

NVTC PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025
NVTC Conference Room, Suite #230
2300 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Virginia
[Public Streaming Via YouTube](#)
4:30 p.m.

February 20 Committee Meetings:

4:30 p.m. Program Advisory Committee – NVTC Suite #230 Conference Room ([public streaming](#))

5:30 p.m. Boxed Dinners Available for Committee Members

6:00 p.m. Joint WMATA Committee/Legislative and Policy Committee Meeting – NVTC Suite #230 Conference Room ([public streaming](#)) (see separate agenda)

If the meeting method is changed, NVTC will provide a new meeting notice, in accordance of VA Code §2.2-3707.

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks
 - **ACTION: Approve Commissioners Participating Electronically (if needed)**
2. Meeting Summary of the September 19, 2024 Program Advisory Committee Meeting
3. Program Advisory Committee Overview and 2025 Workplan
4. I-395/95 Commuter Choice Update
5. Zero-Emission Bus Shared On-Route Charging Update
6. Transit Data and Analysis
 - A. Integrating Transit, Cycling and Micromobility in Northern Virginia Report
7. Other Items
 - Next Joint Program Advisory Committee/Joint Commission Working Group Meeting: Thursday, April 24, 2025, 4:30 p.m. – All Virtual

PAC Committee Members:

Dalia Palchik, Chair

Sarah Bagley

Juli Briskman

Maureen Coffey

David Snyder

**MEETING SUMMARY
JOINT NVTC PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE/
NVTC-PRTC JOINT COMMISSION WORKING GROUP
Via Electronic Participation
Public Streaming via YouTube
September 19, 2024**

NVTC Program Advisory Committee

Members Present:

Dalia Palchik, Chair
Sarah Bagley
Juli Briskman
Libby Garvey
Dave Snyder

Other NVTC Commissioners Present:

Walter Alcorn

Staff and Others Present:

Allan Fye
Ben Owen
Daniel Knickelbein
Melissa Walker
Bob Schneider (PRTC)

**NVTC-PRTC Joint Commission Working
Group Members Present:**

Dalia Palchik, Chair (NVTC)
Tinesha Allen (PRTC)
Kenny Boddye (PRTC)
Sarah Bagley (NVTC)
Libby Garvey (NVTC)
Jannan Holmes (PRTC)

PAC/JCWG Chair Palchik called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. She stated that the meeting is an all-virtual public meeting as permitted under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and NVTC's Electronic Participation Policy and committee members are participating via Zoom. The meeting is also being streamed live via NVTC's YouTube channel. She noted that staff followed procedures and guidelines to give notice to PAC and JCWG members, both Commissions, staff and the public about today's meeting.

Mr. Fye called the roll and determined a quorum was present. He reviewed the meeting agenda and noted that the Joint Commission Working Group (JCWG) items will be presented first, followed by the Program Advisory Committee (PAC) items.

Joint Commission Working Group

JCWG committee members had no changes to the meeting summary from the April 20, 2023 JCWG meeting.

Ms. Bagley joined the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

I-395/95 Commuter Choice Program

Mr. Owen introduced Mr. Knickelbein, who provided an overview of the Commuter Choice program. He outlined key roles and responsibilities, noting that Commuter Choice was created by the Commonwealth. NVTC and PRTC are delegated to manage the I-395/95 program and all NVTC and PRTC jurisdictions are designated as eligible applicants. He provided a summary of the I-395/95 Commuter Choice program to-date, which includes three rounds of funding leading to \$90.1 million awarded. Examples of prior funded projects include the construction of a relocated and expanded Crystal City VRE station and two OmniRide routes running from Stafford County to the Pentagon and Downtown D.C.

Mr. Knickelbein concluded by providing a brief update on the 2024 Commuter Choice Annual Report, completed each year in accordance with Commonwealth requirements. He noted that this year, Commuter Choice funded projects hit their highest daily ridership total of 7,500 trips. He explained that both NVTC and PRTC will be asked to take action to submit the 2024 Commuter Choice Annual Report to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) at their respective October meetings.

Mr. Owen then covered specifics of the upcoming I-395/95 Commuter Choice FY 2026-2027 program. He noted that \$25-30 million is expected to be available for new projects, after fulfilling a \$10 million off-the-top award to Fairfax County's Richmond Highway BRT project that was approved in the prior I-395/95 Program of Projects. Mr. Owen stated that there will likely be high demand for limited funding and the Commissions will likely need to make challenging trade-offs when programming the FY 2026-2027 program. Mr. Owen next covered the technical evaluation process, noting that it is unchanged from the prior I-395/95 funding round. He highlighted several policy refinements to the program, including providing greater definition of the eligibility of access to transit projects. He concluded by providing the timeline for development of the next Program of Projects, with the application period closing in mid-December, development of a draft Program of Projects occurring in the spring, and the final CTB approval of a Program of Projects occurring in June 2025.

Chair Palchik asked if any Commissioners had questions and there were none. She noted that the next Joint Commission Working Group will be scheduled in April 2025. The meeting then shifted over to the Program Advisory Committee items on the agenda. She welcomed PRTC Commissioners to continue to participate in the meeting.

Program Advisory Committee

PAC committee members had no changes to the April 11, 2024 PAC Meeting Summary.

Transit Technology: Northern Virginia Regional ZEB Update

Mr. Fye began his presentation by highlighting USDOT's Decarbonization Blueprint, noting that electrification of transit fleets is a tool available to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He provided a summary of DRPT's Modernizing Transit Fleets Guidebook, which was released in summer 2024 and includes a detailed playbook for how transit agencies can transition to low and zero-emission buses. Both NVTC staff and local jurisdictional staff were involved in the development of the Guidebook.

Mr. Fye then provided a high-level overview of the technology of zero-emission buses (ZEBs). He noted that while technology for battery electric buses (BEBs) has improved significantly, they currently provide a shorter driving range than both fuel cell electric vehicles and diesel vehicles. He stated that significant infrastructure investments will be needed to implement zero-emission buses at a large scale in the future.

Mr. Fye reviewed NVTC's ZEB strategies, which include:

- Serving as a regional ZEB forum
- Advocating for consistent and supportive ZEB standards and policies
- Providing regional ZEB funding coordination
- Supporting development of shared battery electric bus charging infrastructure
- Evaluating opportunities for private partnerships related to ZEBs
- Supporting ZEB workforce training and education

Dr. Schneider provided an overview of the manufacturing backlog for bus procurement nationally, explaining how these challenges also affect the implementation of zero-emission buses. He stated that the customization of buses by different agencies also affects procurement, causing manufacturing costs to rise and the schedule to increase. Ms. Garvey asked about compressed natural gas (CNG) buses and if they are part of NVTC's ZEB research. Mr. Fye responded that NVTC staff would follow up with Ms. Garvey with additional information.

Mr. Fye next highlighted NVTC's work with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the consultant team, Stantec, on a shared on-route charging feasibility study. He noted that NVTC recently held a workshop with four participating agencies (WMATA, ART, Fairfax Connector and DASH) to evaluate potential shared charging locations. While NVTC is still refining the prioritization criteria for a future shared charging location, the Pentagon Transit Center was cited as a top potential candidate based on the initial criteria that had been developed. He concluded his presentation by providing a timeline for next steps, noting that NVTC's on-route charging feasibility study is scheduled to conclude in late 2024 or early 2025.

Chair Palchik opened it up for questions but there were none.

Other Business

Chair Palchik announced that an exact date for the next PAC meeting has not been identified but will be scheduled for Spring 2025.

Chair Palchik adjourned the meeting at 5:24 p.m.

DRAFT