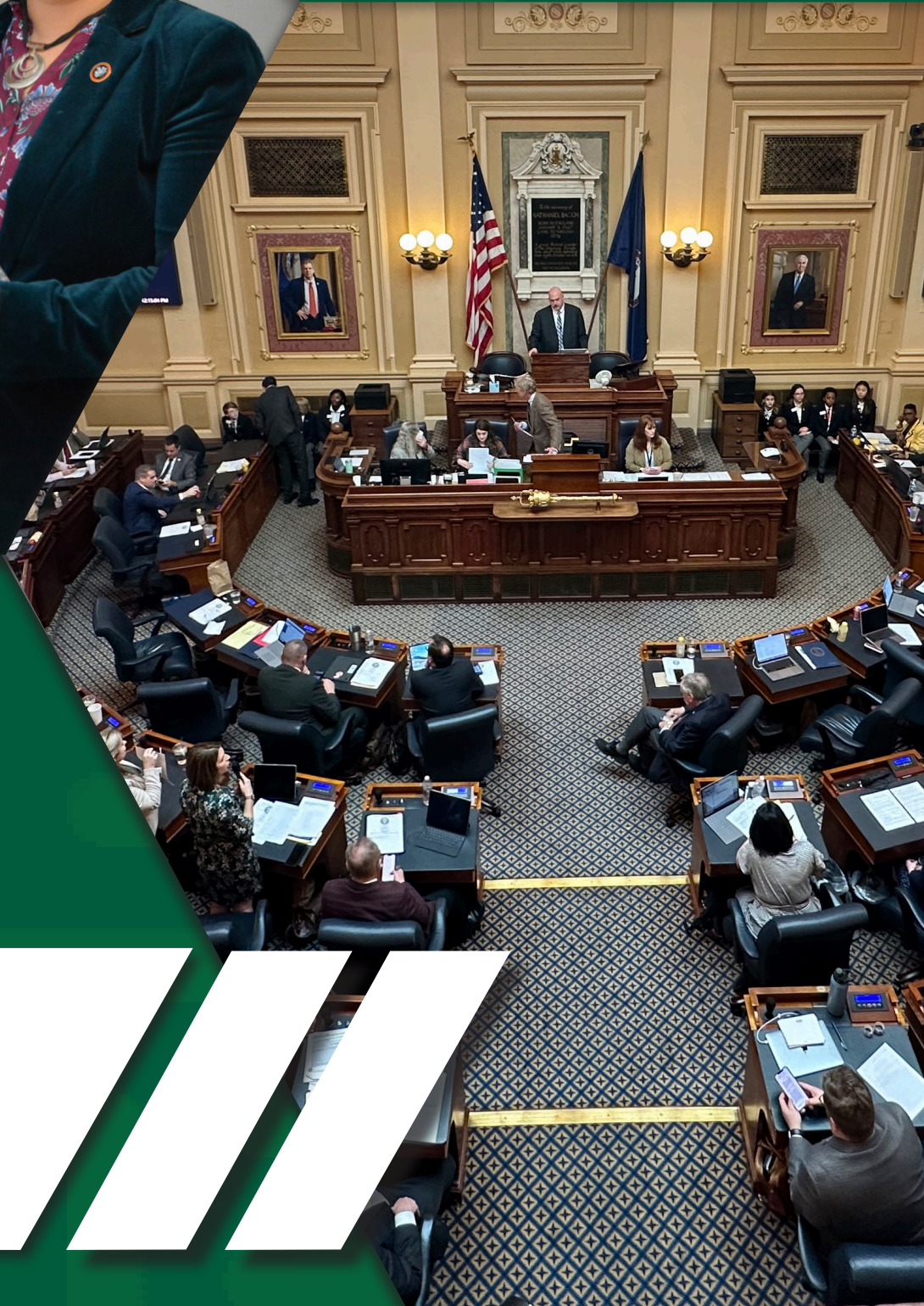
eligibility review to ensure that project applications meet requirements of the [I-395/95 MOA](#) and program policy, as outlined in the [Commuter Choice Recipient Handbook](#).

**Table 2: I-395/95 Commuter Choice
FY 2024-2025 Program of Projects Development Steps**

Month	Activity
February	<p><u>Eligibility Review</u></p> <p>Mid-month, staff will contact applicants to resolve application eligibility questions and other needed clarifications. Towards the end of the month, staff will notify applicants of any applications that do not align with MOA requirements or program policy. (For more complex projects seeking at least \$5 million in program funding for construction activities, final eligibility determinations will await reviews of the projects’ readiness to begin construction within two years if funded; these reviews will be complete in March.)</p>
March	<p><u>Scoring</u></p> <p>On March 2, staff will present the preliminary eligibility determinations to the Commissions. Later in March, draft scores for all eligible applications will be shared with applicants to ensure projects’ proposed anticipated benefits have been accurately captured.</p>
April	<p><u>Public Comment</u></p> <p>The public comment period will open mid-month. The public comment process, including public engagement, will be primarily online and applicants will be asked to help spread the word about the comment opportunity. Staff will produce English and Spanish versions of all materials and conduct targeted advertising in both languages.</p> <p>The NVTC-PRTC Joint Commission Working Group (JCWG) will convene to identify and endorse a draft Program of Projects, pending the public comments received, that will also be shared with the full Commissions and the CTB in May to help inform their decision-making.</p>
May	<p><u>Program Development</u></p> <p>The public comment period will conclude mid-month.</p> <p>Staff will brief the Commissions in early May on the technical evaluation results and JCWG-endorsed draft Program of Projects. Staff will also brief the CTB’s Rail and Transit Subcommittee on the proposed projects and their scores. Following input from the public, Commissions and CTB, staff will identify the specific set of projects that will be brought forward for adoption in June.</p>
June	<p><u>Program Approval</u></p> <p>On June 1, the Commissions will consider and adopt a Program of Projects and refer it to the CTB for final approval as a component of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation’s Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Following approval of the SYIP, staff will begin executing Standard Project Agreements for funded projects.</p>



Executive Director Newsletter



@NoVaTransit

NoVaTransit.org

NoVaRides.org

Northern Virginia
Transportation Commission
2300 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 230
Arlington, VA 22201

February 2023



A Message from Kate Mattice

Like the arrival of the four seasons, the Virginia General Assembly Session comes each January, ushering in fresh debate over the policies and priorities of the Commonwealth. For NVTC, our partner jurisdictions and transit agencies, this means an active period of ensuring that we advocate for our legislative agendas and watch out for any bills that might have a negative impact on operations or funding.

We also work to make our presence known. I joined a number of NVTC staff and transit leaders from across Virginia in Richmond for Transit Advocacy Day in January. It was a time to meet key lawmakers on both sides of the aisle and remind them of the importance of public transit and the economic benefits it brings to the Commonwealth. Staff also had the opportunity to visit and ride Richmond's signature bus rapid transit system, The Pulse, which gave our staff a sneak peek at a highly successful BRT system.

Unlike some recent years, this has been a relatively quiet session regarding matters of importance to the work we do. However, there is one key bill that would make a beneficial change in the funding formula for Virginia Railway Express, making it similar to the approach used for Metro. This bill passed out of both chambers in January and we anticipate Gov. Glenn Youngkin will sign it into law. We also saw some legislative threats that would decrease the revenues in the overall Commonwealth Transportation Fund. As of this writing, all of those appear to have been voted down in committee.

As always, we give tremendous thanks to our Northern Virginia delegations in the House and Senate. These members have a deep understanding of the importance of public transit to our region and are faithful advocates in Richmond. We are lucky to have them on our side.


Executive Director

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*Save
the
Date*

February 17

VRE Operations Board

February 21-22

Commonwealth
Transportation Board

March 2

Commission Meeting

March 17

VRE Operations Board

March 28-29

Commonwealth
Transportation Board

NoVaTransit.org

NoVaRides.org



@NoVaTransit





Commission swears in new Chair, officers for 2023

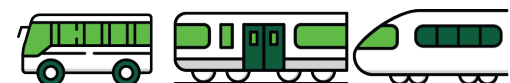
The Commission welcomed NVTC's first Latina chair, Dalia Palchik of Fairfax County, at its first [meeting](#) of the year. Immediate Past Chair Canek Aguirre swore in his successor as well as new officers for the 2023 term. They are Vice-Chair Matt de Ferranti from Arlington County and Secretary-Treasurer David Snyder from the City of Falls Church.

In addition, the Commission renewed the appointment of Supervisor Matt Letourneau from Loudoun County to the Metro Board of Directors for a four-year term and appointed Sarah Bagley from the City of Alexandria as chair of the NVTC Program Advisory Committee. The Commission also passed a resolution thanking Mr. Aguirre for his dedicated service as chair.



NVTC publishes 2023 annual report and video

NVTC published its annual report, [Advancing Transit: 2022 Year in Review](#), and a companion [video](#) in January, highlighting NVTC's financial management and accomplishments for the year. The report covers the major work of each of our programs: Commuter Choice, Transit Resource Center, Transit Technology and WMATA, as well as our co-ownership of Virginia Railway Express, our leadership on legislative and policy issues, communications efforts and awards.



Virginia Transit Advocacy Day returns in full force

Executive Director Kate Mattice joined Commissioners and many NVTC staff members in Richmond January 23 for the return of the in-person Virginia Transit Advocacy Day, sponsored by the Virginia Transit Association ([VTA](#)). It's a day to remind legislators about the importance of investing in public transit to keep Virginia an inviting place to live, work, study and play. Representatives of NVTC and transit agencies from across the Commonwealth filled the galleries of the House and [Senate](#) as they were gaveled into session at noon.

Throughout the day, Kate met with key lawmakers while staff took the opportunity to ride [GRTC's Pulse](#), the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system that provides high quality bus service with enhanced bus shelters and dedicated bus lanes in parts of the city. That tour was especially useful for members of our team working on planning the [Envision Route 7](#) BRT here in Northern Virginia.

The day wrapped up with Metro GM/CEO Randy Clarke briefing elected officials from NoVa and then a reception in the stunning Main Street Station.





SENATE CHAMBER







Welcome to our newest Transit Fellow

NVTC welcomed Nathan Varnell as our newest Transit Fellow in January. Hailing from Dallas, Texas, Nathan is pursuing a Master of Public Administration degree and certification in Budget and Public Finance at George Washington University. At NVTC, Nathan is supporting marketing campaigns and digital strategy on the Communications team to expand the Commission's public presence. This

work will advance ongoing efforts to increase the reach of NVTC's research and convey the successes of investment in the region to local audiences. NVTC thanks the Department of Rail and Public Transportation for its ongoing support of NVTC's Transit Fellow program, which seeks to prepare the next generation of transportation professionals.





WMATA Committee reviews proposed Metro budgets in light of future budget gaps



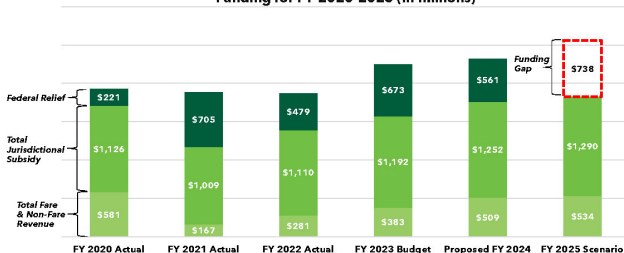
NVTC'S WMATA Committee met [January 25](#) to set its agenda for 2023 and discussed Northern Virginia's approach to Metro's [FY 2024](#) operations and capital budgets and the FY 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). While Metro GM/CEO Randy Clarke has proposed a balanced budget for FY 2024, the agency faces a projected deficit of \$738 million in FY 2025. The shortfall reflects structural challenges to the operating budget that were accelerated by declines in ridership due to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the exhaustion of federal relief funds.

Committee members discussed Metro's plan to simplify and optimize the rail fare structure, which includes the elimination of peak and off-peak fares and consideration of the base fare, maximum fare and per-mile cost to ride Metrorail. As part of Metro's public comment process, the Committee will draft and authorize a letter to submit to Metro outlining our jurisdictions' priorities for the budget.

Committee members also reviewed the CIP, which includes acquisition of the next generation of railcars and reducing the state of good repair backlog.

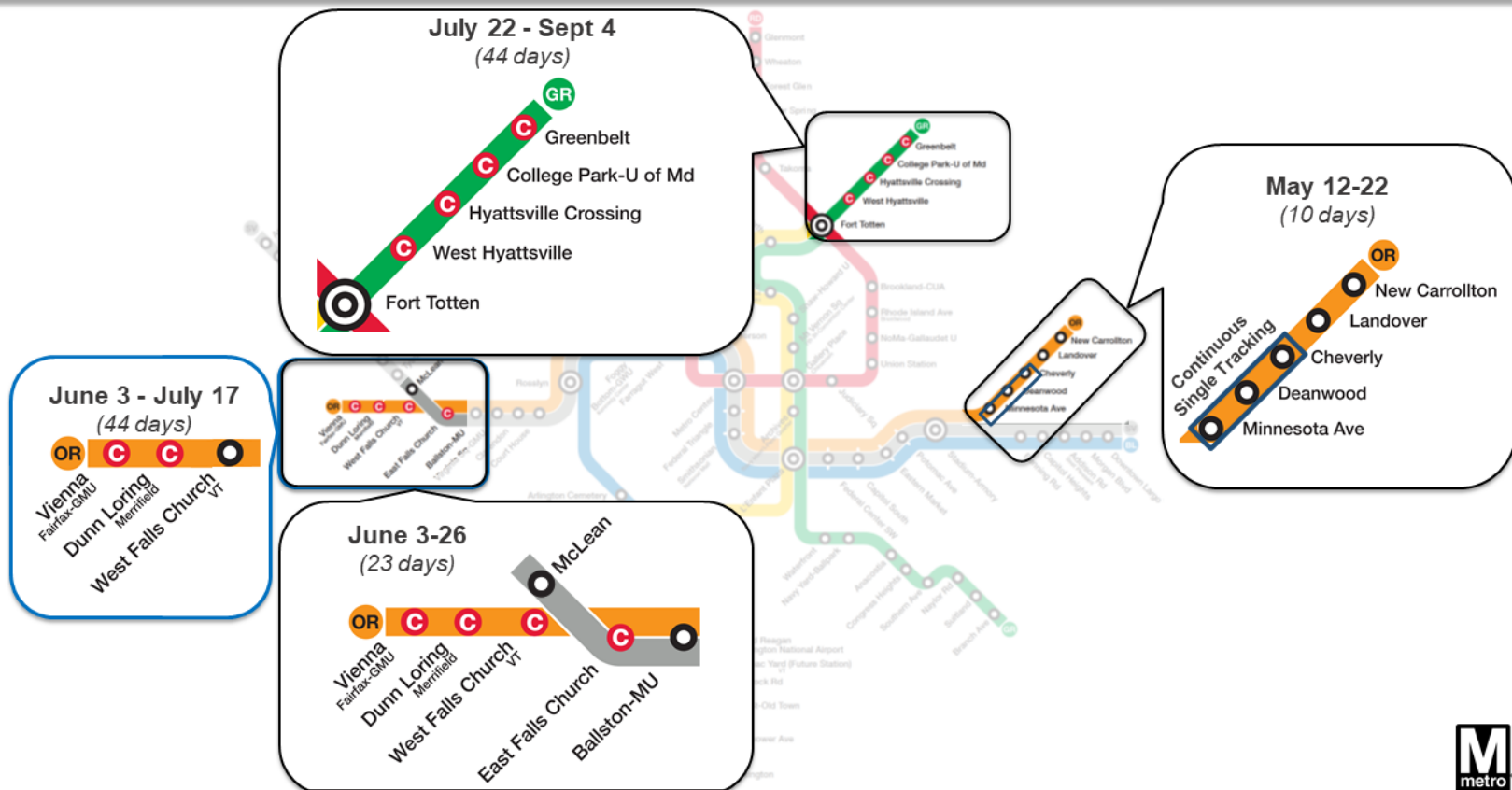
Background

WMATA's Actual, Budgeted and Projected Operating Sources of Funding for FY 2020-2025 (in millions)



Public Hearings

Metro's Board of Directors met the following day and authorized the public hearing process for the budgets and CIP. We'll share details about how to share your comments and the anticipated Virginia public meeting when Metro makes them public.



Meanwhile, Virginia Board member [Matt Letourneau](#) noted that NVTC will be developing an updated Value of Northern Virginia's Transit Network to the Commonwealth study. This effort will quantify and visualize the overall economic benefits and revenue that bolster the Commonwealth due to investments in Northern Virginia's transit systems and will build on the [previous report](#) which we released in 2017.

Metro Enhanced Maintenance Work

The same week, Metro announced a host of enhanced maintenance work projects that will shut Metrorail stations across the system this summer. That includes impacts to the Orange and Silver Lines in Northern Virginia. The NoVa impacts start June 3 and finish July 17. The first phase includes a 23-day shutdown from Ballston to McLean and Vienna stations and the second phase shuts down the Orange Line from West Falls Church to Vienna stations for an additional 21 days. Metro says, "The Infrastructure team will focus on replacing 40-year-old steel rail that

has become significantly more susceptible to rail breaks than rail in any other part of the system. Metro has been tracking rail breaks in the system to identify priority locations for replacement and has determined the rail in this stretch of track to be a top priority."

At January's WMATA Committee meeting, Board members Paul Smedberg and Matt Letourneau noted that the rails date back to the opening of the Metro system and that a continuous shutdown will allow Metro to complete the work much faster than trying to do it during nights or weekends.

Increased Train Frequency

Metro GM/CEO Clarke announced increased Metrorail service that includes reduced headways on the Blue, Blue+ and Orange Lines starting February 7. Trains will run every 12 minutes during peak hours on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.





Staff attend Transportation Research Board annual meeting

Transit Resource Center Senior Program Manager Xavier Harmony and Commuter Choice Senior Program Analyst Adam Hager attended the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) 102nd [Annual Meeting](#) the week of January 9 at the Washington Convention Center where they heard the latest in cutting edge transit, technology, and transportation policy research. In addition to dozens of engaging presentations from academics and professionals around the

world, Xavier and Adam attended a fireside chat with U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg and U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm to learn about the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation, a newly established office to coordinate the implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

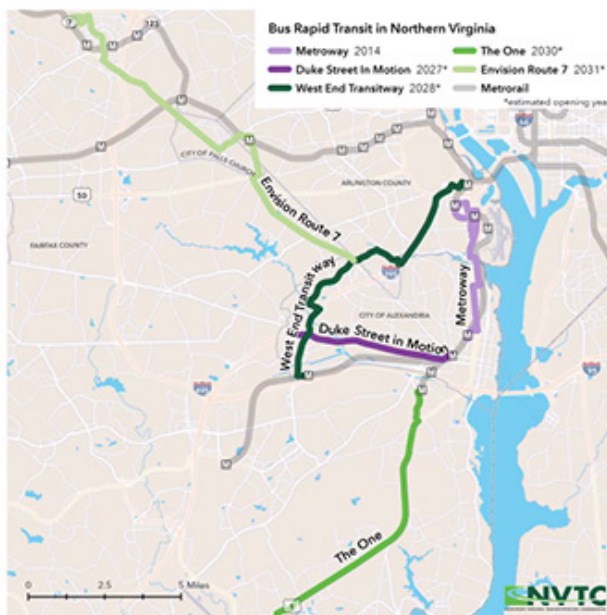


Webinar asks, "What's up with the bus in NoVa?"

NVTC co-hosted a webinar January 20 with the [Coalition for Smarter Growth](#) (CSG) entitled "What's up with the bus in NoVa?" It was an opportunity to look at recent accomplishments by our Northern Virginia bus systems and to preview future bus service and analytical work. NVTC Director of Programs and Policy Allan Fye helped kick off the event by providing an overview of NVTC's work to improve and expand bus service.

Transit Resource Senior Program Manager Xavier Harmony then pulled double duty discussing

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) plans in NoVa, including the NVTC-led [Envision Route 7](#) project, which will connect Tysons and Alexandria, by way of Falls Church and Seven Corners. Xavier then gave a preview of NVTC's planned Regional Bus Analysis looking at how our bus systems can collectively create a network to best serve Northern Virginia. The webinar also included an overview of Metro's [Bus Network Redesign](#) and updates from [DASH](#) and [Fairfax Connector](#). NVTC thanks CSG Executive Director Stewart Schwartz for his efforts in putting together the program.

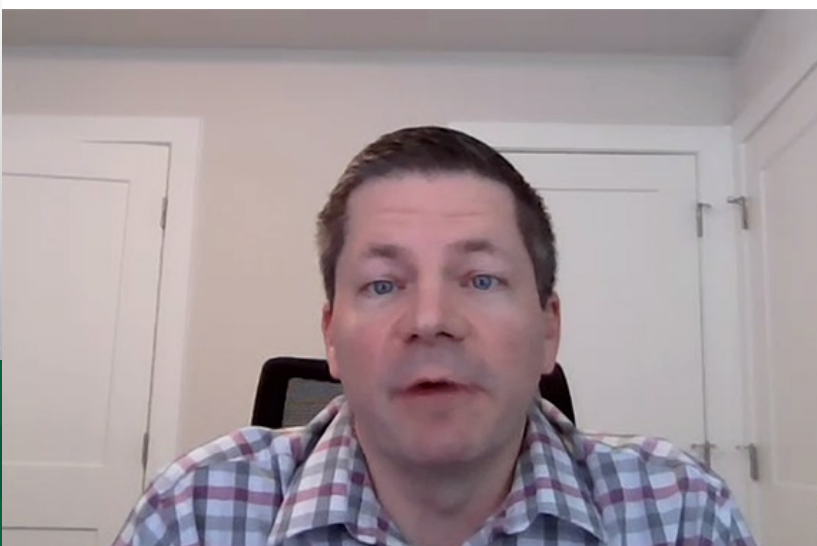


What is the region working towards?



• The end goal is a network of high-capacity transit that helps people move around the region

- More reliably;
- More efficiently;
- More equitably, and;
- In a more environmentally friendly way





Executive Director Kate Mattice travelled to Hawaii in January, where she enjoyed the sights and continued to take calls, despite the five hour time difference. Even though Kate was 5,000 miles from Northern Virginia, she was never far away from transit, as you can see in these pictures from her trip. Kate also checked out the under-construction Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART), a 20-mile, automated fixed-guideway rail system with 21 stations that she says reminded her very much of Metro's Silver Line.







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

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