

Combined  
Blue Items/Handouts  
for  
July 6, 2023  
NVTC Meeting

# Northern Virginia Transportation Commission

Randy Clarke, WMATA GM and CEO  
July 6, 2023



# Last August, We Set Out To Accomplish:

## Must-Achieve “Big Wins”

- ✓ 7000-series return/increase frequencies
- ✓ Silver Line Opening
- ✓ Bus Transformation/ Network Redesign
- ✓ FY24 Budget Approval (Closed Budget Gap)
- ✓ Board Approved Strategic Transformation Plan
- ✓ Potomac Yard/VT Station Opening
- ✓ Station Rehabilitation Completion (Orange Line)

## Customer Service “Big Wins”

- ✓ Signage Improvement (Physical /Digital)
- ✓ Cleanliness (Trains and Buses)
- ✓ Fare Enforcement (Citations/ Fare Gate Mod)
- ✓ Customer Service Training
- ✓ More 8-Car Trains/High Frequency Routes
- ✓ Body Worn Cameras Program Deployment
- ✓ More Consistent Customer Communications
- ✓ Increase Enforcement of Bus Lanes/Steps

**Rail  
Customer  
Satisfaction**  
**68%**  
**(July 2022)**



**Rail Customer  
Satisfaction**  
**84%**  
**HISTORIC HIGH**  
**(June 2023)**

**Bus Customer Satisfaction 69% to 71%**

## Your Metro, The Way Forward

Strategic Transformation Plan



Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
February 2023



## Your Metro: The Way Forward

Our vision is to be the region's trusted way to move more people safely and sustainably.

Here's how we can reach it together:



**SERVICE EXCELLENCE** Deliver safe, reliable, convenient, and enjoyable service for all customers.



**REGIONAL OPPORTUNITY AND PARTNERSHIP** Design transit service to move more people and connect a growing region.



**SUSTAINABILITY** Manage resources responsibly to achieve a sustainable operating, capital, and environmental model.



**TALENTED TEAMS** Attract, develop, and retain top talent where individuals feel valued, supported, and proud of their contribution.

#YourMetro





## Customer Highlights

- ✓ Increased bus and rail services
- ✓ Simplifies fares for customers
- ✓ New Metro Lift low-income fare program
- ✓ Caps Metro Access fares at \$4
- ✓ Furthers the Better Bus Initiative and enhances safety measures
- ✓ Zero-Emission Bus Transition
- ✓ 8000-Series Fleet of the Future
- ✓ Expanded bus service including the new 16M route to National Landing and the return of the 11Y route from Mt. Vernon to DC

# FY23: **A BUSY YEAR FOR METRO**



**73%**

increase in  
train trips

**22**

miles of  
new track

**105%**

increase in customer  
engagement  
responses

**7**

new stations  
systemwide

**1M**

SmarTrip® cards  
in wallet

**300+**

MTPD community  
events

**92.5%**

on-time MetroAccess  
pickup performance

**16%**

increase in rail satisfaction  
and 2% increase in  
bus satisfaction

**21**

new escalators

**33%**

exceeded goal on  
Federal Diverse  
Business  
Enterprise

**1,299**

new hires including  
605 new bus and rail  
operators

**\$100M**

invested in  
transit-oriented  
development

12,000 employees. Countless achievements.

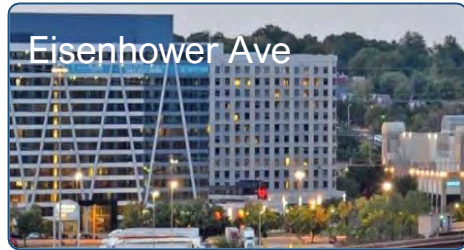
**ONE** Metro.

## Recent Ridership Trends

- ✓ Over 1.8M trips to and from Silver Line Phase 2 stations since opening and 610,000 trips to and from Washington Dulles International Airport Station
- ✓ McLean Station seeing around 1,000 additional entries in middle of weekday largely due to Capital One return to office policy
- ✓ Potomac Yard-VT Station seeing about 1,000 entries per weekday and 800+ entries on weekends
- ✓ On June 6<sup>th</sup>, Metro reached a post-pandemic ridership record with 802,000 rail and bus trips systemwide
- ✓ July 4<sup>th</sup> rail ridership reached 410,000 station entries, a level not seen since 2015
  - 86,000 customers travelled through Rosslyn Tunnel and 43,000 over the Yellow Line Bridge
  - i.e. Franconia-Springfield 11,000 entries and exits, up 51% from Tuesdays in June



# Metro and the Region are Growing Together



## Within ½ mile of Metrorail stations and bus stops in the Compact area:

- 60% of population • 2.8M people
- 70% of jobs • 1.7M jobs
- 50% of employers • 134,400 businesses

## The ½ mile around Metrorail stations is just 3% of the region's land but contains:

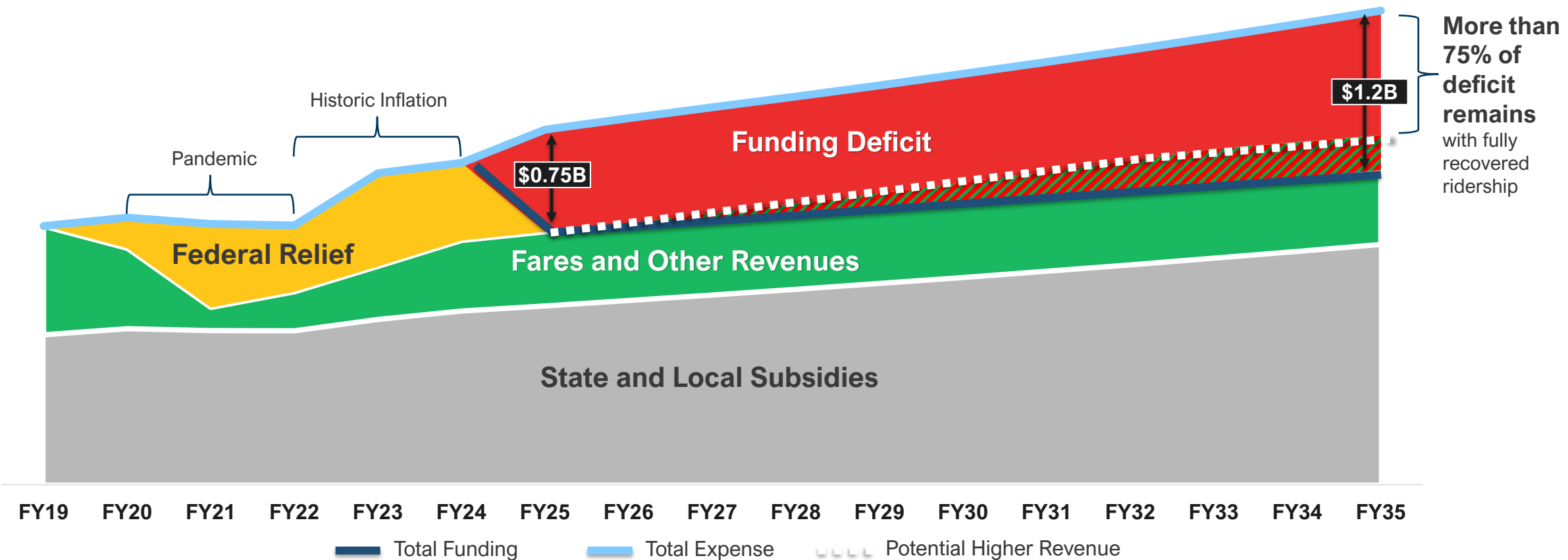
- 30% of property value • \$328B
- 40% of jobs
- 65% of new office development
- 50% of new apartments
- 25% of affordable housing
- 13 Fortune 500 headquarters

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau (2020, 2021); MWCOC Multifamily Rental Housing Construction Indicators Report (Oct. 2022); MWCOC Commercial Construction Indicators Report (Jun. 2022)

## The Path Forward

- Thanks to federal operating funding, FY24 budget was passed with little impact to customers
- Facing unprecedented shortfalls exceeding \$750M starting with the upcoming FY25 budget, which begins July 1, 2024
  - Largely due to loss of federal operating funding, increased costs, and reduced revenue and ridership as a result of the pandemic
- Dedicated Capital Funding fully obligated to debt service by FY30
- Need help from the entire region to identify solutions together

# FY2025: Unprecedented Operating Deficits Begin



Projection as of June 2023



# FY2025 \$750M Deficit Drivers in Detail

## Jurisdiction Subsidy Credit

**\$196M**

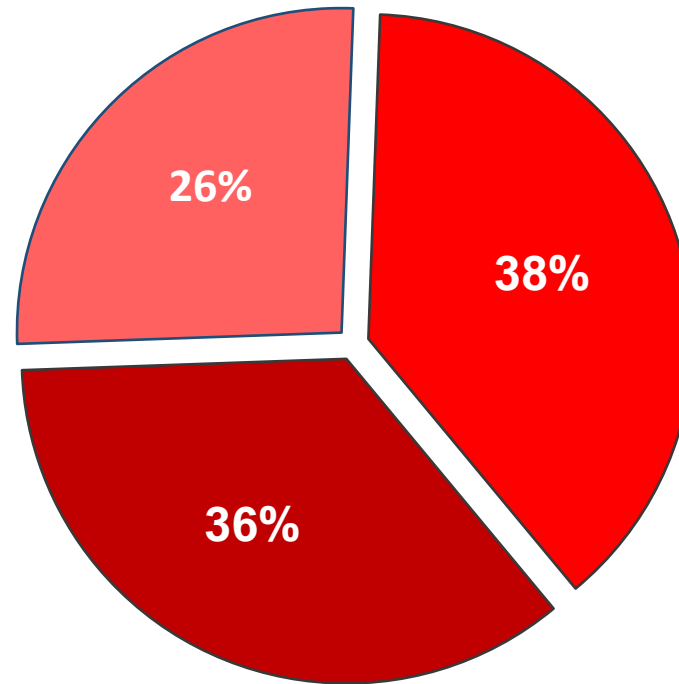
At the onset of the pandemic, Metro provided support to jurisdictions in the form of a subsidy reduction and forgone 3% increases.

## Inflation & Collective Bargaining Agreements

**\$266M**

Metro's contractual commitments and inflation soared by 10% in one year during the pandemic and FY2025 outlook assumes continued inflation of approximately 5%. Inflation from FY2024 to FY2025 grew on average about 5%.

## FY2025 Operating Gap



## Decreased Revenue Since Pandemic

**\$288M**

Overall ridership forecast to be approximately 25% below pre-pandemic levels along with greater prevalence of shorter distance trips outside of weekdays. Parking and advertising revenues also impacted.

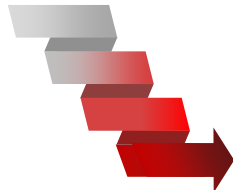
# Balancing Budget with Service Cuts Would Devastate Region

### Impacts of a 67% cut to Metro

- Worse service, quality, security, and accessibility
- Stops ridership recovery; below current capacity needs

Could serve only **300,000** rail and **200,000** bus trips a day

- Triggers transit **death spiral**



Ridership Impact

**-95M** (-40%)



FTE Impact

**-5,300** (-41%)



Operating Budget Impact

Expense

**-\$947M** (-37%)

Revenue

**-\$197M** (-37%)

Net

**-\$750M**

Deficit

**\$0**

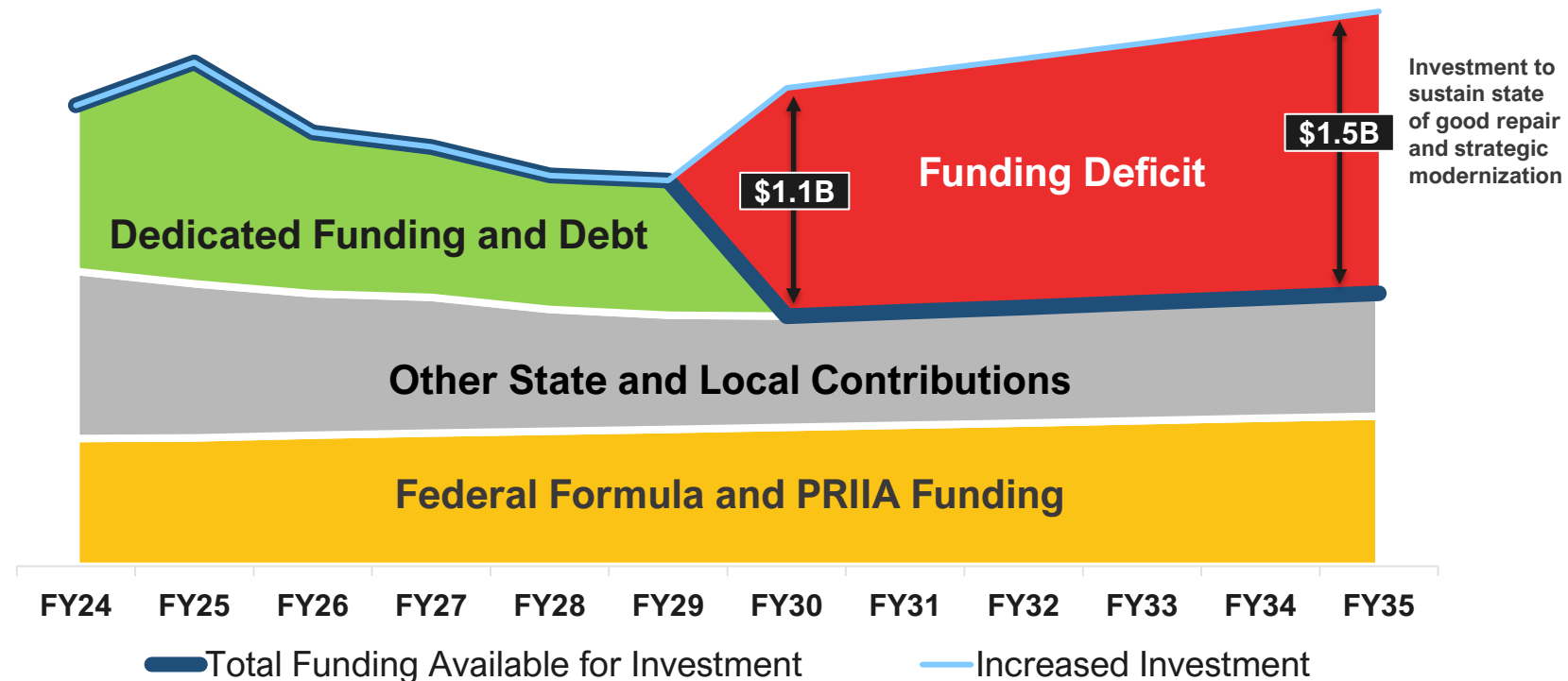
*Assumes Full Jurisdictional Subsidy*

Note: amounts may not sum due to independent rounding

# Capital Funding Deficit Approaching

**Dedicated capital funding borrowing capacity projected to be exhausted in FY2029** and new capital funding will be needed to address ongoing system safety, renewal and modernization needs

Projected Capital Investment Needs and Funding (\$M)



# Thank You!



# FY23 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: ONE METRO

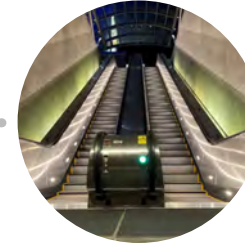


## METRORAIL

↑  
73%

RIDERSHIP ON THE RISE  
Over  
**50%**  
Recovered

- 11 service improvements since July 2022
- 73% increase in train trips
- Returned 6000-series fleet to service
- Opened six new Silver Line Stations
- Added 22 miles of track
- Opened Potomac Yard/VT Station
- Reopened the Yellow Line on time and under budget
- Installed 21 new escalators
- Advanced Automated Train Operations testing on the Red Line



## METROBUS AND METROACCESS

- 92.5% on-time MetroAccess pickup performance
- Broke ground on Northern and Bladensburg Bus Zero-Emission Garage
- Installed electric bus charging infrastructure to support future electric bus fleet
- Accelerated our commitment to transition to 100 percent zero-emission bus fleet by 2042
- Launched the Bus Network Redesign and reduced timeline by two years
- Advanced Clear Lanes program with DDOT to help optimize Metrobus routes
- Initiated new fare box rollout on all buses
- Rolled out new buses featuring updated customer amenities
- Supported resolution of labor conflict to ensure MetroAccess customer service delivery



RIDERSHIP ON THE RISE  
**80%**  
Recovered

## GOING DIGITAL

**1M**  
cards

- Reached 1,000,000 SmarTrip® cards in Wallet

## LISTENING TO OUR CUSTOMERS

- Launched 8000-series fleet of the future design studio for customer feedback
- Hosted several Meet the Team chats to hear from customers in stations
- Piloted a new fare gate design to inform decision on fare gate modernization
- Increased our public engagement for the FY24 budget by more than 50%
- Increased rail customer satisfaction scores by 16% points in last quarter
- Increased customer center engagement responses by 105%
- Eliminated \$2 SmarTrip® card fee for Senior Citizens and Metro Lift



**16%**  
increase in  
customer  
satisfaction



## IN THE STATIONS

- Completed station modernization Orange Line Platform efforts
- Advanced systemwide digital signage modernization
- Improved stations cleanliness and brightness



## MAKING METRO SAFER

- Rolled out body-worn cameras for all sworn MTPD officers
- Held more than 300 MTPD community events
- Increased fare enforcement systemwide by 525%
- Provided Narcan and trained sworn MTPD officers to disseminate for lifesaving measures
- Increased officer presence through regional law enforcement safety program
- Increased cameras infrastructure systemwide
- Region leading case closure rate
- Hired Crisis Intervention Specialists

300+  
events



## TIES TO OUR COMMUNITIES

- Worked with Amazon Housing Equity Fund on their \$100M investment in four joint developments, creating 1,000 units of affordable housing that will remain affordable for 99 years
- Closed on three transit-oriented development projects, making transit accessibility a cornerstone of these projects at Grosvenor, Bethesda, and the Jackson Graham Building

\$100M  
towards  
transit-oriented  
development



## BEHIND THE SCENES

- Broke ground on Hitachi Rail facility where 8000-series fleet of the future railcars will be built
- Opened a new Transit Accessibility Center
- Advanced Metro's Eisenhower Ave building which will be home to Metro's Integrated Command and Communications Center
- Hired over 1,299 new employees, including 605 new bus and rail operators
- Hired Metro Ambassadors
- Hired first Diversity and Inclusion Officer and Customer Experience Officer
- Set up Transformation Office to support Strategic Transformation initiatives
- Opened L'Enfant Plaza Headquarters and New Carrollton building
- Exceeded Federal Diverse Business Enterprise (DBE) goal by 33%

1299  
new employees



12,000 employees. Countless achievements.

# ONE Metro.



# Zero- and Reduced-Fare Policy

## A Northern Virginia and National Perspective

July 2023

# A Tale of Transit Fare Policies: Northern Virginia's Seven Bus Providers

## Loudoun County Transit

- Employer Transit Benefits
- Local Routes \$1
- Kids 10 and Under (Local Routes)\*

## Fairfax CUE

- All Routes\*\*

## Fairfax Connector

- Employer Transit Benefits
- Adults 65 and Older
- Low-Income Households\*\*
- People with Disabilities
- Fairfax Grade 7-12 Students
- Kids 12 and Under\*

## OmniRide

- Employer Transit Benefits
- Adults 60 and Older
- People with Disabilities
- Local Routes

### Key

- Full Fare
- Reduced Fare
- Zero Fare

## Arlington Transit (ART)

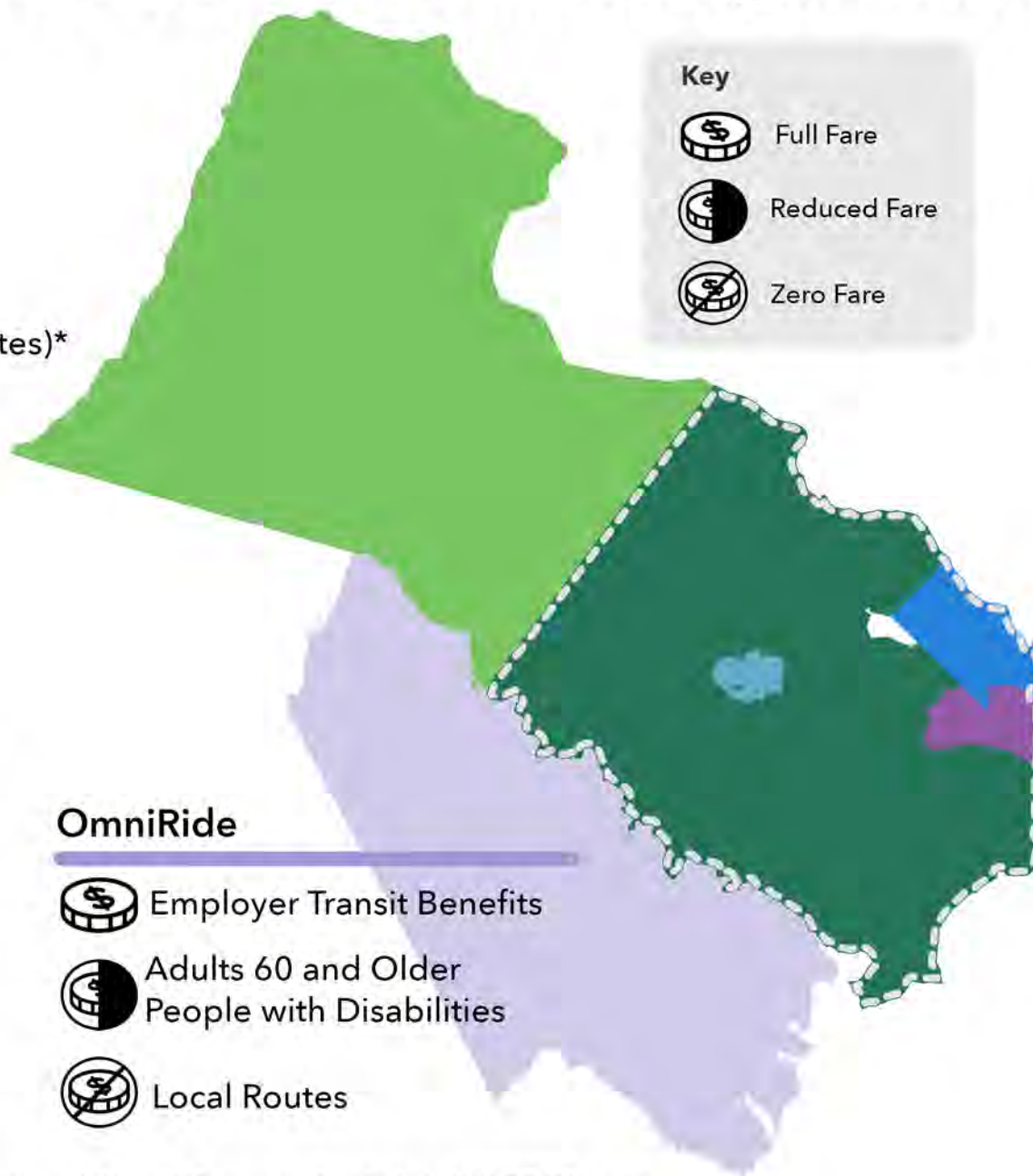
- Employer Transit Benefits
- Adults 65 and Older
- People with Disabilities
- Arlington K-12 Students

## DASH

- All Routes\*\*

## Metrobus

- Employer Transit Benefits
- Adults 65 and Older
- Low-Income Households
- People with Disabilities
- DC K-12 Students



# Considerations for Fare Policy

- Would eliminating fares remove existing funding sources from employers, universities, or schools?
- What percentage of the budget is funded from fare revenue?
- How much does it cost to operate and maintain the fare collection system?
- What are your goals for eliminating fares?



Source: TCRP Research Report 237: Fare-Free Transit Evaluation Framework, <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/read/26732/chapter/2#3>

# What's Happening Nationwide?

Zero fares but unresolved issues...

## MASS TRANSIT

TECHNOLOGY > FARE COLLECTION

### AZ: Tucson public transit fares to stay free through 2023

The City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to extend the moratorium on fares as it waits for buy-in from other regional entities to raise enough money to keep the local transportation system permanently free for riders.

By Nicole Ludden

Source The Arizona Daily Star, Tucson (TNS)

## THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Part of the McClatchy Media Network

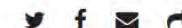
News Sports Chiefs Politics Opinion Personal Finance Betting Obituaries KC City Guide BBQ Passport Detour • Noticias Shopping

LOCAL

### Long waits, few routes: Even with ZeroFare, does Kansas City's bus system work for riders?

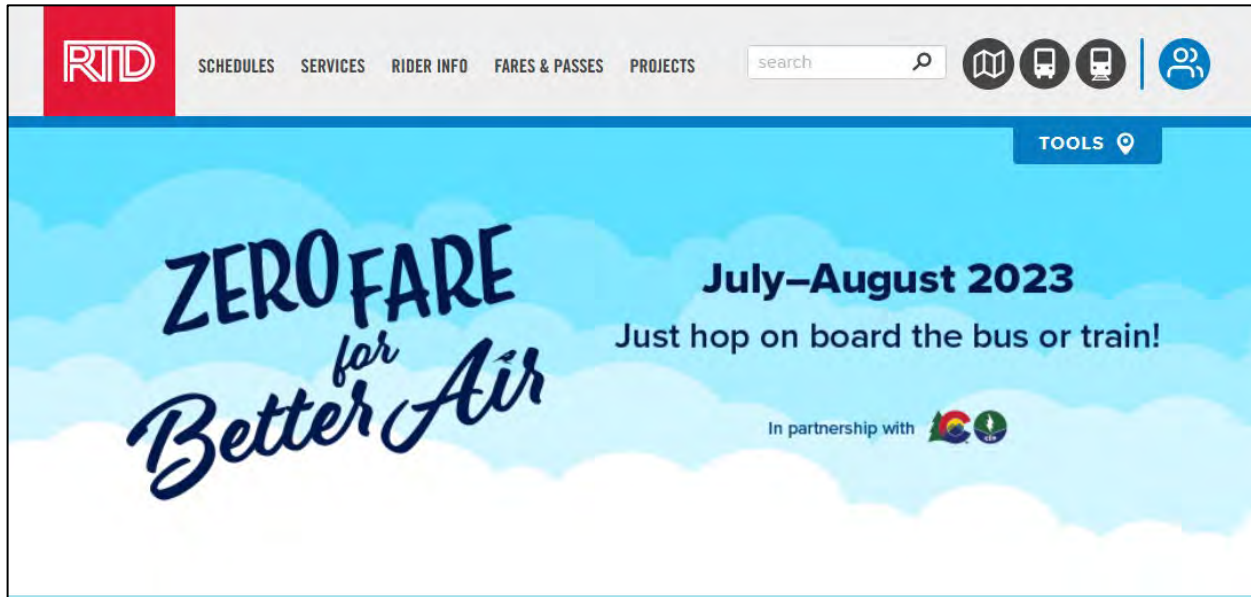
BY KYNALA PHILLIPS

UPDATED JUNE 15, 2022 11:36 AM



# What's Happening Nationwide?

Or focused programs to reduce, remove or shift responsibility for fares



SEPTA **key** advantage

#### WHAT IS IT

A universal benefit program, offering deeply discounted All-Access Passes for employees and college/university students, purchased electronically for 6 month terms

"We modeled it to be based on what we expect to be revenue neutral for SEPTA. And then over time we hope to capture the additional ridership and revenue as we **induce demand from additional people who want to ride now that they have a pass that feels free to them.**"

SEPTA Senior Budget Director

<https://why.org/articles/septa-key-advantage-institutional-program-expands/>

A blue and yellow electric bus is shown from a side profile. The bus features a yellow stripe along its side and green leaf graphics. Text on the side includes 'ZERO EMISSIONS', 'ECO-CITY ALEXANDRIA', 'CHARGED UP', and 'Alexandria Transit Company'.

# ALEXANDRIA TRANSIT COMPANY

FREE FARE PROGRAM  
NVTC PRESENTATION  
JULY 6, 2023

# FREE FARE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Fare Collection Eliminated; September 2021.
- Funded by \$7.1m grant and increase in local subsidy.
- Fare Free Framework; September 2021.
- Established Performance Metrics: Ridership, Customer Survey/Feedback, Operator Feedback, Budgetary Impacts, etc.



# SUCSESSES

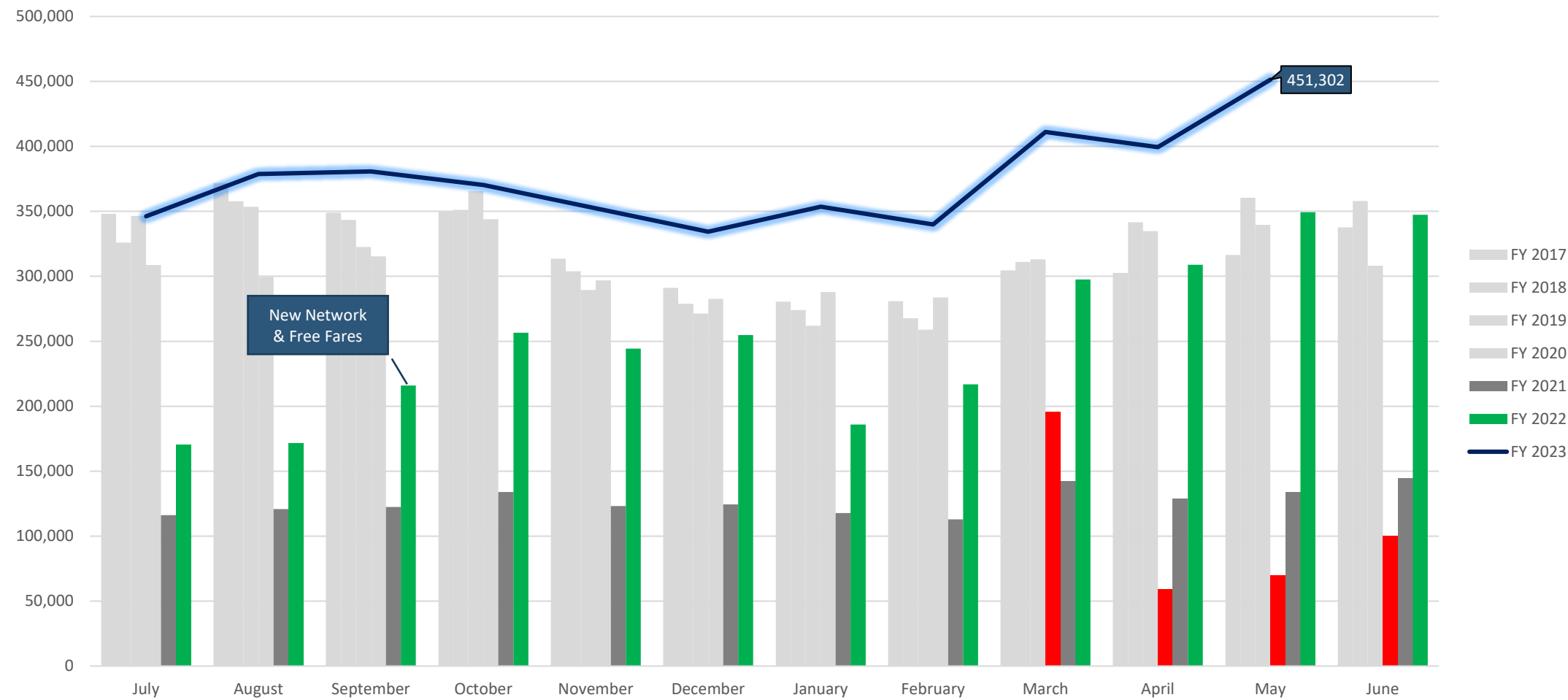
- Average daily ridership has **doubled in first year** of free fares.
- **~4.5m rides in Fiscal Year 2023:** the highest ridership in the history of DASH.
- Substantial **ridership increases** observed mid-days, evenings and weekends.
- **Eliminated** fare disputes.
- Reduced **dwell time**.

# CHALLENGES

- **Periodic overcrowding** seen on some lines due to student riders.
- Slight increase in **loitering** on buses.
- Increase in driver **assaults** (non fare related)
- Slight **increase in trash/litter/vandalism.**

# MONTHLY DASH RIDERSHIP FY17 - CURRENT

DASH Total Monthly Ridership (FY2017-FY2023)

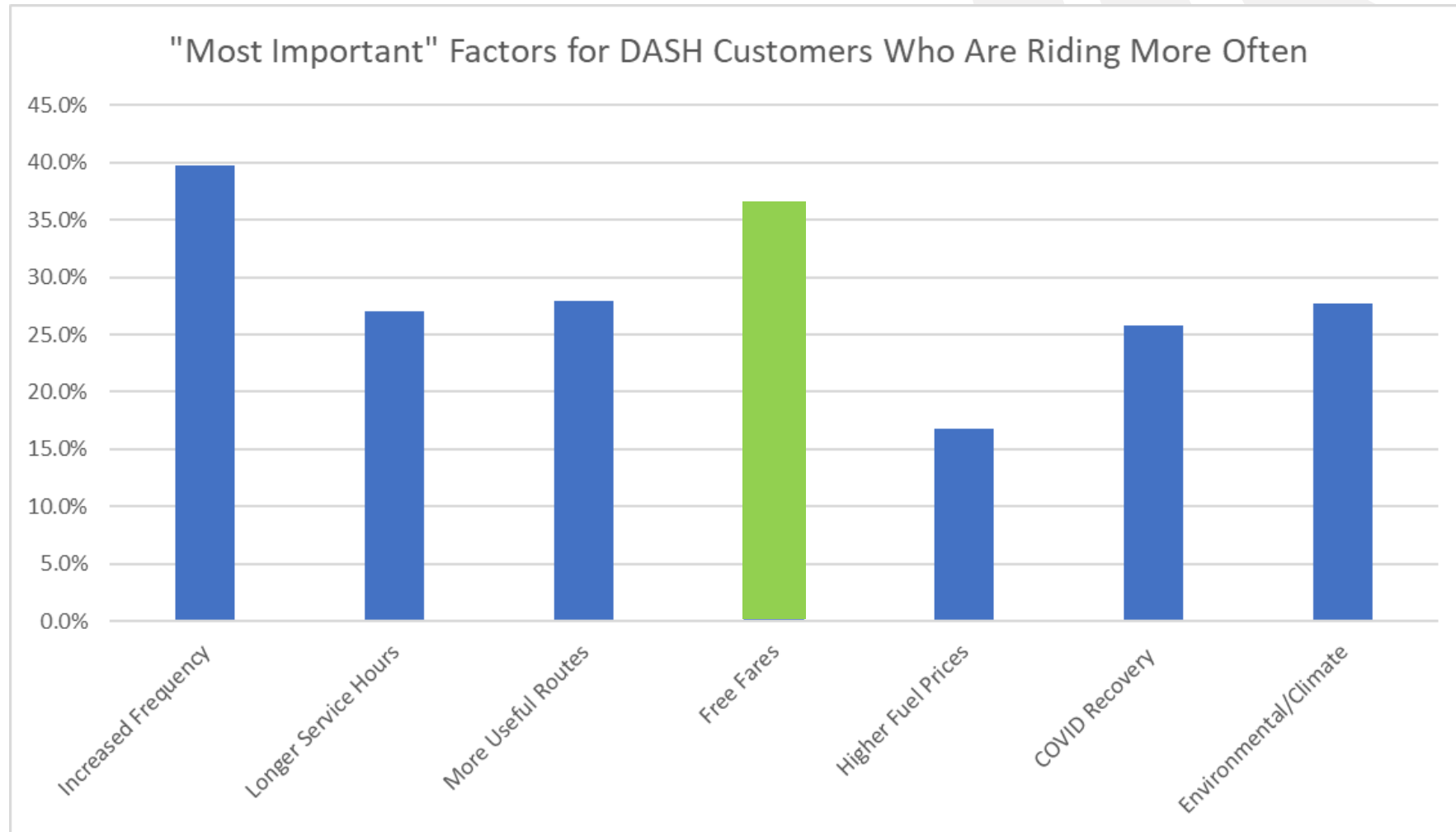


# CUSTOMER SURVEY (2022)

- **71%** of riders responding they are **riding DASH more** because it is free (*80% among low-income riders*).
- **22% of riders new to DASH** in last year; top factors: increased frequency (52%) and free fares (44%).
- **67%** responding that free fares **improved their perception** of DASH service.
- **Primary concerns:** overcrowding and feelings of onboard safety/comfort.



# CUSTOMER SURVEY (FALL 2022)



# NEXT STEPS

- Automated Passenger Counting Technology
- Removal of Fare Box Equipment
- Sustaining Funding for Fare Free
- Continued Passenger Surveys
- Enhanced Partnerships with School System
- Mitigating Passenger Behavior Challenges





# Thank You, Questions?

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JOSH.BAKER@ALEXANDRIA.VA.GOV



[DASHBUS.COM](https://www.dashbus.com)



# DBE Program and Goal Setting

**Leveling the Playing Field for Disadvantaged  
Businesses in Northern Virginia**

**NVTC Commission**

**July 6, 2023**

**Brittany Sumpter, JD**

*Senior Grants and Procurement Manager*

*DBE Liaison Officer*

# What is a DBE?

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Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (“DBEs”) are small businesses that are owned and controlled by **socially** and **economically** disadvantaged individuals and have been certified as such by the state where they wish to operate as a DBE.

- **African Americans**
- **Hispanic Americans**
- **Native Americans**
- **Asian Americans**
- **Women**

Personal Net Worth (PNW)  
that does not exceed  
**\$1.32 million**

# Objective of the DBE Program

## What are we trying to accomplish?

---

**Remove barriers** to the participation of DBEs in federal funded contracts.

**Level playing field** on which DBEs can compete fairly for federal funded contracts.

**Develop firms** that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE program.

# DBE Goal Requirement

## 49 CFR 26.45(a)

FTA recipients who reasonably anticipate awarding more than **\$250,000 in FTA funds** in prime contracts in a Federal fiscal year must develop **overall goals** for DBE participation in FTA-assisted contracts once **every three years**.

Project Name		FTA Assistance
NVTC	Route 7 Design and NEPA Analysis	\$ 2,000,000
City of Alexandria	Eisenhower Avenue Pedestrian Improvements Phase II	\$ 3,334,716
	Potomac Yard - Metroway Extension to the North	\$ 1,256,416
Total		\$ 6,591,132

*NVTC’s anticipated FTA-funded projects that will be awarded over the next three years*

# Methodology

## How is this goal calculated?

---

1. Unbundle large projects into smaller work categories



2. Account for all DBE firms in market area using Virginia DBE Directory



3. Account for all firms (DBE and non-DBE) in market area using U.S. Census Database



4. Calculate goal using federal DBE Goal Formula



5. Determine if an adjustment is necessary

**Overall DBE Goal**

**16%**

# How to “Meet” the Goal?

---



Establish DBE Goals  
on all FTA funded  
contracts



Ensure bidders  
demonstrate **good  
faith efforts** to meet  
the established DBE  
Goal before  
awarding a contract



Conduct **site visits**  
to ensure DBE firms  
are being used



Verify **Prompt  
Payment** to DBE  
Firms



Consult with DBE  
Firms



Report participation  
to FTA

# Performance

## How are we doing?

---

Obtained **14% DBE Participation**  
in new contracts

Subcontracts  
awarded to  
**Hispanic  
American, Asian-  
Pacific American  
and women**  
owned businesses

Over **\$1.6 million**  
paid to DBEs in  
ongoing contracts

*Data retrieved from DBE Semi-annual reports submitted to FTA during FFY 2020 - 2022*

# Beyond the Goal

## Proactive Engagement

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Technical assistance to jurisdictional staff



Public outreach to DBE firms



NOVA DBE Roundtable



Highly encourage **Small, Women-owned, and Minority-owned Business (SWaM) and Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Business** utilization in non-federal procurements

# Thank You.



2300 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 230, Arlington, Virginia 22201 | [www.novatransit.org](http://www.novatransit.org) | [@novatransit](https://twitter.com/novatransit)



NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

# Executive Director Newsletter



obus

16M SKYLINE CITY



@NoVaTransit

NoVaTransit.org

NoVaRides.org

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

# July 2023





## A Message from Kate Mattice

There was a time when summertime was considered the slow season. While many students enjoy time away from the classroom and families look forward to beach escapes, the days of totally unplugging from work are long gone. That's true here at NVTC. I always encourage our folks to take time off to relax and recharge, but between dipping our toes in the ocean or hiking through the trails of the Blue Ridge Mountains, we are keeping major projects moving. That includes hosting several meetings for our WMATA Operating Funding and Reform Working Group, imagining the future funding landscape for Metro as it faces historic budget deficits.

At the same time, our Transit Resource Center team is nearing the finish line for an important report analyzing how adding new infrastructure could speed buses in Northern Virginia, making them more reliable and a more attractive travel option.

We're also in hiring mode as we work to recruit a new person to fill a critical role for our Envision Route 7 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project and a new program analyst to support our team. The new Route 7 hire will oversee the remaining planning and environmental work on the BRT project, planned to connect Tysons and Alexandria by way of Seven Corners and Falls Church, to put it in a strong place to proceed to engineering and design in partnership with our jurisdictions along the corridor. The program analyst will add to our amazing cadre of early career professionals who play an integral role in supporting all of our NVTC programs. You can always find [current openings](#) on our website.

The Commuter Choice team is laying the groundwork for the next call for projects for I-66, looking for new or continuing ways to move more people through that congested corridor, hot on the heels of the Commonwealth Transportation Board's approval of \$48 million for projects in the I-395/95 corridor.

Finally, you'll be hearing and seeing a lot more about [novarides.org](#), as our fourth regional transit marketing campaign kicks into high gear this summer, encouraging people to ride all of our trains and buses, making the critical public transit connections that we all work so hard to enable.

  
Executive Director

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*Save  
the  
Date*

**July 18-19**

Commonwealth  
Transportation Board

**July 20**

WMATA Committee

**July 21**

VRE Operations Board

**July 26**

Program Advisory  
Committee

**August 31**

Legislative and Policy  
Committee

**September 7**

Commission Meeting

NoVaTransit.org  
NoVaRides.org



@NoVaTransit



# Commission thanks Katie Cristol, welcomes Takis Karantonis

Commissioners commended outgoing Commissioner Katie Cristol and welcomed Arlington County Board member Takis Karantonis as her replacement at the [June 1 Commission meeting](#). Ms. Cristol announced she is leaving the Arlington Board, effective July 4, to become the chief executive officer of Tysons Community Alliance. It is bittersweet to see such an enduring advocate for public transit in Northern Virginia leave the Commission, but we are confident she will do great things with [Tysons Community Alliance](#). Ms. Cristol skillfully led the Commission as chair during the first years of the pandemic as transit faced budget and ridership challenges and has been a champion of long-term, sustainable funding.



Incoming Commissioner [Takis Karantonis](#) brings 25 years of experience in urban and regional planning and currently represents Arlington as the elected chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee.



# Commission accepts Value of Transit report which finds \$1.5 billion benefit to Commonwealth

Those of us in transit-rich communities know the value goes beyond our immediate neighborhoods. Transit Technology Senior Program Manager Ann McGrane [presented](#) the findings of a study on "[The Value of Northern Virginia Transit to the Commonwealth](#)," which found that Northern Virginia's transit network generates \$1.5 billion in annual personal income and sales tax revenue for Virginia. Of this, the

study estimates that at least \$1 billion can be attributed to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's Metrorail system. These revenues equal 5% of the entire Virginia general fund. The current study confirms the importance of this region's transit system to the economic vitality of not only Northern Virginia but to that of the entirety of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Supports **128,000**  
households



Supports  
**311,000** jobs



Avoids **70,000** metric  
tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions



Avoids over **400**  
serious injuries



Saves commuters  
**\$130M** in vehicle  
operating costs



**\$1.5B**  
Revenue from  
Personal Income and  
Sales Tax (\$ 2021)

**\$693M**  
(Indirect  
& Induced  
Impacts)



**\$828M**  
(Direct  
Impacts)

**\$600M**  
(Direct  
Impacts)



2018

2025



## Commonwealth Transportation Board approves 13 projects to ease traffic congestion in Northern Virginia

The \$48 million I-395/95 Commuter Choice [FY 2024-2025 Program of Projects](#) received its final green light June 21 from the [Commonwealth Transportation Board \(CTB\)](#) as part of its FY 2024-2029 Six-Year Improvement Program. After months of a competitive application and selection process led by the Commuter Choice team and resounding support during our most successful public comment period yet, we are excited to see these funds go to 13 projects that will make a difference for commuters across the I-395/95 corridor.

The anticipated benefits from the approved projects are wide-reaching. Besides supporting 11,000 additional weekday transit trips in the corridor, the projects are anticipated to reduce

greenhouse gas emissions by three-quarters and save commuters \$4 million in annual fuel expenses relative to drive-alone travel. The 13 projects in the approved Program of Projects include transit improvements put forth by Arlington County, DASH, Fairfax County, OmniRide and Virginia Railway Express, with Commuter Choice's first-ever investments in construction of a bus rapid transit line and a new commuter rail station as well as purchases of electric buses. Commuter Choice Senior Program Analyst Adam Hager, Department of Rail and Public Transportation Director Jen DeBruhl and Chief of Public Transportation Zach Trogon briefed the CTB's [Rail and Public Transportation Subcommittee](#) the day before the final vote.





## Commuter Choice funded Park & Ride opens in Spotsylvania County

Executive Director Kate Mattice, Senior Program Manager Ben Owen and Senior Program Analyst Adam Hager helped cut the ribbon June 5 on a 700-space [Park & Ride commuter lot](#) at the intersection of Route 1 and Commonwealth Drive in Spotsylvania County. Ms. Mattice spoke on the value of the I-395/95 Commuter Choice program, which provided \$1.1 million toward the project. Without Commuter Choice, the lot would have been scaled down by about 200 spaces—almost 1/3rd of its capacity. Kate, Ben and Adam

then took ceremonial first rides around the lot, courtesy of OmniRide and GWRideConnect's vanpooling service.

The Commuter Choice funded project will make a difference for commuters along I-95 in Fredericksburg providing vital carpooling, vanpooling and soon-to-be bus services along this congested corridor.



## Talking shop at APTA's 2023 Rail Conference

Public transit professionals from across the nation rallied at the [American Public Transportation Association's](#) 2023 Rail Conference the week of June 11 to catch up, talk shop and learn from the best in the industry. Executive Director Kate Mattice moderated an energizing panel of inspiring women to talk about how those in the transit industry can support the next generation of women engineers.

The conference also included a critical discussion

led by Kammy Horn, of VIA Metropolitan Transit in San Antonio, Texas on creating thriving communities by linking transit investments to attainable housing. It's no easy task—many of our transit agencies are perpetually chasing where we need to be with the housing displacement that can follow transit investments. At NVTC, we are mindful of how the future Bus Rapid Transit needs to be coordinated with land use and housing—not just along the Route 7 corridor but throughout our region.



Kate Mattice,  
Unwanna Dabney,  
Ni Lee, Katy Thorpe,  
Jodi Godfrey, Sara  
Stickler (R-L)

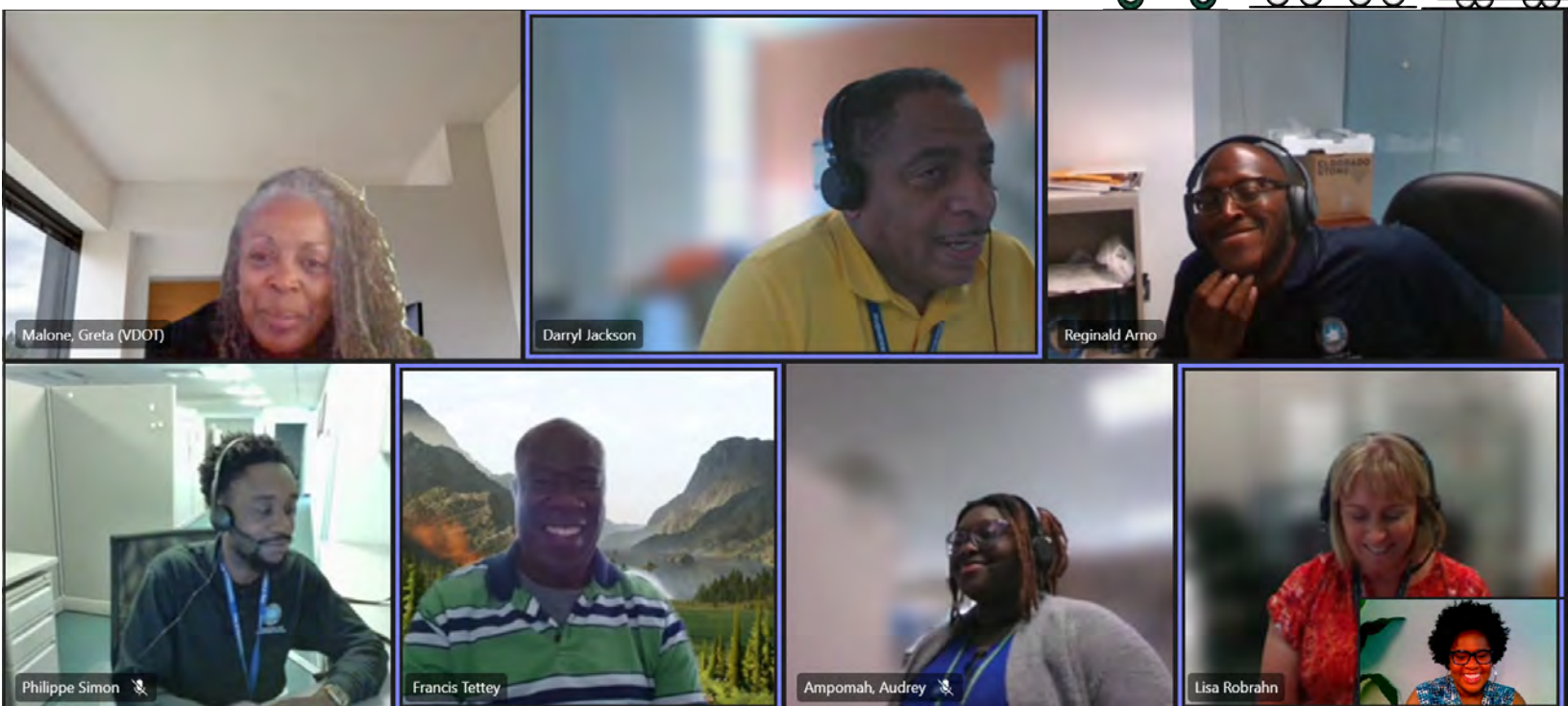
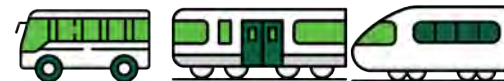
# NVTC leads roundtable to support Disadvantaged Business Enterprises

As a direct recipient of [Federal Transit Administration](#) (FTA) funding, NVTC is not only committed to ensuring that small businesses and disadvantaged individuals have a fair opportunity to compete for our federally funded transportation contracts, but we also support our member jurisdictions in their efforts as well!

Senior Grants and Procurement Manager, Brittany Sumpter, hosted NVTC's first-ever "NOVA DBE Roundtable" on June 15. This unique network is the product of Brittany's vision to bring program managers for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) programs in Northern Virginia together to share challenges in administering their respective programs, provide solutions and best practices, and discuss ways we can collaborate

to attract DBEs to the exciting work we are all doing in Northern Virginia. Jurisdictional staff who attended the kickoff meeting included DBE program and procurement managers from the City of Alexandria, Arlington County, Fairfax County, PRTC and Virginia Railway Express.

During this introductory meeting, Greta Malone from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) shared information about the supportive services [VDOT's Business Opportunity and Workforce Development Center](#) (BOWD) provides to DBEs and discussed the possibility of partnering on future initiatives.

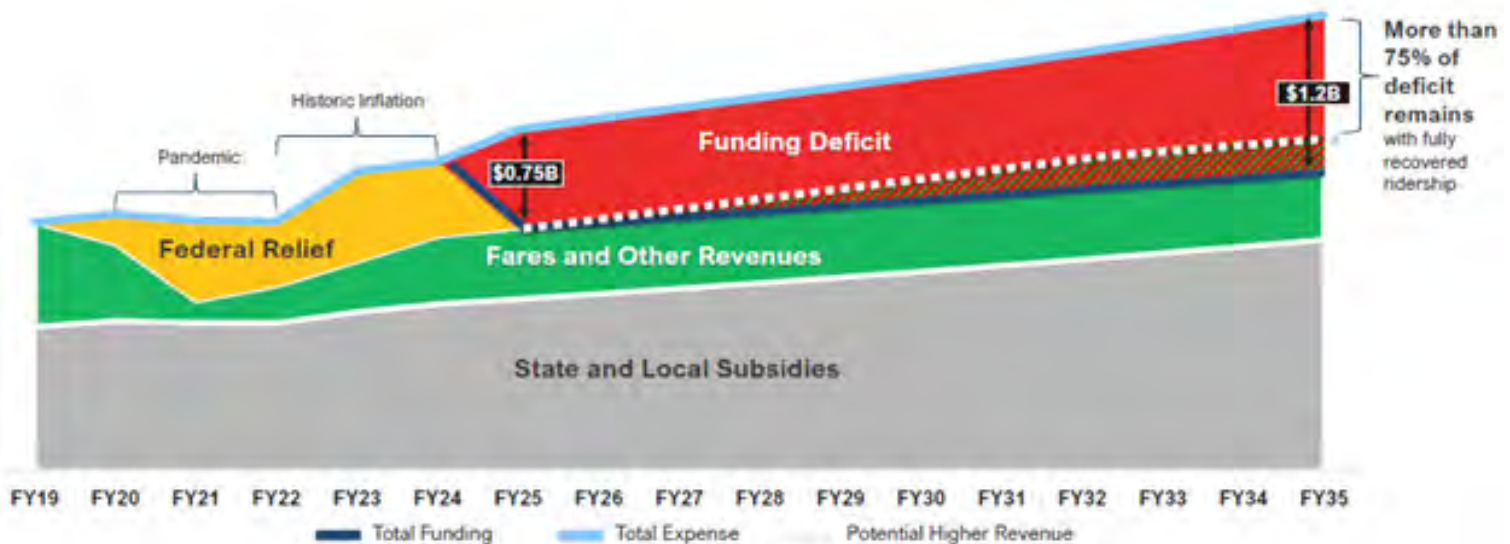




# Metro Board looks ahead to fiscal cliff and structural budget deficits

The Metro Board's Finance and Operations Committee received a [presentation on the financial outlook of Metro](#) on June 22. In FY 2025, Metro will face a \$750 million operating budget funding deficit that will continue to grow through FY 2035. Once federal aid is exhausted,

Metro will face service cuts that could trigger a "death spiral." Although Metro is not the only U.S. transit agency facing a large pandemic-induced operating budget deficit after FY 2024, it is the only transit agency among its peers with no dedicated revenue sources for operations.



Courtesy: Metro

## Future capital budget investments

The \$750 million operating gap has three driving factors:

**Jurisdictional Subsidy Credit (\$196 million)** — Metro provided support to jurisdictions in the form of a subsidy reduction and waiving 3% increases at the beginning of pandemic.

**Decreased Revenue Since Pandemic (\$288 million)** — Metro also saw decreased revenue since the pandemic with ridership forecasted to be 25% below pre-pandemic levels in FY 2025.

**Inflation & Collective Bargaining Agreements**

(\$266 million) — The majority of Metro's workforce, which operates and maintains the system, participates in collective bargaining. Metro must comply with mandated annual increases under the terms of the respective collective bargaining agreements, which indexes compensation levels to inflation.

## FY 2025 operating deficit drivers in detail

Direct service cuts could include a 67% cut of rail and bus service with no service after 9:30pm, 20-30 minute wait times on bus and rail and elimination of 98 of 135 bus lines.





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Courtesy: Metro



## Metro launches income-qualified reduced fare program

The Metro Board's [Finance and Capital Committee meeting](#) received a presentation on the upcoming launch of the [Metro Lift Program on June 8](#). Metro Lift is an income-based fare program that will provide 50% off Metrorail and Metrobus trips for customers in DC, Maryland and Virginia who qualify for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP).

The new program is comparable to the reduced fares Metro offers for people with disabilities

and senior citizens, but Metro Lift is distributed as a pass instead of a separate card. This new fare program is anticipated to cost \$4 million, and program funding was included in Metro's Approved FY 2024 Operating Budget. Approximately 5 million trips are expected to be taken with Metro Lift, a big step forward to making Metro more accessible for commuters of all backgrounds. Find more information about the program and how to qualify [here](#).

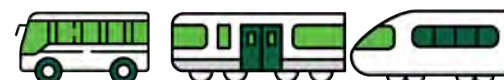




## Metro talks 800-Series rail cars

The Metro Board's Safety and Operations Committee received a [presentation](#) on June 22 on the next generation of rail cars. The 8k's will be built by Hitachi and replace the oldest trains in its fleet, which are 40 years old. The newly designed 8K rail cars will update the 7000-series to accommodate all customers with several design improvements including car pairs with open gangways, reconfigured seating, expanded

security camera coverage, LED red/green lights at doors to indicate opening/closing and design space for wheelchairs, bicycles, luggage and strollers. The new rail cars will also generate energy savings of approximately \$25 million from in-floor heating and a return to aluminum train bodies. Hitachi will provide an initial mock-up of an 8k rail car next year with the first pilot cars expected to be delivered to Metro in 2025.



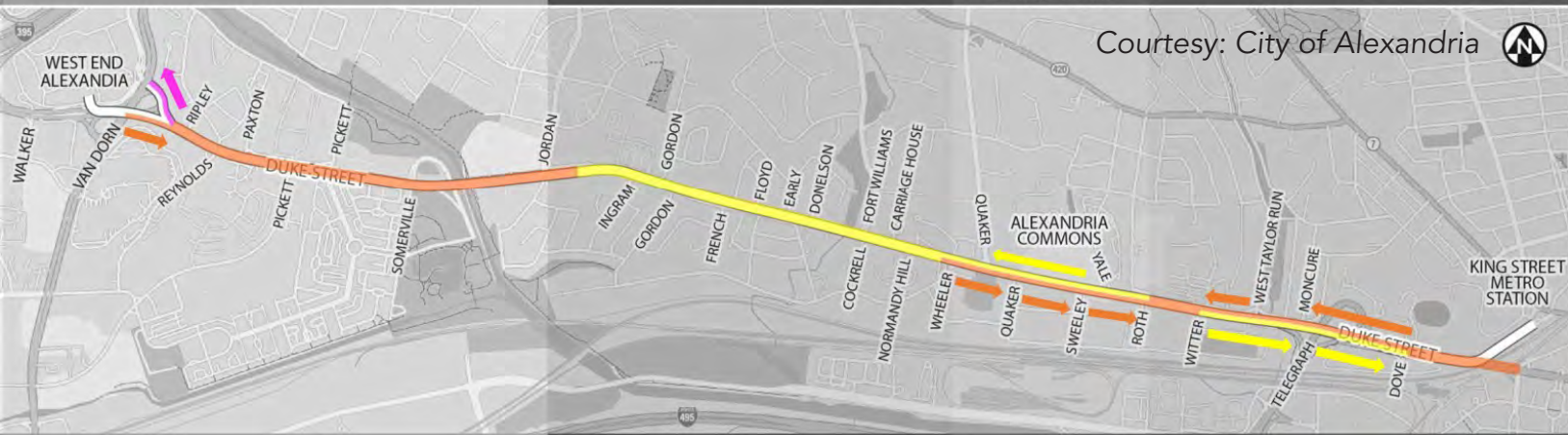



## Commuter Choice investment boosts new Arlington-Fairfax bus route

Executive Director Kate Mattice joined local leaders at the Arlington Mill Community Center June 26 to celebrate the launch of the new Metrobus [16M](#) Columbia Pike-National Landing route. The route replaces two others and provides a “one-seat” ride and premium rush-hour service to commuters, improving connectivity from the Skyline neighborhood in Fairfax County through

Columbia Pike and extending to the Crystal City Metrorail station. The 16M represents the growth of Columbia Pike as a [Premium Transit Corridor](#). Thanks, in part, to \$5 million in Commuter Choice funding to Arlington County, riders will see buses arrive as quickly as every six minutes in the near future, reducing wait times and drive-alone travel.



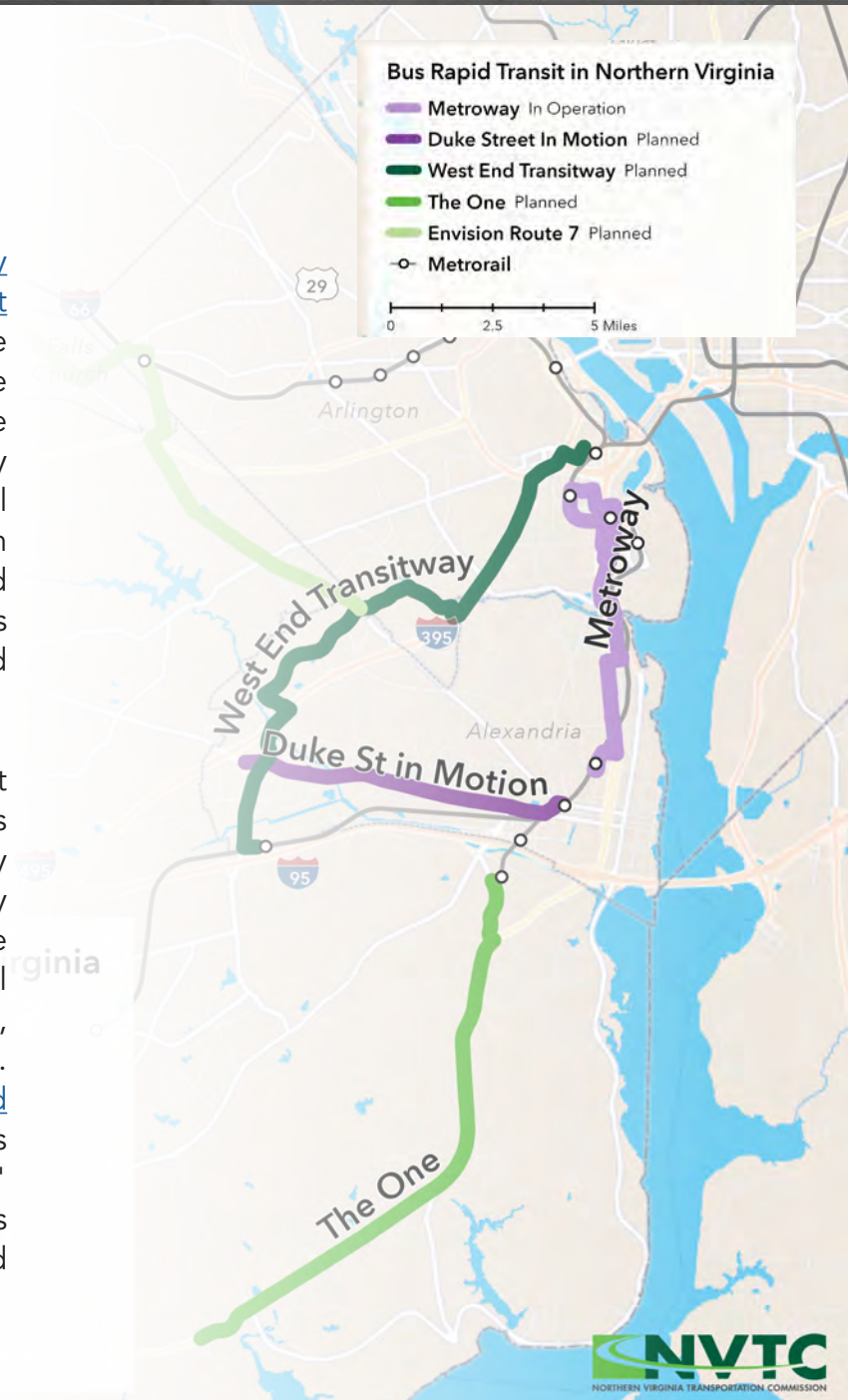


Courtesy: City of Alexandria 

## Alexandria approves Duke Street Transitway

The Alexandria City Council [voted unanimously](#) in favor of a plan to create a [Duke Street Transitway](#) at their [meeting](#) June 27 night. The vote capped off a 15-year effort to improve the corridor that has the highest bus ridership in the city. City planners say buses could shave nearly ten minutes off the current end-to-end travel times once the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system opens. The BRT is planned to have upgraded bus stations, transit signal priority, dedicated bus lanes and queue jumps—all measures designed to improve the bus riding experience.

We are excited to see this project advance and it will be part of a growing network of BRT systems in Northern Virginia. The Duke Street Transitway will connect with the planned [West End](#) Transitway in Alexandria, which in turn, will connect to the NVTC-led [Envision Route 7](#) (ER7) BRT. ER7 will run from the Mark Center in Alexandria to Tysons, by way of Falls Church and Seven Corners. Fairfax County's planning commission [approved](#) the Tysons segment last week. The county is currently developing another route, "[The One](#)" for Richmond Highway. Meanwhile, the region's first BRT, the Metroway between Arlington and Alexandria, is undergoing expansion.



## Federal grants bolster region's low- and no-emission buses

Metro, the City of Alexandria and DASH, and Loudoun County Transit received Federal Transit Administration (FTA) low- and no-emission grants June 26. FTA [awarded](#) 130 grants nationwide, totaling nearly \$1.7 billion.

- With a grant award of \$104 million, Metro received the largest amount in this funding cycle. The grant will help Metro convert its Cinder Bed Road Bus facility in Lorton to electric, including purchasing about 100 battery-electric buses (BEBs) and developing workforce training.
- The City of Alexandria received \$23,984,700 to expand DASH's electric bus fleet and upgrade its facility. DASH will use the funding to buy 13 BEBs and associated charging equipment, as well as undertake utility upgrades.
- Loudoun County received \$13,880,910 to aid in its transit fleet's transition from diesel to low-emission Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). It will use the funding to buy 37 CNG buses and build a fueling station.

As NVTC develops its Regional Zero Emission Bus Strategic Plan, we will continue to explore ways to help our regional partners transition to zero-emission fleets in a coordinated and cost-effective manner.

## NVTC senior manager addresses Disadvantaged Business Enterprise firms

Senior Grants and Procurement Manager Brittany Sumpter presented at VDOT's Transportation DBE Advisory Committee (TDAC) 2023 2nd quarter meeting June 28. TDAC was formed to serve as a forum through which concerns of DBE firms, non-minority contractors and others are addressed and to provide recommendations for operational and administrative improvements to the commissioner and the appropriate departments at VDOT. The meeting objective was to provide insight to Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms on how to do business with transportation agencies.

Brittany gave an overview of the DBE goal-setting process and shared with DBE firms tips on how to stay abreast of upcoming contract opportunities, build relationships with prime contractors and better position themselves to do business with transportation agencies.





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