



Envision Route 7

***Action: Accept the Findings of the
Envision Route 7 BRT Phase 4-1 Mobility
Study***

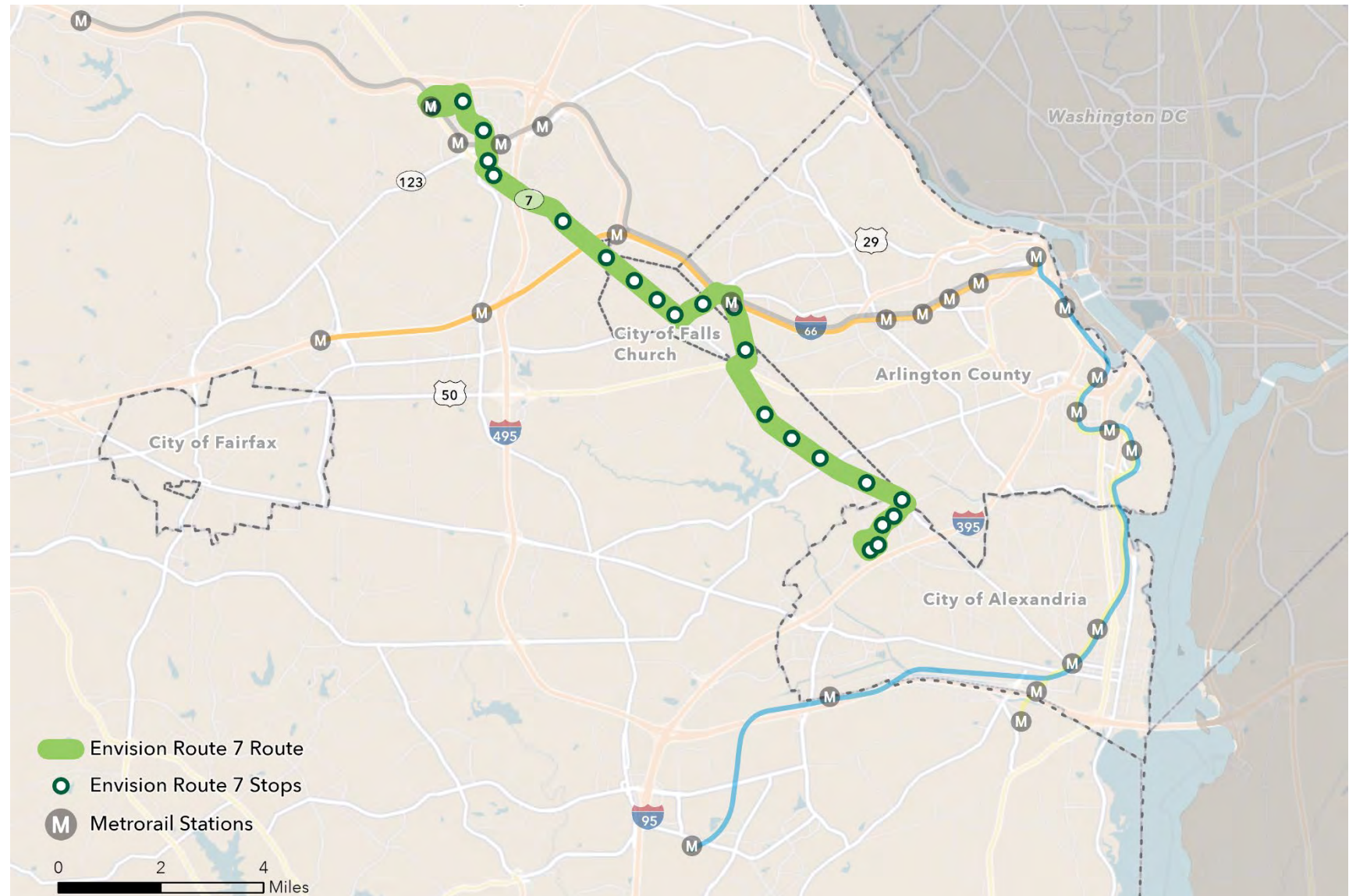
Xavier Harmony, Senior Program Manager

Connecting Tysons to Alexandria

Bus
Rapid
Transit...

connects
Tysons
and Mark
Center...

and
serves
East
Falls
Church



Project Timeline



- Phase 1 - Feasibility Study (2014)
- Phase 2 - Travel Demand Analysis Mode and Alignment (2017)
- Phase 3 - Conceptual Engineering (2019)
- **Phase 4 - Mobility Study**
 - **Phase 4-1 (August 2023)**
 - **Phase 4-2 (begins Winter 2023/2024)**
- Phase 5 - Preliminary Design and Environmental Analysis
- Phase 6 - Final Design
- Phase 7 - Construction
- Phase 8 - Service Planning
- Phase 9 - Operation

Envision Route 7 Phase 4-1: Study Corridor and Objectives

- 3.5 miles corridor mostly on Route 7 with connection to East Falls Church Metrorail Station
- Study used a mix of traffic modeling and public outreach
- Study objectives:
 - Determine the mobility effects of BRT
 - Facilitate public understanding of BRT
 - Test multiple BRT scenarios
- Study **does not make any recommendations**



Proposed BRT Scenarios

NO BUILD SCENARIO

SCENARIO 1

SCENARIO 2

SCENARIO 3



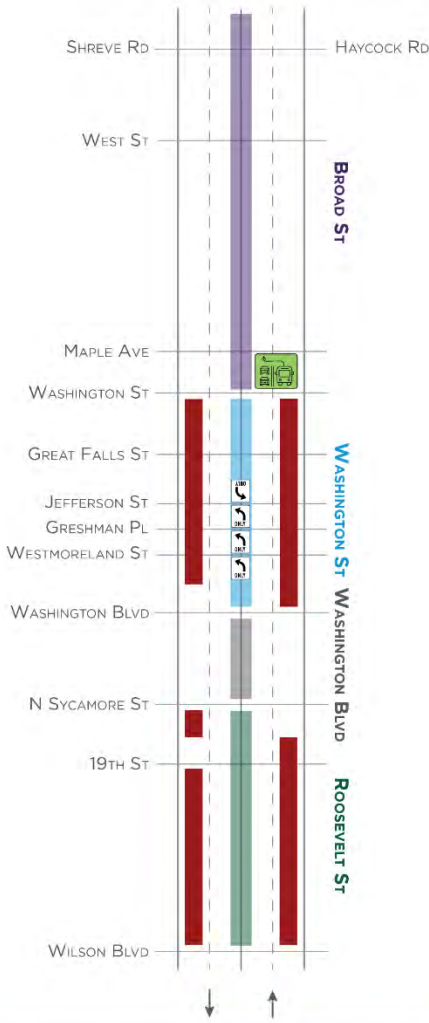
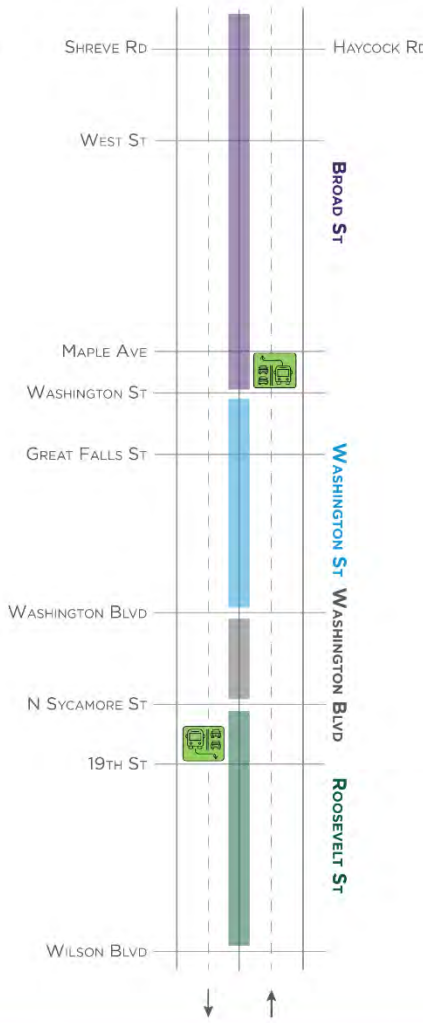
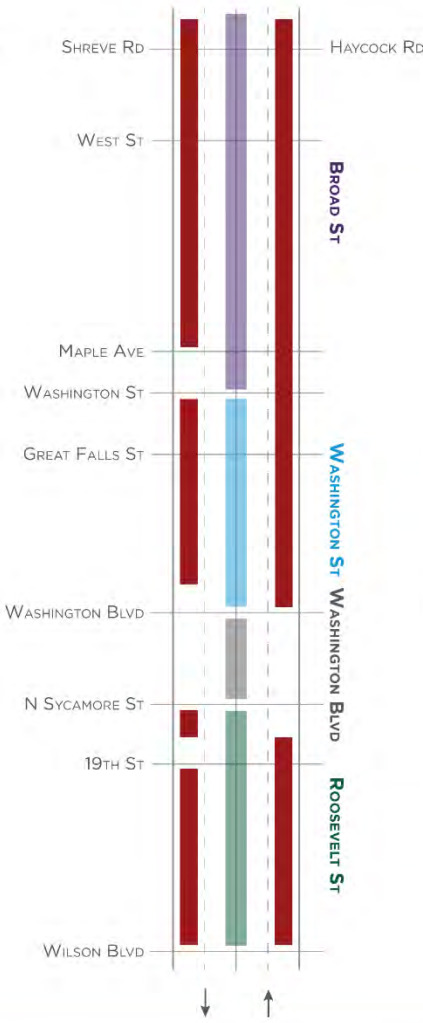
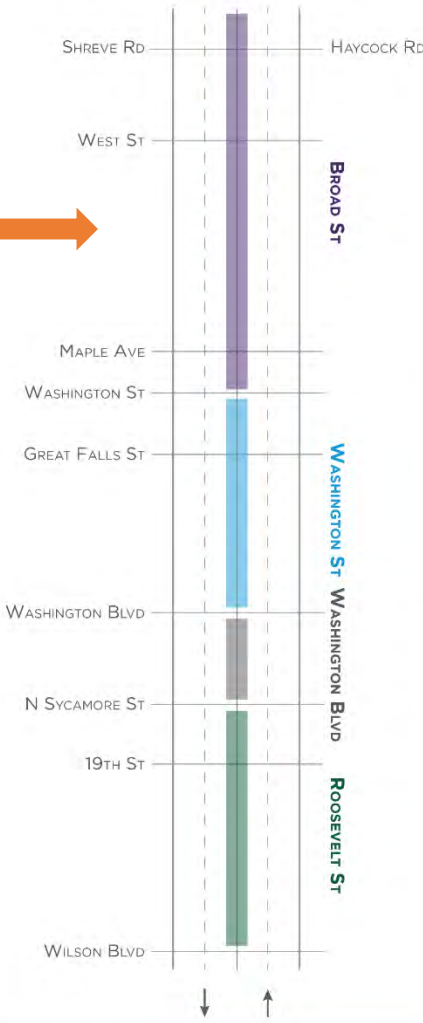
LEGEND

STUDY CORRIDOR

- BROAD ST
- WASHINGTON ST
- WASHINGTON BLVD
- ROOSEVELT ST

ASSUMPTIONS

- BUSINESS ACCESS AND TRANSIT LANE
- QUEUE JUMP
- LEFT ONLY TURN



Business Access and Transit (BAT) Lanes: Broad Street & West Street, Scenario 1



Queue Jump Lanes and Signals

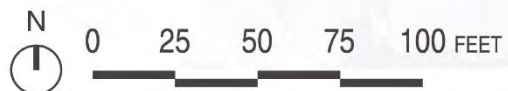
N Sycamore St. & 19th St. N, Scenario 2

NOTES

- THIS RENDERING IS INTENDED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY
- TRAVEL LANES: 11 FEET WIDE

KEY

- QUEUE JUMP
- ◻ QUEUE JUMP SIGNAL
- ▢ BRT STATION





BAT Lanes with Left Turn Pockets

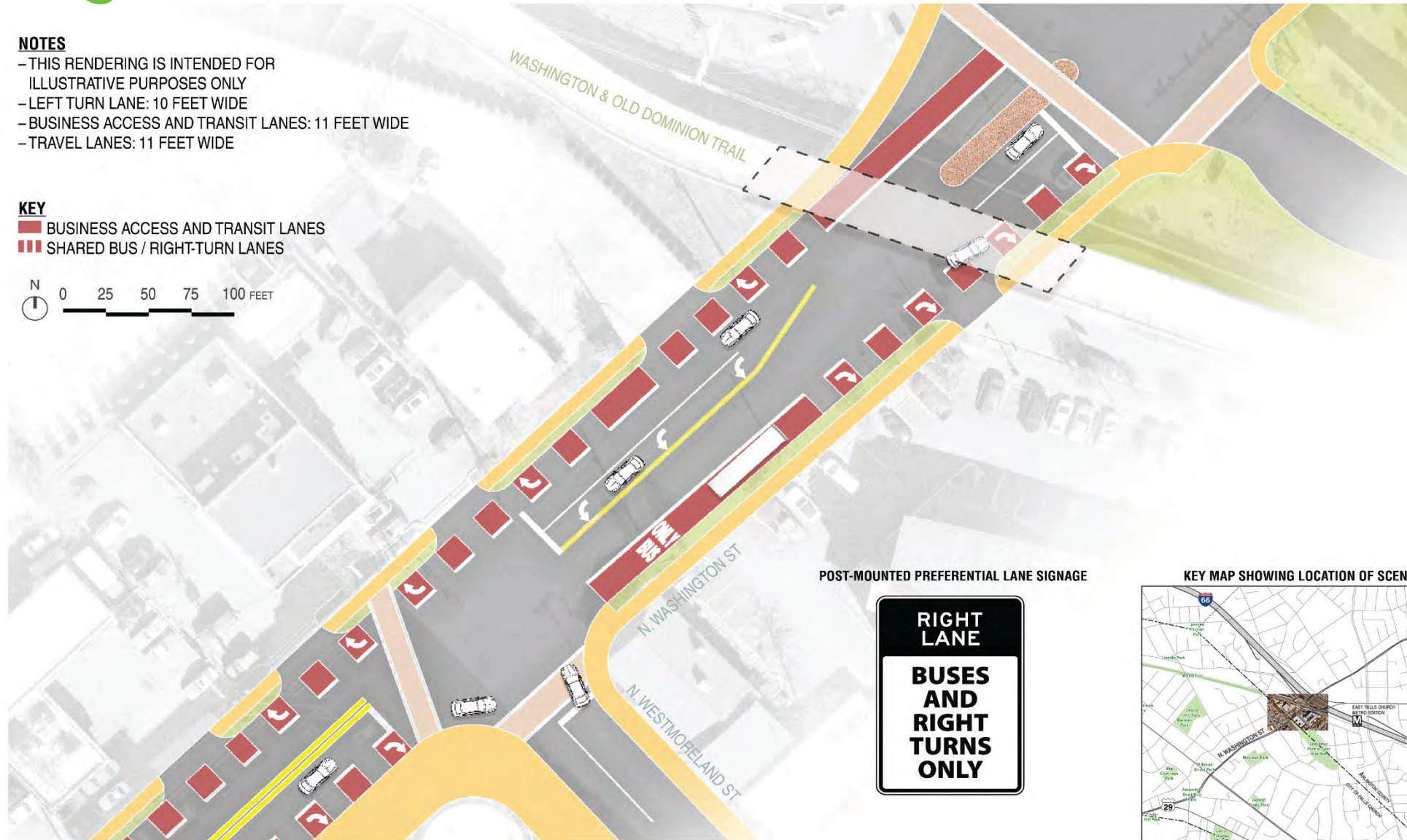
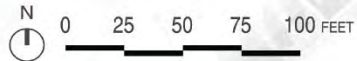
N. Washington St. & N Westmoreland St., Scenario 3

NOTES

- THIS RENDERING IS INTENDED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY
- LEFT TURN LANE: 10 FEET WIDE
- BUSINESS ACCESS AND TRANSIT LANES: 11 FEET WIDE
- TRAVEL LANES: 11 FEET WIDE

KEY

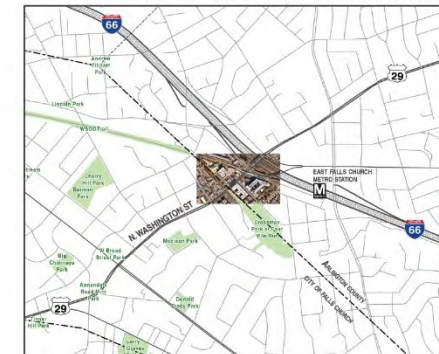
-  BUSINESS ACCESS AND TRANSIT LANES
-  SHARED BUS / RIGHT-TURN LANES



POST-MOUNTED PREFERENTIAL LANE SIGNAGE



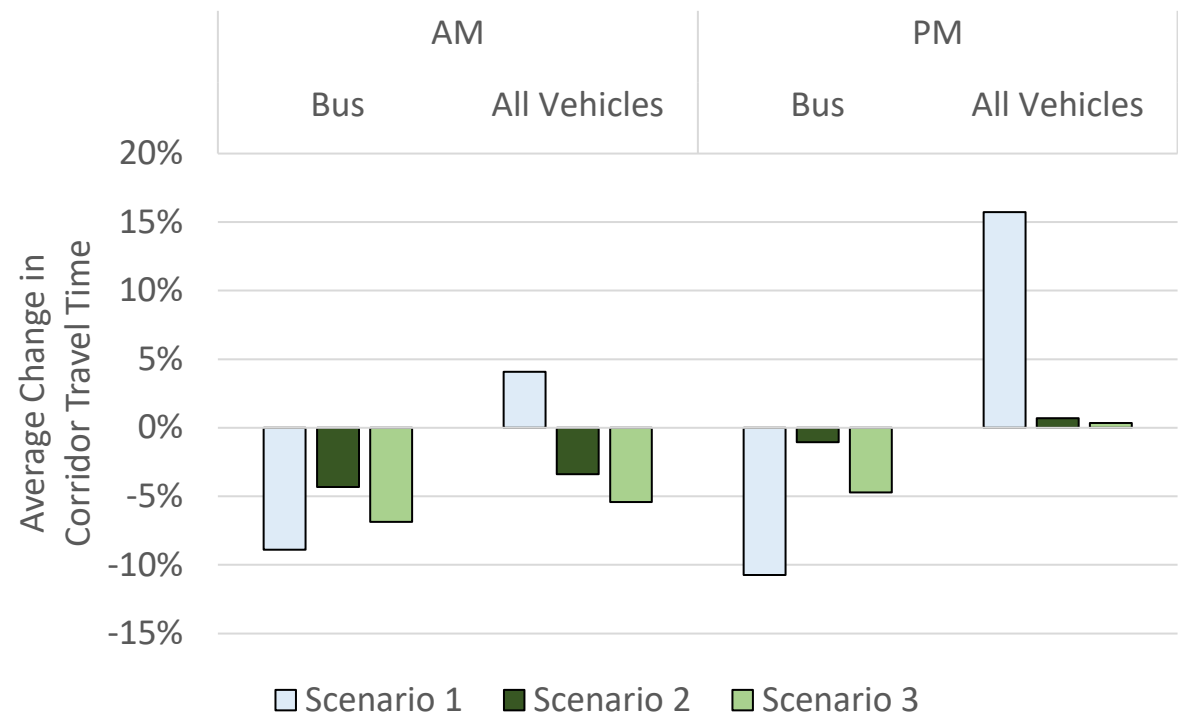
KEY MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF SCENARIO 3



Results Summary

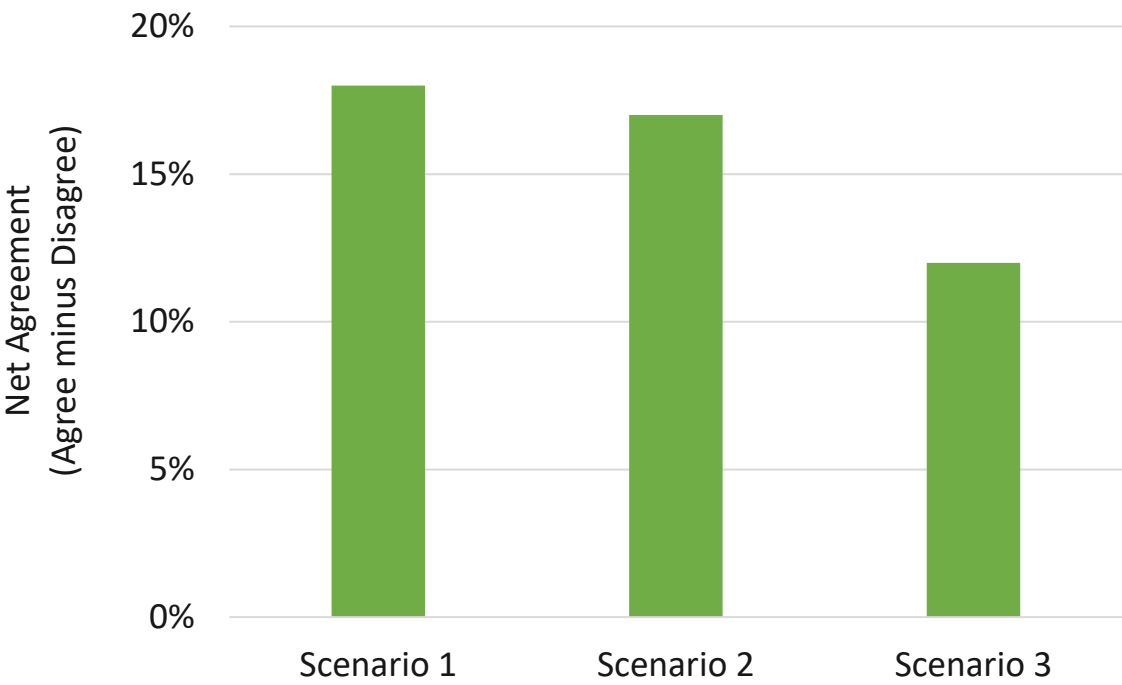
Traffic Modeling Results

Average change in travel time through the corridor



Survey Results (about 200 responses)

People were asked if proposed scenario had the potential to improve transit service while moving people efficiently and reliably through the study corridor



Public Feedback

- Public outreach included:
 - Bus stop chats
 - Pop-up events
 - Two public meetings (October '22 and May '23)
 - Survey (about 200 responses)
- ~60% of respondents agreed that improving bus speed and reliability along the Route 7 study corridor was a high priority
- Public comments noted improved transit service would serve as a catalyst for future growth within Falls Church
- Concerns include increased traffic, financial feasibility, possible traffic diversions, impact to "small town feel," and bicyclist safety



Upcoming Milestones



Fall

- Work with Falls Church to determine preferred scenario to advance
- NVTC staff meet with jurisdictions' leadership regarding Strategic Implementation Plan Recommendations

Winter

- Release RFP for Phase 4-2 Analysis (Seven Corners to Alexandria)
- Seek Approval of Strategic Implementation Plan by Commission, City Councils (Alexandria, Falls Church), and County Boards (Arlington, Fairfax)

Spring

- Award Contract for Phase 4-2 Analysis
- Ongoing Engagement with Key Partners: DRPT, FTA, VDOT, MWCOG, NVTa and NVTC Jurisdictions

Tonight's Action



Action: Accept the Findings of the Envision Route 7 BRT Phase 4-1 Mobility Study

Questions?



6. Call for Projects for I-66 Commuter Choice Program (FY 2025 - 2026)



Adam Hager
*Commuter Choice
Senior Program Analyst*

About Commuter Choice

A competitive grant program that invests toll revenues from I-66 Inside the Beltway and I-395/95 into transportation projects that...

Maximize Person Throughput & Implement Multimodal Improvements



Improve mobility



Support new, diverse travel choices

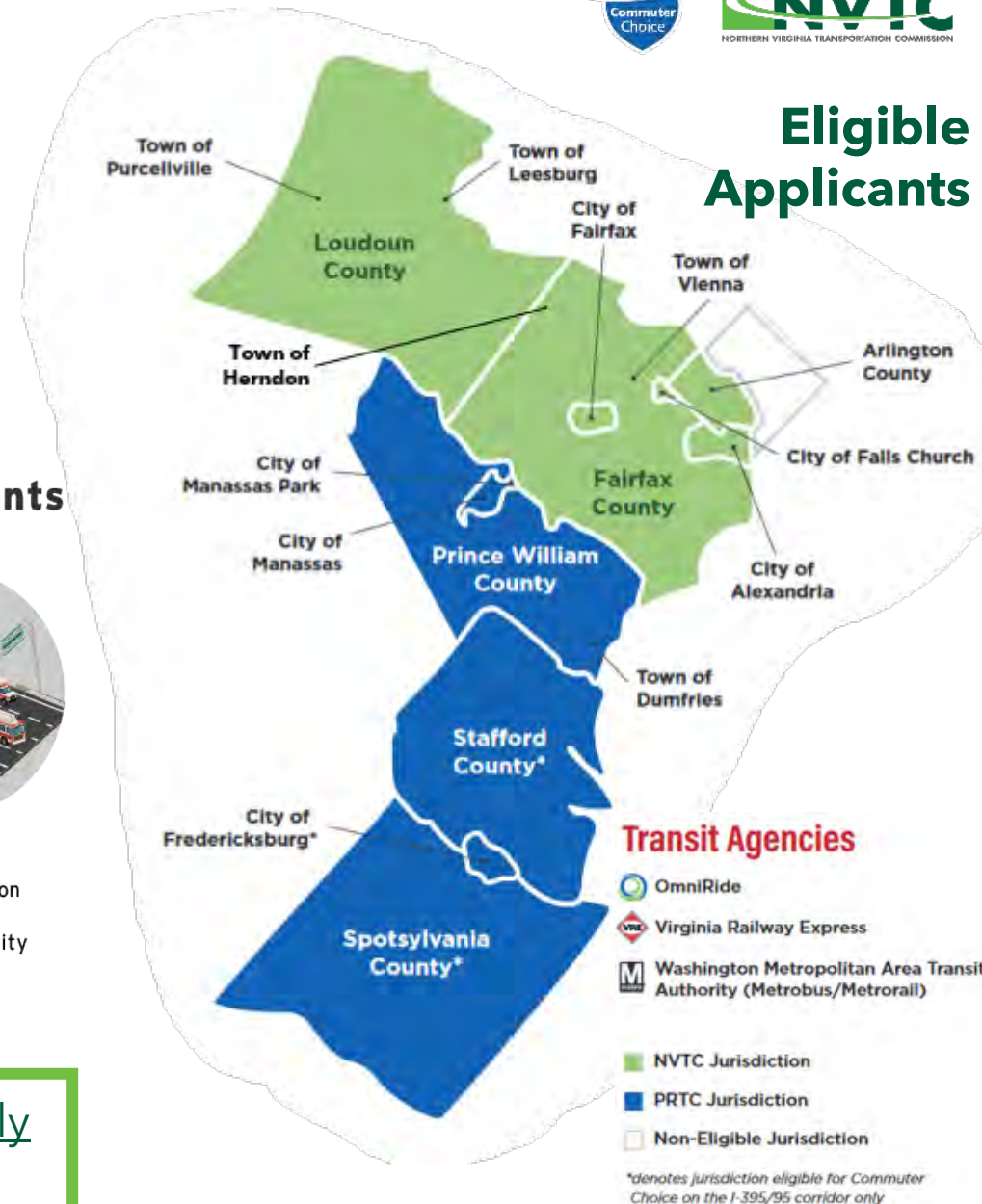


Enhance transportation safety and travel reliability

Each corridor has a multi-decade payout schedule and typically about \$30 million in available funds per two-year program.



Eligible Applicants



I-66 FY 2025-2026 Funding Cycle

At least
\$40M

available for new projects,
50% of which can support transit
operations

First full I-66 funding round since FY 2019
Earlier application window
No significant policy changes



I-66 FY 2025-2026

Call for Projects Process

September

- **Sept. 7:** Commission briefings on call for projects
- **Sept. 27:** Overview webinar for eligible applicants



October

- **Oct. 5:** Commission action to open call for projects
- **Oct. 6:** Application materials available
- **Late Oct.:** One-on-one workshops with applicants to review project ideas



NVTC staff available as a resource during application period

December

- **Dec. 18:** Applications due at the end of the day

Getting From a Set of Applications to a Program of Projects



- Applications Due before Holiday Period (Dec. 18)

- Eligibility Review (All Applications)

- Technical Evaluation (Eligible Applications)

- Public Comment Opens
- PAC Meets to Consider Staff Recommended Program of Projects

- Commission Briefing on PAC-Endorsed Program of Projects
- Public Comment Closes

- Commission Action to Adopt Program of Projects
- Commonwealth Transportation Board Approves Program of Projects



Executive Director Newsletter



 @NoVaTransit

NoVaTransit.org

NoVaRides.org

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

September 2023



A Message from Kate Mattice

Welcome to back-to-school season. Did you know that most of our Northern Virginia transit agencies have special programs that offer students reduced or zero-fare rides? For college students, Metro offers unlimited rides on Metrorail and Metrobus for many area universities throughout the semester with [U-Pass](#). With construction underway at the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus at Potomac Yard, we were delighted to hear that Tech recently became the latest university to participate in the program.

In Arlington, students from kindergarten through 12th grade can get a Student iRide SmarTrip [card](#), giving them free rides on ART. Arlington Public School students can get the card from their Transportation Coordinator (TC) located onsite at their school.

Fairfax Connector's [student pass](#) gives all middle and high schoolers a SmarTrip card that lets them ride free from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week, 365 days a year (parental consent required at registration).

In Prince William, Stafford and Spotsylvania Counties, students can hop aboard [OmniRide](#) for local service to the Northern Virginia Community College campus in [Manassas](#). Multiple routes also connect to the Rosslyn/Ballston corridor, home to Marymount University, satellite campuses of George Mason University, Virginia Tech and others.

Don't forget that DASH and CUE are always free. DASH connects to Virginia Railway Express and multiple Metro stations with routes across Alexandria and to several regional destinations. The City of Fairfax's [CUE bus](#) connects the George Mason University Campus to the city and the Vienna-GMU Metro station.

While you're picking out the newest pencil boxes, notebooks and back-to-school clothes, don't forget to plan your trip at [NoVaRides.org](#), our website that features a real-time trip planner connecting you to all the transit operators serving Northern Virginia and beyond.


Executive Director

In This Issue

- 4 DASH celebrates 4.5 million rides!
- 5 Gov. Youngkin helps cut ribbon for Fredericksburg Express Lanes extension
- 6 Manassas Park breaks ground on Commuter Choice-funded VRE garage
- 7 Commuter Choice funds new OmniRide buses
- 8 Commissioners discuss Metro funding challenges with GM/CEO Randy Clarke
- 9 Program Advisory Committee previews I-66 Commuter Choice call for projects
- 10 Metro Board reviews alternatives for Blue/Orange/Silver capacity and reliability study
- 12 Regional transit marketing campaign hits airwaves
- 13 Regional transit agencies collaborate on zero-emission bus transition
- 14 Falls Church Chamber outreach for Envision Route 7 BRT
- 15 Chair Palchik joins NOVA Chamber transportation discussion
- 16 NVTC report makes bus prioritization recommendations
- 17 NVTC documents progress on improving bus stops in NoVa
- 18 60th anniversary team interviews former Commissioners
- 22 Metro shows off new electric bus
- 23 Arlington approves second Crystal City Metro entrance
- 24 Transit Fellows tour NoVa transit sites
- 26 APTA honors Paul Smedberg
- 26 NVTC DBE liaison speaks to Virginia Asian Chamber

*Save
the
Date*

September 15
VRE Operations Board

September 19-20
Commonwealth
Transportation Board

October 5
Commission Meeting

October 17
Commonwealth
Transportation Board

October 18-20
Virginia Governor's
Transportation Conference

December 1
NVTC-PRTC-VRE Joint
Legislative Forum

NoVaTransit.org
NoVaRides.org



@NoVaTransit



DASH celebrates 4.5 million rides!

Alexandria's DASH bus celebrated a big milestone August 18 — 4.5 million rides taken in one year. That's the biggest year ever for the agency. DASH generates more than 15,000 daily trips and has seen ridership surge since going fare-free nearly two years ago. Mayor [Justin Wilson](#) said the pandemic gave the city a chance to experiment, which resulted in in the free fares and a realignment of the system.

We're also proud to support enhanced service on two key DASH lines through NVTC's Commuter Choice program, increasing frequency to every 10-minutes on Line 35 and 15-minutes on Line 36A/B. Commuter Choice also awarded funding to DASH for the purchase of two 60-foot electric buses for Line 35, the first electric buses funded by the program.



Gov. Youngkin helps cut ribbon for Fredericksburg Express Lanes extension

Executive Director Kate Mattice joined Gov. Glenn Youngkin and leaders from around the Commonwealth on August 16 to celebrate [the opening](#) of the I-95 Express Lanes Fredericksburg Extension, or FredEx, which adds 10 miles of reversible express lanes in Stafford County and creates a seamless connection between Washington D.C. and the Fredericksburg region. A \$670 million public-private partnership between The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Transurban, the lanes provide new travel options for one of the most congested roadway corridors in the country. Along with Commuter Choice Senior Program Analyst Adam Hager, we were particularly excited to highlight the investments Transurban has made in public transportation through its Commonwealth partnership.

To date, over \$60 million has made its way to our Commuter Choice program which affords long distance commuters ways to reach Northern Virginia destinations without having to sit in traffic through new and enhanced OmniRide bus service, incentives for new vanpools and construction of new park-and-ride lots. In addition to being able to use the Express Lanes for free in a carpool or vanpool, commuters will soon have even more new travel options: OmniRide is poised to begin service on three new commuter routes funded by the Commonwealth that will utilize the Express Lanes extension — two from Stafford County and one from Spotsylvania County, each likely to begin this winter.

Photos: Gov. Glenn Youngkin (top, right); Immediate Past Chair Canek Aguirre, Kate Mattice, Adam Hager, DRPT Director Jen DeBruhl (bottom, right)





Manassas Park breaks ground on Commuter Choice-funded VRE garage

The City of Manassas Park broke ground for a new parking garage July 13 that will provide 540 spaces for riders of the Virginia Railway Express (VRE). Director of Policy and Programs Allan Fye joined the ceremony and explained how \$2.5 million from NVTC's [Commuter Choice](#) program helped finance the project. Manassas Park opened [Park Central](#) last year as part of an effort to transform downtown into a transit-oriented, mixed-use, walkable destination. The adjacent garage is being built on city-owned property and is expected to be complete in

mid-2025. It will also have spaces for people visiting city hall and the library.

Additional money for the garage comes from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, the I-66 Outside the Beltway Concession Fee program and The Department of Rail and Public Transportation. We expect that the new garage will support continued growth of VRE and that the Manassas Park Station will be the starting point for many VRE rides in the years to come.



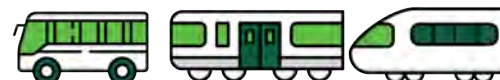


Commuter Choice funds new OmniRide buses

Executive Director Kate Mattice joined OmniRide Executive Director Bob Schneider and Chairman Victor Angry at OmniRide's western maintenance facility to celebrate the [latest additions](#) to OmniRide's commuter and local bus fleet on August 23.

Eight of the new commuter buses were purchased with Commuter Choice funding and come with custom-designed upholstery, passenger

seatbelts, charging stations, brighter destination signs and on-board air purifiers. Once in service, these new buses will serve commuters originating in Stafford County where Commuter Choice also supports the operation of two high-performing express routes – one to the Pentagon and one to downtown Washington, D.C.





Commissioners discuss Metro funding challenges with GM/CEO Randy Clarke

Metro GM/CEO Randy Clarke attended the July 5 Commission [meeting](#), giving him an opportunity to talk about initiatives at the agency and the looming [fiscal cliff](#), with operating deficits starting in FY 2025 and capital deficits starting in future years. Commissioners noted that any additional funding for Metro from Virginia will likely need General Assembly support and encouraged Clarke to more directly engage with the Youngkin administration and GA members. Earlier this year, NVTC staff formed a Metro

Operating Funding and Reform Working Group which will deliver a report to the Commission in the fall with a menu of revenue options and recommendations on revenue structure, policy and reforms that would accompany any new funding.

Photo: Chair Dalia Palchik, Vice-Chair Matt de Ferranti, Commissioner Matt Letourneau, Metro GM/CEO Randy Clarke (left to right)

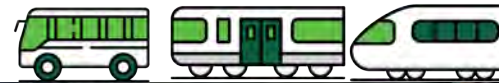


Program Advisory Committee previews I-66 Commuter Choice call for projects

NVTC's Program Advisory Committee (PAC) [convened](#) July 26 to receive an update on the upcoming I-66 Commuter Choice call for projects and the latest on multiple Envision Route 7 BRT study efforts. Commuter Choice Senior Program Analyst Adam Hager provided details on the I-66 [Commuter Choice](#) FY 2025-2026 call for projects, noting staff expects at least \$40 million available for the program – the largest amount in any I-66 funding round to date. The Commission will receive a briefing in September followed by taking action to open the call for projects in October. Adam added that staff has already begun engaging with eligible applicants to workshop project ideas that will move more people through the I-66 Inside the Beltway corridor.

Transit Resource Center Senior Program Manager Xavier Harmony highlighted progress on two [Envision Route 7](#) Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) studies.

He first provided an overview on the mobility analysis focused on the Falls Church section of the future BRT corridor, noting that three scenarios had been developed and shared with the public. He also covered preliminary recommendations for the Strategic Implementation Plan, a guiding document that will address project governance and implementation. Staff and consultants are developing a suite of potential funding sources for the remaining project phases and continuing to develop a schedule for the completion of the overall project. Xavier said the Commission would be asked to accept the findings of the mobility study this fall, followed shortly thereafter by the Strategic Implementation Plan.





Metro Board reviews alternatives for Blue/Orange/Silver capacity and reliability study

The Metro Board's Finance and Capital Committee, chaired by Commissioner Matt Letourneau, [reviewed](#) six alternatives to potentially fix the capacity and reliability of Metrorail's Blue, Orange and Silver lines at their July 13 meeting. Metro says running the three lines on the same tracks limits the number of trains that can travel the corridor and creates challenges for customers including crowding during peak periods, service reliability issues, a lack of operational flexibility and threats to long-term sustainability. Metro also cites forecasts that the BOS corridor will add 37% more people and 30% more jobs by 2040, which is likely to increase ridership.

Among the six alternatives, the one that scored highest for "benefits rank" was the Blue Line Loop, which would extend the Blue Line over the Woodrow Wilson Bridge to National Harbor, while also adding a new connection across the

Potomac River, creating a second station at Rosslyn. The full list of alternatives includes

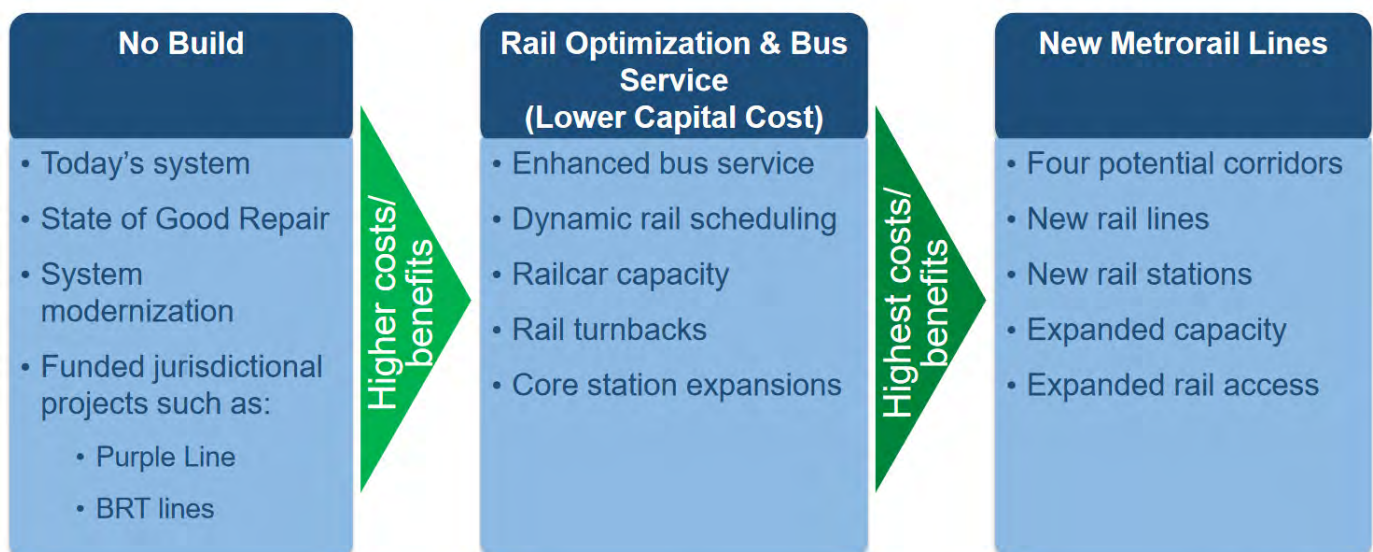
1. [No-Build](#)
2. [The Rail Optimization and Bus Service \(Lower Capital Cost\) Alternative](#)
3. [Blue Line to Greenbelt](#)
4. [Blue Line to National Harbor](#)
5. [Silver Line Express in Northern Virginia](#)
6. [Silver Line to New Carrollton](#)

"I really can't say loudly enough that this is a planning exercise, this is a planning document. It is not an immediate plan." [said Letourneau](#). "Certainly, we will need participation from all of our funding partners, but it is responsible for us to be planning into the future and sharing with the region what's possible and what benefits can come from enhancing the system."

Blue/Orange/Silver Capacity and Reliability Study | Alternatives

NOT AN LPA RECOMMENDATION

Six Alternatives Range in Benefits, Impacts, Costs

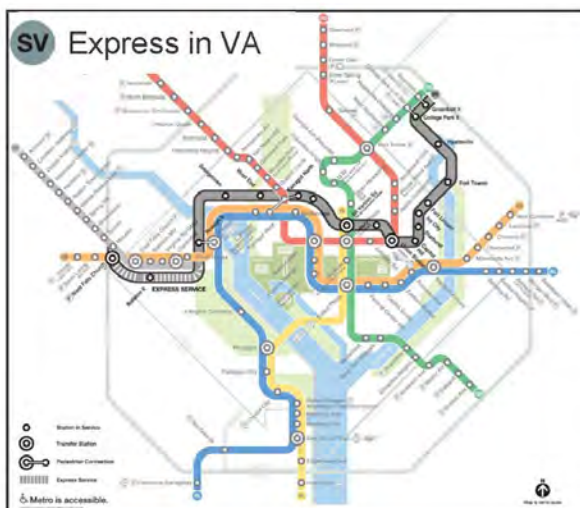


No-Build Alternative

- Existing Services
- State of Good Repair
- Silver Line Phase 2
- Potomac Yard
- Funded Partner Projects (e.g. Purple Line)

Lower Capital Cost Alternative

- Enhanced bus service
- Dynamic rail scheduling
- Railcar capacity
- Rail turnbacks
- Core station expansions



Blue/Orange/Silver alternatives: Metro

Metro began the Blue/Orange/Silver Capacity & Reliability [Study](#) in 2019 with public outreach that has included briefings for NVTB's WMATA Committee. The agency

expects to choose a locally preferred alternative (LPA) later this year after extensive public outreach.



Ride With Us!



PLAN YOUR TRIP

Find your best route via transit!

[Get Started](#)



RIDE-SHARING

Find others who share similar routes and work hours.

[Learn More](#)

Regional transit marketing campaign hits airwaves

Phase two of NVTC's "[Ride With Us](#)" marketing campaign got underway in mid-July, thanks to a grant from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and partnerships with Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax County, OmniRide and Virginia Railway Express. New this year, we have dramatically expanded the number of radio stations we are working with. You'll hear our ads promoting public transit on El Zol,

WGPC 95.5, 94.7 The Drive, the Traffic Weather Information Network, BIG100, DC101, WASH-FM, WMZQ, Hot 99.5, Total Traffic & Weather Network, WKYS, Majic 102.3, WAMU and WTOP. You'll also see video ads on streaming television and YouTube and additional advertising on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, WAZE and elsewhere online. Don't forget to Plan your trip at NoVaRides.org!

Regional transit agencies collaborate on zero-emission bus transition

Senior Program Manager Ann McGrane attended the Zero Emission Bus Resource Alliance's (ZEBRA) Energy Management Roundtable in Silver Spring in July. ZEBRA is a member-based association of transit agencies that works to advance capacity for zero-emission bus (ZEB) adoption through information exchange, research and education. The roundtable allowed agencies to learn about vendors and how their products can simplify or optimize charging of electric fleets. Ann plans to incorporate what she learned about energy management software and systems for transit fleets, as well as lessons shared by participating agencies, into NVTC's strategic planning for ZEBs across the region.

One highlight was a tour of Montgomery County's Brookville Bus Depot [microgrid](#) built in partnership with AlphaStruxure. With solar canopies, on-site generation and battery energy storage, the site provides a resilient option for fleet charging.





Falls Church Chamber outreach for Envision Route 7 BRT

Senior Program Manager Xavier Harmony spoke to the Falls Church Chamber of Commerce about the Envision Route 7 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project July 18. Xavier talked about the recent mobility study work that has focused on Falls Church as well as some of the project's benefits to local businesses. The planned BRT

system would connect Tysons and Alexandria by way of Falls Church and Seven Corners. Commissioner David Snyder wrapped up the discussion, emphasizing the local and regional benefits transportation projects like Envision Route 7 bring to the community.

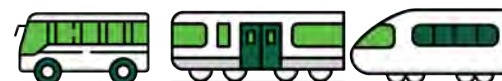




Chair Palchik joins NOVA Chamber transportation discussion

News Channel 4's Adam Tuss led a discussion with some of our region's most recognizable leaders for the Northern Virginia [Chamber](#) of Commerce's annual State of Transportation event July 27. This year's theme was Women Driving Transportation and NVTC's Chair Dalia Palchik joined Northern Virginia Transportation Authority Chair Phyllis Randall, Transurban's Amanda Baxter and Del. Briana Sewell for the panel. The lively discussion focused on the changing transportation landscape coming out of the pandemic, the challenges of funding

transportation in our region and how economic growth in Northern Virginia is tied closely to the ability to move people effectively and efficiently throughout the region. Chair Palchik spoke to her experience accessing transit as a working mother and the importance of diverse transit modes to further integrate the Northern Virginia transit ecosystem — including giving a shout-out to NVTC's Route 7 Bus Rapid Transit project which will provide high-quality bus transportation along the Route 7 corridor from Tysons to the Mark Center in Alexandria.

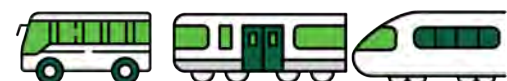


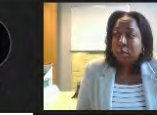
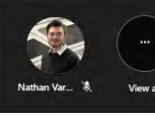
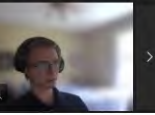
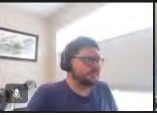
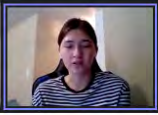


NVTC report makes bus prioritization recommendations

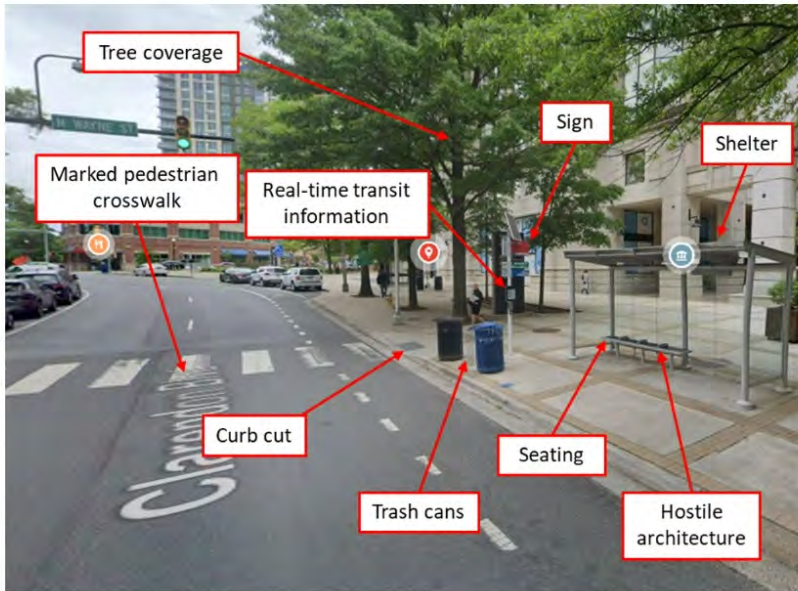
Senior Program Manager Xavier Harmony and Program Analyst Sophie Spiliotopoulos completed their report on advancing bus priority in Northern Virginia in August. The report helps us better understand how the region's bus speeds are affected by congestion and find ways to prioritize the study and installation of bus priority treatments that can benefit buses operating on congested streets. This work helps the region's transit by identifying opportunities for improving speed and congestion issues, facilitating more strategic funding solutions in the region and leveraging the regional nature of Northern Virginia's buses to achieve shared benefits and connecting to related work in the region.

Be sure to check out the companion [interactive storymap](#).





Bus Stop Amenities



Northern Virginia Transportation Commission 3

NVTC documents progress on improving bus stops in NoVa

It was a busy summer for Rachel Inman, our Transit Fellow in the Transit Resource Center. Over the summer, Rachel completed a study on the region's bus stop amenities like bus shelters and benches. In this [study](#), Rachel used Google Street View to collect multiple years of bus amenity data from a sample of the region's 7,500 bus stops. She then used ridership data, bus service data and census data to better understand the distribution of bus stop amenities in the region. Finally, Rachel developed a prioritization matrix for improving bus stops moving forward. While her work didn't find any equity issues regarding the distribution of or access to amenities, simplification and standardization of the approval and installation

processes may encourage the addition of new amenities and promote more accessible transit across the region.

Through this work Rachel learned how much transit policies can vary, some of the complexities around data collection, and even contributed to a submission for a transportation conference. We wish her luck as she returns to her classes this fall at Virginia Tech. We also thank the Department of Rail and Public Transportation for their generous support of the Transit Fellow program, which helps train the next generation of transportation planners.



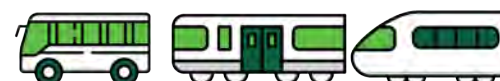


60th anniversary team interviews former Commissioners

Our communications team met with a number of former Commissioners this summer as they continue work on a planned documentary for NVTC's 60th anniversary in 2024. Marketing and Engagement Manager Monique Blyther, Communications and Public Affairs Manager Matt Friedman and Transit Fellow Nathan Varnell interviewed Rep. Gerry Connolly at his district office in Fairfax July 7. Connolly served on NVTC from 1999 to 2008 and as Chair in 2006 while he was a Fairfax County Supervisor and later Chair of the Fairfax County Board.

The team then talked with Mary Hynes, Jim Dyke and Jay Fisette at our offices in Court

House. Hynes, of Arlington County, served on NVTC from 2008 to 2015 and was appointed to the Metro Board in 2011. We continue to work closely with Ms. Hynes in her current role as a representative of Northern Virginia to the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Dyke was the first governor's appointee to NVTC, serving from 2011 to 2015. Fisette represented Arlington County, serving on NVTC from 1999 to 2016 and as chair in 2012 and 2016.

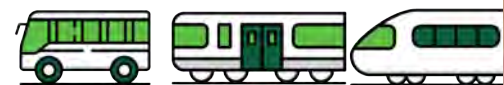




Matt, Monique and Nathan traveled to the U.S. Department of Transportation headquarters to interview former Department of Rail and Public Transportation Director Jennifer Mitchell, who is now deputy administrator at the Federal Railroad Administration. They then interviewed Prof. Zachary Schrag, author of "The Great Society Subway" on the campus of George Mason University.

They interviewed former Fairfax County Chair Kate Hanley in August. She served on the Commission from 1988 to 2003 and was chair in

1992, the year Virginia Railway Express launched. Finally, The team spoke with former City of Fairfax Mayor David Meyer and former Arlington Board Chair Katie Cristol. Meyer served from 2018 to 2022, first as an alternate, then as a full Commissioner. He also chaired our Legislative and Policy Committee. Cristol served from 2016 to 2023 and held the chair's gavel for two terms in 2020 and 2021.





Zachary Schrag



Katie Cristol

Jennifer Mitchell



David Meyer



Metro shows off new electric bus



Members of the Metro Board and regional staff toured the agency's new electric bus outside Metro headquarters July 27. The 60-foot articulated bus arrived last month and is undergoing final inspection, commissioning and safety certification. [Metro expects](#) ten more to arrive in spring 2024. Metro is also rebuilding two garages in the District of Columbia to include charging infrastructure.

This electric bus includes a rear-door target where passengers can validate their SmartTrip cards. Metro says it's initially rolling out all door boarding to 450 buses, which will reduce dwell time at stops and shorten travel time. The Board also heard about other Metrobus improvements like nighttime courtesy stops, working with jurisdictions to upgrade bus stops and improvements to [BusETA](#), Metro's bus-tracking app.



Arlington approves second Crystal City Metro entrance

The Arlington County Board [approved](#) a second entrance for Metro's Crystal City Station July 15. The new entrance at Crystal Drive and 18th Street south will shorten the walk to the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) station and a planned [pedestrian bridge](#) to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. The county says the existing entrance was frequently at capacity during peak ridership times pre-pandemic and usage is expected to grow with development in the area. Arlington County is delivering the project on behalf of Metro, through a unique project delivery agreement with JBG Smith Properties and Clark Construction.

The future entrance at Crystal City is one of three in the works for Metro stations in Northern Virginia. NVTC's Commuter Choice program is contributing \$4.5 million toward a second entrance at Ballston and \$1 million for a new entrance at McLean Station. Additionally, Commuter Choice recently awarded \$10.8 million toward the expansion of the Crystal City VRE station. The combined projects in Crystal City will give commuters seamless connections between Metro, VRE, the airport and, in the future, [Amtrak](#).

Courtesy: Arlington County





Transit Fellows tour NoVa transit sites

Senior Program Manager Xavier Harmony led Transit Fellows Rachel Inman and Nathan Varnell, Program Analyst Sophie Spiliotopoulos and Communications Assistant Ben Mattice on a tour of Northern Virginia transit to experience and learn more about different types of transit in the region on August 8. The group used transit provided by three local transit operators on four different bus routes, including a DASH local bus, the King Street Trolley, an ART express bus, Metro's Metroway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Metrorail. Along the way, Xavier talked about transit's connection to land use and regional economic development, transportation funding and policy as well as the development of in-progress and recently completed transit projects including the Virginia Railway Express Crystal City Station improvement project, Metro's new Potomac Yard-VT Station and planned (BRT) projects by Alexandria, Fairfax and NVTC.

We also thank Ben for his work this summer supporting the Communications Team and wish him well as he returns to his advertising studies at Temple University this fall.







NVTC DBE liaison speaks to Virginia Asian Chamber

Senior Grants and Procurement Manager and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Liaison Officer Brittany Sumpter presented at a networking lunch and learn event for the Virginia Asian Chamber of Commerce (VACC) on August 16. VACC advances, encourages and advocates for domestic and international commerce among its diverse member base of Asian American Pacific Island business owners, nonprofits, local governments, federal and state authority agencies and trade groups.

The theme for the event was "Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging: Going the Extra Mile for DBEs," and Brittany introduced the VACC members to NVTC's role in managing funding for transportation projects, gave an overview of the DBE goal-setting process and shared tips on how to create an environment that nurtures a sense of belonging for DBE firms. Her advice included encouraging prime contractors to make "real" efforts to meet DBE goals and continuously pursue opportunities to build partnerships with DBE firms that can thrive beyond a single project.

APTA honors Paul Smedberg

Congratulations to Commissioner Paul Smedberg for being named Outstanding Public Transportation Board Member by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) in August. APTA honored 14 organizations and leaders with awards for their vision, leadership and commitment to public transportation. Paul has chaired the Metro Board since 2019 and previously served on the Board as an alternate director from 2016 to 2019.

"The achievements and legacies of our awardees inspire us all to continue striving for excellence in our industry and to making a lasting impact on the lives of countless individuals," said APTA President and CEO Paul P. Skoutelas in a [news release](#).





2023 Commissioners

Chair Dalia Palchik, Libby Garvey, Immediate Past Chair Canek Aguirre, Vice Chair, Matt de Ferranti, Aimee Gilroy, Sarah Bagley, Adam Ebbin, Secretary-Treasurer David Snyder, Jeffrey McKay, John Foust, Walter Alcorn, M. David Skiles, John C. Tuck III, Paul Smedberg, Katie Cristol, (not pictured) James R. Walkinshaw, Michael R. Turner, Daniel Storck, Jon R. Stehle, Jr., Catherine S. Read, R. Kirk McPike, Matthew Letourneau, Takis Karantonis, Phil Duncan, Nick Clemente, John J. Bell, Jennifer DeBruhl (F-B)

NVTC, PRTC AND VRE PRESENT:

ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE FORUM

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

SAVE
— THE —
DATE

8:30 - 11 a.m.
Friday, December 1, 2023



New Location!

George Mason University
Schar School/Van Metre Hall
Multipurpose Room 125/126
3351 Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22201



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

NoVaTransit.org
NoVaRides.org



@NoVaTransit

NVTC, PRTC AND VRE PRESENT:

ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE FORUM

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

SAVE
— THE —
DATE

8:30 - 11 a.m.
Friday, December 1, 2023

 **New Location!**

George Mason University
Schar School/Van Metre Hall
Multipurpose Room 125/126
3351 Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22201

