

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

**\*\*UPDATED AGENDA - #3C Added\*\***

**NVTC COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023  
MAIN FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
2300 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201  
[Public Streaming Via YouTube](#)  
7:00 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

**6:00 p.m. Boxed Dinners Available for Commissioners Only**  
**6:15 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting – NVTC Suite #230 Conference Room**  
**7:00 p.m. Commission Meeting – First Floor Large Conference Room ([public streaming](#))**

*NVTC is also receiving general public comments. **The deadline for written general public comments is 3:00 p.m., Thursday, March 2, 2023 via [NVTC's website](#).** Comments will be provided to Commissioners prior to the March 2 meeting.*

1. Opening Remarks
  - General Public Comments Received
2. **ACTION ITEM: Approve the Minutes of the February 2, 2023 NVTC Meeting**
3. **ACTION: Approve the Consent Agenda (subject to approval of chair)**
  - A. **ACTION: Authorize Additional Contract Funding for NVTC's WMATA Operating Funding and Reform Working Group**
  - B. **ACTION: Authorize the Chair to Send a Letter of Endorsement for the City of Alexandria's Application for the Federal Transit Administration's Low or No Emission Vehicle and Bus and Bus Facilities Discretionary Grant Programs**
  - C. **ACTION: Authorize the Chair to Send a Letter of Endorsement for a Dominion Energy Virginia Application to the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP) Discretionary Grant Program**
4. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)
  - A. Report from the Virginia WMATA Board Members
  - B. Report from the Chair of the NVTC WMATA Committee
    - **ACTION: Authorize the Chair to Send a Letter to WMATA on the FY 2024 Operating Budget and FY 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Program**
  - C. Other WMATA News

5. Legislative Update
  - A. General Assembly Update
  - B. Federal Update
6. Commuter Choice Program
  - A. I-395/95 (FY 2024-FY 2025) Commuter Choice Project Eligibility Results
7. Transit Resource Center
  - A. Envision Route 7 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project
    - Phase 4-1 Mobility Study Update
    - Envision Route 7 BRT Strategic Framework Effort
  - B. NoVaTransit Data Dashboard
    - Bus Service Presentation
8. Virginia Railway Express (VRE)
  - A. VRE CEO Report and Minutes
  - B. VRE Preferred Concept for the Broad Run Expansion Project
9. Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
10. Executive Director Report
  - A. Executive Director Newsletter
  - B. NVTC Financial Report

**\*\*Consent Agenda amended to include #3C (changes in italics)\*\***

**TO:** Chair Palchik and NVTC Commissioners  
**FROM:** Kate Mattice  
**DATE:** *March 1, 2023*  
**SUBJECT:** Consent Agenda

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At the March meeting, the Commission will be asked to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes two action items regarding authorizing additional contract funding and an endorsement letter for the City of Alexandria for a federal grant. ***The memo is updated to include an additional action to authorize an endorsement letter for a Dominion Energy Virginia grant application.***

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

**A. ACTION: Authorize Additional Contract Funding for NVTC's WMATA Operating Funding and Reform Working Group**

On December 1, 2022, the Commission authorized the executive director to request proposals via the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) General Planning Contract for Technical and Analysis Support for NVTC's WMATA Operating Funding and Reform Working Group with a budget not to exceed \$70,000 from NVTC's General and Administrative Budget.

Based upon the limited response to the RFP and a reexamination of the scope of work necessary to successfully support this effort, staff recommend increasing the available budget to \$130,000 and re-post the solicitation via the DRPT General Planning Contract. These additional funds would be made available from the existing FY 2023 NVTC General and Administrative Budget by shifting the schedule of the Role of Metrobus White Paper to start in fiscal year 2024.

As was shared in the original action item, the selected consultant team will support NVTC in convening and facilitating NVTC's WMATA Operating Funding and Reform Working Group as well as provide technical and policy research to support the working group. The working group would be composed of key jurisdictional and DRPT staff and would report its findings to the Commission and its component committees.

Consultant tasks will generally include:

- Evaluating WMATA's short-term and structural operating budget gaps within the context of Virginia's unique jurisdictional funding and modal relationship with WMATA
- Examining existing and new operating revenues

- Exploring opportunities to reform WMATA policies and state and federal laws or policies around WMATA budget and subsidy
- Facilitation of working group meetings and support developing meeting materials
- Support with a draft and final report
- Additional areas of analysis requested by the working group (pending scope and budget)

This effort is funded through the Research and Support line item in the FY 2023 NVTC General and Administrative Budget.

FY 2023 Research and Analysis			
Title	Description	Budget	Notes
Technical and Analysis Support of NVTC's WMATA Operating and Funding Reform Working Group	Strategy #7 of 2022 WMATA Annual Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA	\$ 130,000	Pending Additional Funding Approval – <b>March 2023</b>

**B. ACTION: Authorize the Chair to Send a Letter of Endorsement for the City of Alexandria's Application for the Federal Transit Administration's Low or No Emission Vehicle and Bus and Bus Facilities Discretionary Grant Programs**

The Commission is asked to authorize the chair to sign a letter of endorsement for the City of Alexandria's application to the Federal Transit Administration's Low or No Emission Vehicle and Bus and Bus Facilities discretionary grant programs for up to \$40 million in federal funding for zero-emission buses, new electrical service and infrastructure, and workforce development.

The City of Alexandria and DASH Bus have adopted a policy goal to shift to a 100% zero-emission bus fleet by the year 2037 for all 120+ of its buses. The city and DASH have shown commitment to this goal by already adopting 14 battery electric buses, building charging infrastructure, completing Zero Emission Bus Feasibility/Implementation Plans, and securing \$9 million for its new bus facility expansion/electric bus charging yard. The deployment completed and planned is the largest in Virginia and one of the largest in the DC region.

The proposed project will support the installation of new electrical service and infrastructure to provide sufficient electricity to the DASH facility for electric bus charging. This will bring a total of up to 12 megawatts of new energy service to the DASH facility needed to charge the full fleet of zero-emission buses, one of the largest planned deployments in the region. The project also funds the conversion of up to 21 total buses from conventional to battery electric/zero-emission.

**C. ACTION: Authorize the Chair to Send a Letter of Endorsement for a Dominion Energy Virginia Application to the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP) Smart Grid Program**

*The Commission is asked to authorize the chair to sign a letter of endorsement for a Dominion Energy Virginia application to the U.S. Department of Energy grant program to improve grid resiliency. After the March meeting materials were posted, NVTC staff were approached by Dominion Energy Virginia to endorse their application for a \$66 million grant through the Grid*

*Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP) Smart Grid program at the U.S. Department of Energy. If awarded, Dominion Energy Virginia's proposed investments will help support the region by deploying technology to support the sharp increase in load growth and effectively manage and control the grid of the future. The project would also accelerate the deployment of solar, wind, and other distributed energy resources, allowing for a quicker energy transition and producing clean energy sooner for the region. For NVTC jurisdictions, this effort would improve the reliability and resiliency of the electric grid that would serve future electric buses in the region.*



--DRAFT--  
March XX, 2023

**Chair**  
Hon. Dalia A. Palchik

**Vice-Chair**  
Hon. Matt de Ferranti

**Secretary-Treasurer**  
Hon. David F. Snyder

**City of Alexandria**  
Hon. Canek Aguirre  
Hon. Sarah Bagley

**Arlington County**  
Hon. Katie Cristol  
Hon. Matt de Ferranti  
Hon. Libby Garvey

**Fairfax County**  
Hon. Walter L. Alcorn  
Hon. John Foust  
Hon. Jeffrey C. McKay  
Hon. Dalia A. Palchik  
Hon. James R. Walkinshaw

**City of Fairfax**  
Hon. Catherine Read

**City of Falls Church**  
Hon. David F. Snyder

**Loudoun County**  
Hon. Matthew Letourneau  
Hon. Michael R. Turner

**Commonwealth of Virginia**  
Hon. Paul C. Smedberg

**Virginia General Assembly**

**Senate**  
Hon. John J. Bell  
Hon. Adam Ebbin

**House of Delegates**  
Nick Clemente  
Aimee S. Gilroy  
M. David Skiles  
John C. Tuck III

**Executive Director**  
Katherine A. Mattice

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to share the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission's support for the City of Alexandria's application for the Federal Transit Administration's Low or No Emissions Vehicles and Bus and Bus Facilities discretionary grant programs. The project will seek up to \$40 million in federal funding for zero-emission buses, new electrical service and infrastructure, and workforce development.

The City of Alexandria and DASH Bus have adopted a policy goal to shift to a 100% zero-emission bus fleet by the year 2037 for all 120+ of its buses. The city and DASH have shown commitment to this goal by already adopting 14 battery electric buses, building charging infrastructure, completing Zero Emissions Bus Feasibility/Implementation Plans, and securing \$9 million for its new bus facility expansion/electric bus charging yard. The deployment completed and planned is the largest in Virginia and one of the largest in the DC region.

The proposed project will support the installation of a new electrical service and infrastructure to provide sufficient electricity to the DASH facility for electric bus charging. This will bring a total of up to 12 megawatts of new energy service to the DASH facility needed to charge the full fleet of zero-emission buses, one of the largest planned deployments in the region. The project also funds the conversion of up to 21 total buses from conventional to battery electric/zero-emission.

NVTC and the City of Alexandria have successfully partnered on various transportation projects. We are committed to continuing our support for the City of Alexandria and DASH to help electrify the DASH's bus fleet and bus facilities, improving air quality and combat climate change, benefiting the communities, residents and stakeholders.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the City of Alexandria's grant application. Should you have questions, please contact our Executive Director Kate Mattice.

Best regards,

Dalia Palchik  
Chair





DRAFT  
March XX, 2023

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**Executive Director**  
Katherine A. Mattice

Mr. David Crane  
Director, Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Subject: Dominion Energy Virginia's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP)  
Grant Application

Dear Director Crane:

The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) supports Dominion Energy Virginia (DEV) in its application for \$66 million through the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP) Smart Grid program. DEV's Analytics & Control for Driving Capital (ACDC) project is critical to the transit sector, especially in the Northern Virginia region, as it transitions to zero-emission buses (ZEBs) powered by the electric distribution grid.

NVTC serves as a regional forum for discussion and analysis of transit issues that are critically important to our economy and quality of life. Because Northern Virginia is home to six bus systems, NVTC works across jurisdictional boundaries to coordinate transit service. Most recently, this coordination has focused on aligning the zero-emission transition plans of these agencies into a regional ZEB strategic plan.

Planning for ZEBs, especially battery electric buses, requires close coordination with electric utilities like Dominion Energy Virginia. As our ZEB fleets continue to grow throughout the region, agencies are retrofitting facilities with new charging infrastructure. Dominion Energy Virginia's proposed investments will help support our region by deploying innovative technology to support the sharp increase in load growth and effectively manage and control the grid of the future. The project will also accelerate the successful deployment of solar, wind, and other distributed energy resources, allowing for a quicker energy transition and producing clean energy sooner for our community.

NVTC looks forward to collaborating further with Dominion Energy Virginia as we develop a regional ZEB strategic plan and as Dominion Energy Virginia moves forward with its grid investments.

Sincerely,

Dalia Palchik  
Chair





# Executive Director Newsletter



@NoVaTransit

[NoVaTransit.org](http://NoVaTransit.org)

[NoVaRides.org](http://NoVaRides.org)

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

## March 2023



## A Message from Kate Mattice

As a regional body, NVTC has a bird's-eye view of all the transit happenings across Northern Virginia. We can step back and see the interconnections between Metrorail, Metrobus, Virginia Railway Express (VRE) and all the local and commuter bus routes that serve Northern Virginia. This perspective puts NVTC in a unique position to tell the story of public transit in our region. We are telling that story in new ways. For example, the launch late last year of the [NoVaTransit Data Dashboard](#). The dashboard features regularly updating data on ridership, service, access to transit and other key metrics for Metrorail, Metrobus, VRE, DASH, Fairfax Connector, City of Fairfax-CUE, Loudoun County Transit and OmniRide. Our staff continue to look for ways to use the data, recently providing analysis of how well Northern Virginia is served by high-frequency, late-night and weekend bus service.

Meanwhile, work is underway to publish an updated and broader report on The Value of Northern Virginia's Transit Network to the Commonwealth. We seek to demonstrate that continued investment in transit by our state government is vital to the long-term economic growth and health of the entire Commonwealth. If you recall our 2017 research in this area, the presence of just Metrorail and VRE enabled economic activity that provided more than \$600 million a year in sales and income tax revenue to Virginia. We look forward to seeing updated figures measuring the statewide benefits of our transit network.

Additionally, we plan to produce a 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. This work intends to dovetail with work currently underway by Metro for their Better Bus Network Redesign. NVTC and Metro's work will help create a more comprehensive snapshot of opportunities and challenges in how bus transit can serve our communities.

All of this work helps us better understand the current transit landscape and more effectively plan for the future, ensuring informed decision making to manage and grow our transit network.

  
Executive Director

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Save  
the  
Date

**March 17**  
VRE Operations Board

**March 28-29**  
Commonwealth  
Transportation Board

**April 6**  
No Commission Meeting

**April 18-29**  
Commonwealth  
Transportation Board

**April 21**  
VRE Operations Board

**May 4**  
Commission Meeting

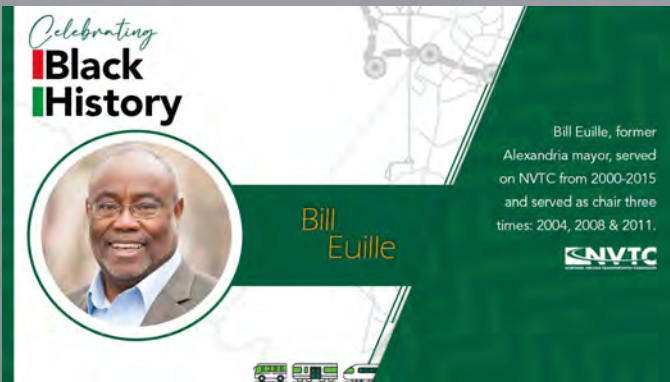
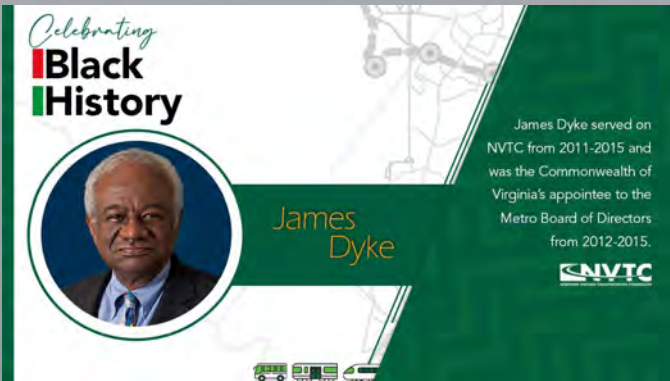
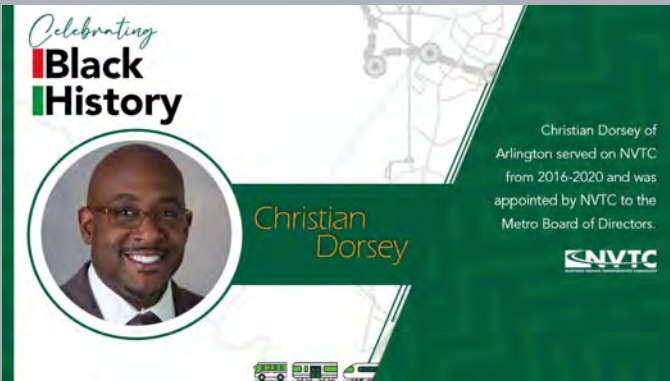
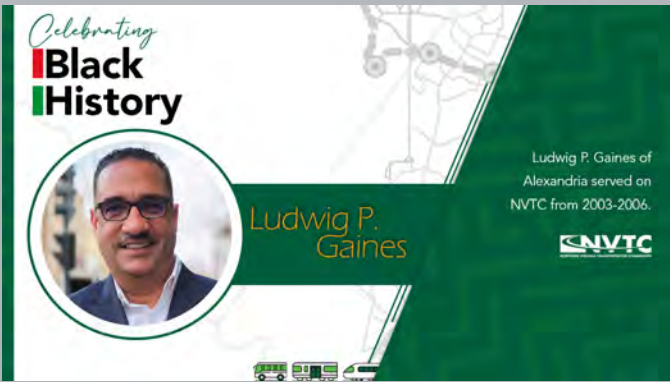
NoVaTransit.org  
NoVaRides.org  
  
@NoVaTransit





# Welcome Commissioner Catherine Read

Chair Dalia Palchik swore in the newest Commissioner from the City of Fairfax at the [February 2](#) meeting. Mayor Catherine Read joins the Commission following her election last November and the retirement of former Mayor and longtime Commissioner David Meyer. We welcome Mayor Read to NVTC!



## Review of applications for I-395/95 Commuter Choice funding underway

NVTC's call for projects for I-395/95 Commuter Choice FY 2024-2025 funding received 18 applications by the January 27 deadline. Seven applicants requested a total of \$110 million – the largest ask of any Commuter Choice program to date – for bus and rail capital upgrades, better transit service, a park and ride lot construction and a transportation demand management strategy. NVTC anticipates \$45-48 million will be available for new projects during FY 2024-2025, approximately \$16 million of which can go toward transit operations.

The process to develop a FY 2024-2025 Program of Projects will move quickly in the coming weeks, culminating in expected

approvals by the Commission (and Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission per [I-395/95 corridor](#) agreements) followed by the Commonwealth Transportation Board in June. The Commuter Choice team is in the process of sending eligibility, completeness and clarification questions to applicants and will notify applicants of any ineligible applications by the end of the month. The team will then develop and finalize scores for all eligible applications during March, before opening a one-month, primarily online public comment period in mid-April. The team will produce English and Spanish versions of all materials and conduct targeted advertising in both languages.

## Value of Transit study due this summer

NVTC and its consultant team from AECOM are hard at work modeling and estimating the value of transit in Northern Virginia. This study is an update to NVTC's [2017 report](#), which found that Metrorail and Virginia Railway Express (VRE) are vital to the economic health of the region and commonwealth, generating \$600 million annually in sales and income tax revenue. The current study expands the scope

to look at the value of Northern Virginia's entire transit network, evaluating the impact of the region's bus systems in addition to Metrorail and VRE. It will quantify how congestion would increase and job and household growth would change if the transit network did not exist. NVTC Transit Technology Senior Program Manager Ann McGrane plans to share the results of the analysis this summer.







# Metro begins budget comment period

Metro opened the [public comment](#) period for its FY 2024 budget in late February, which the agency says "seeks to expand service on Metrorail and Metrobus, provide more equitable fares, implement a low-income fare program, enhance public safety and maintain a safe and reliable system through capital investments." The \$4.8 billion capital and operating budget is intended to grow ridership and includes measures to:

- Increase service on Metrorail and Metrobus
- Launch Better Bus Network Redesign
- Open the new Potomac Yard station
- Simplify Metrorail pricing

The proposed budget increases Orange and Silver Line service, creates a new 16M Metrobus service with connections to Crystal City station and reinstates the 11Y Metrobus express route from Mt. Vernon and Potomac Park. Metro accepts comments [online](#) and will host a series of public meetings, including one at Meridian High School in Falls Church on Tuesday, March 7 at 6 p.m. Metro staff will be available to answer questions starting at 5 p.m. Meanwhile, Program Analyst Ronnetta Zack-Williams is working with

WMATA Committee Chair Walter Alcorn and committee members to draft a letter from NVTC to be submitted as part of the public comment process.

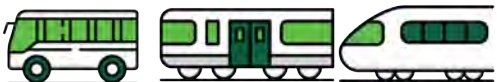
Separately, the Metro Board met [February 23](#) and adopted a five-year [Strategic Transformation Plan](#) intended to guide the agency to "meet the evolving needs of its customers and employees." In addition, the Board marked the [50th anniversary](#) of Metrobus, noting that the "milestone coincides with Metro's Better Bus Initiative to redesign the bus network and improve the Metrobus system for decades to come including new bus facilities, zero-emission buses, more bus lanes and signal priority."

Did you know that NVTC was there at the beginning with our Shirley Express Bus service, operated by AB&W Transit Company? Initiated as a demonstration project for the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Shirley Express service provided much-needed transit service along dedicated bus lanes of what's now known as I-395. Acquired by Metro in February 1973, many of the NVTC routes are still operating today! Learn more [here](#).



## Staff development day

NVTC held an all-staff development day February 6, focused on improving our already stellar working relationships and identifying areas for greater collaboration. We also examined the timeline of major NVTC events as we prepare to celebrate our 60th anniversary in 2024. Chair Dalia Palchik for joining us for lunch and had the opportunity to get to know our dynamic staff a little better.





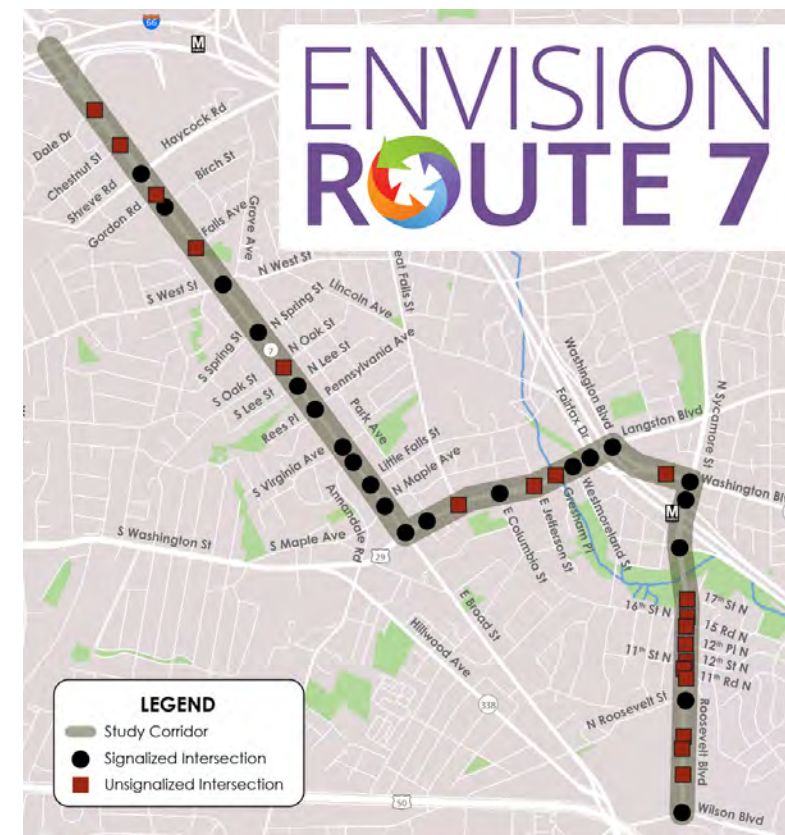


## Planning for regional transit marketing campaign underway

NVTC's communications team assembled staff from Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax County, OmniRide and Virginia Railway Express (VRE) February 21 to kick off the creative planning process for this year's regional transit marketing campaign. The Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) will provide a grant to encourage public transit ridership once [reconstruction](#) work on Metro's Yellow Line bridge and tunnel wraps up and full Yellow Line service resumes in May. The jurisdictional and agency partners will provide a local match to the DRPT grant and are an integral part of the marketing effort.

Marketing and Engagement Manager Monique Blyther has taken on leadership of this campaign, with assistance from Communications and Public Affairs Manager Matt Friedman and Transit Fellow Nathan Varnell. During the week's meeting, participants discussed potential themes and messages for the campaign. The communications team has also been busy meeting with media outlets to scope out details

of the advertising, which will be seen and heard on radio, streaming audio and video, online display ads, social media and in email blasts. This campaign will continue to encourage viewers and listeners to visit [novarides.org](https://www.novarides.org) to plan their transit trips and learn more about transit options in Northern Virginia.



project in the December federal omnibus bill, later this year we will be starting work on the final planning and environmental work needed for this project before we can begin final engineering design and construction.

## Study on track for spring public outreach

There is a lot going on for [Envision Route 7](#) Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. Our current mobility study, covering I-66 to Seven Corners, is modeling three different BRT scenarios for the study corridor to understand impacts to traffic and bus operations. We will be sharing these findings in our next public outreach phase this spring, with our next public meeting tentatively planned for mid-May. The final report will wrap up this summer. Concurrently, NVTC staff, under the direction of Senior Program Manager Xavier Harmony, have been working with regional transportation leaders to develop a strategic implementation plan that will take us from our current work through construction and implementation. Finally, thanks to the \$2 million [awarded](#) for this

## Transit Technology Working Group reviews NoVa zero-fare programs

[Transit Technology](#) Senior Program Manager Ann McGrane and Program Analyst Sophie Spiliotopoulos hosted a Transit Technology Working Group meeting February 7. The meeting served as a regional forum to discuss innovative fare programs, identify key transit technology issues for discussion in 2023 and share lessons learned among transit agencies. Ryan Visci from [CUE](#) and Martin Barna from [DASH](#) presented takeaways from each agency's zero-fare programs, with a focus on technologies and policies that facilitated the change. The Transit Technology Working Group meets quarterly, with the next meeting scheduled for May 2.





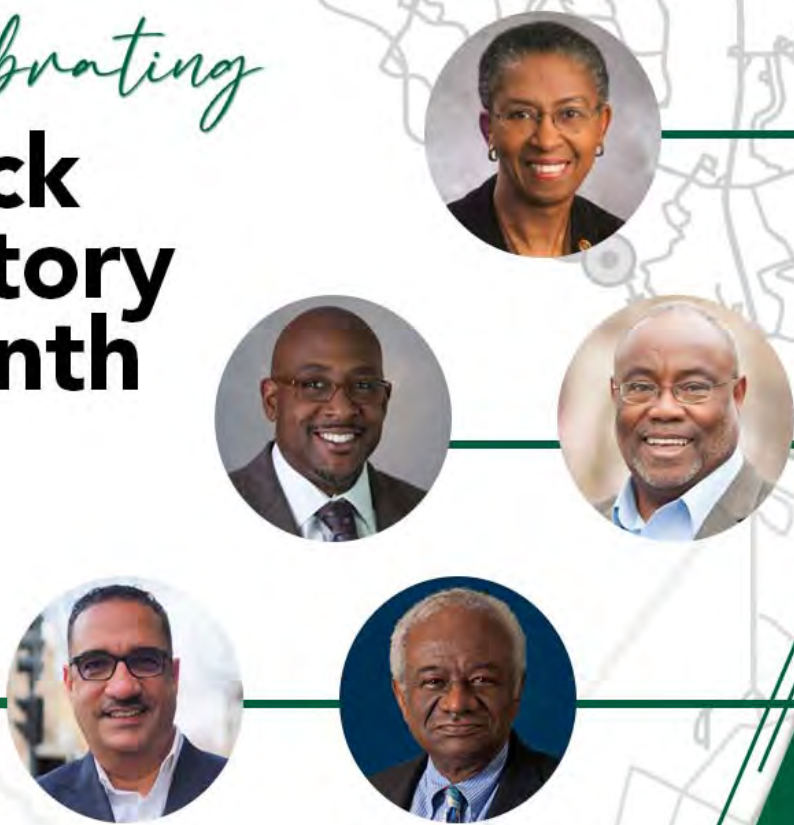
# Transit Unplugged podcast interviews Kate Mattice

The Transit Unplugged podcast published Executive Director Kate Mattice's [discussion](#) with host Paul Comfort in February. Kate talked about NVTC'S complex work on public transit in Northern Virginia, including relationships with Metro, Virginia Railway Express (VRE), use

of toll revenues to support traffic congestion-relief measures through our Commuter Choice program and efforts to support NoVa's bus systems with the transition to zero-emission buses and zero-fare research.



## Celebrating Black History Month



The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission salutes the Black leaders who helped reshape public transit in NoVa.



*In-Depth*  
WITH PAUL COMFORT



**TRANSIT**  
UNPLUGGED



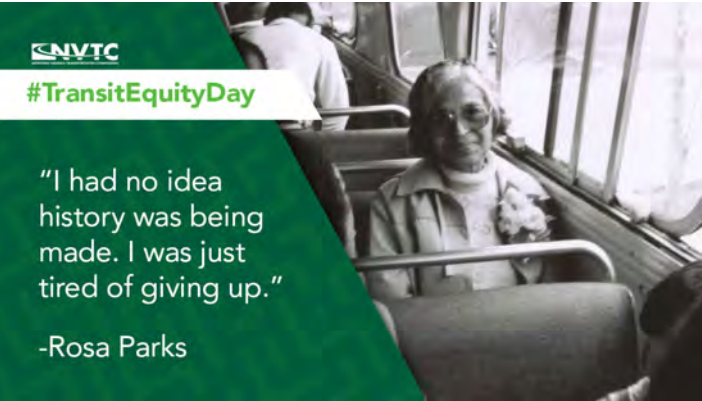
Special Guest:  
**Kate Mattice**

Executive Director  
Northern Virginia  
Transportation Commission

### Do you follow NVTC on social media?

Have you checked out NVTC's social media channels lately? Transit Fellow Nathan Varnell created several fun posts for [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) celebrating Valentines Day. We also ran a series of posts created by Marketing and Engagement Manager Monique Blyther highlighting Black NVTC Chairs and Commissioners as part of Black History Month.

There's also a new and easier-to-read YouTube handle. Find us at [youtube.com/@NoVaTransit](#). Don't forget to subscribe to our channel while you're there! Finally, follow NVTC on [LinkedIn](#) where we post more in-depth items, job listings and other happenings in the public transit industry.







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

NoVaTransit.org  
NoVaRides.org



@NoVaTransit