

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026
NVTC Conference Room, Suite #230
2300 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Virginia
[Public Streaming Via YouTube](#)
6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

February 19 Committee Meetings:

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

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

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

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 January 29, 2026 Joint NVTC WMATA Committee/Legislative and Policy Committee Meeting
3. General Assembly Update
 - A. Transit Funding Legislation
 - B. Other Legislation
4. Other Items
 - Next Joint WMATA Committee/Legislative and Policy Committee Meeting: Thursday, April 16, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Suite #230

Legislative and Policy Committee Members:

Canek Aguirre, Chair
James Bierman
Maureen Coffey
Matt Letourneau
Catherine Read
David Snyder

**MEETING SUMMARY
NVTC JOINT WMATA COMMITTEE / LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
All-Virtual Meeting
Public Livestreaming via YouTube
January 29, 2026**

WMATA Committee Members Present:

Matt de Ferranti, Chair
Matt Letourneau, Vice Chair
Walter Alcorn
Caneke Aguirre
Darien Flowers
David Snyder

Legislative and Policy Committee Members Present:

Caneke Aguirre, Chair
James Bierman, Vice-Chair
Maureen Coffey
Matt Letourneau
Catherine Read
David Snyder

Legislative and Policy Committee Members Absent:

Adam Ebbin

Staff and Others Present:

Kate Mattice, Executive Director
Shannon Bacon
Rhonda Gilchrest
Adam Hager
Scott Kalkwarf
Daniel Knickelbein
Ann McGrane

Owen Williams
Melissa Walker
Aimee Perron Seibert
Jenner Foster

WMATA Committee Chair de Ferranti called the joint meeting of the WMATA Committee and the Legislative and Policy Committee to order at 6:03 p.m. He explained that the meeting is being streamed live via NVTC's YouTube channel. He also highlighted that this meeting is being conducted virtually as permitted under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and NVTC's Electronic Participation Policy. He reminded committee members to keep their cameras on to retain quorum, then turned to Ann McGrane to call the roll and list staff present on the call. Chair de Ferranti confirmed that each committee had reached quorum.

Chair de Ferranti noted that the Meeting Summary of the October 16, 2025 Joint WMATA Committee/Legislative and Policy Committee meeting was included in the meeting materials. There were no changes requested from committee members.

Joint Committee Overview and Work Plan

Chair de Ferranti then turned to the joint committee work plan item in which he noted that the WMATA Committee and the Legislative and Policy Committee will continue to meet jointly through the 2026 legislative Session and NVTC plans to separate them to meet independently later in the year. He then turned to NVTC staff Adam Hager and Daniel

Knickelbein to describe the joint committee work plan and scope for 2026. Mr. Hager and Mr. Knickelbein described how members of the WMATA Committee and Legislative and Policy Committee, respectively, work collaboratively with the full Commission and with regional staff.

Mr. Hager walked WMATA Committee members through its proposed 2026 work plan timeline including providing comments on WMATA's annual budget, providing feedback regarding the NVTC WMATA Annual Report and engaging with the WMATA general manager and Board chair. Mr. Knickelbein described the Legislative and Policy Committee objectives and annual work plan including key points in Virginia's legislative session as well as work on the 2027 state legislative agenda.

Chair de Ferranti affirmed that the committees offer time for members to field questions and have detailed conversations throughout the year. Mr. Bierman asked about updates provided to committee members from staff, which Chair de Ferranti clarified are the semi-monthly meetings during which members can discuss relevant topics in depth outside of the full Commission setting.

Chair Aguirre joined the meeting at 6:10 pm. At some point Ms. Coffey turned off her camera and was no longer counted towards quorum. Both committees continued to keep quorum.

WMATA FY 2027 Proposed Budget and FY 2027-2032 Capital Improvement Program

Chair de Ferranti then turned to a series of items related to the WMATA annual operating and capital budget process. Noting that the public comment period for the FY 2027 budget is currently open for feedback, the chair turned to NVTC staff member Shannon Bacon to cover highlights of the proposed budget.

Ms. Bacon provided a brief overview of the WMATA FY2027 Operating Budget and the FY 2027-2032 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). In addition to top-line operating budget numbers, she outlined service enhancements on Metrorail and Metrobus and how they will affect service in Northern Virginia. She also noted that the jurisdictional subsidy table will be discussed in further detail at the next joint Committee meeting in February. Ms. Bacon then compared the two proposed capital scenarios, one of which is contingent on Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia each committing to providing capital funds identified through the DMVMoves process, totaling \$460 million per year indexed to inflation.

Chair de Ferranti noted that ridership projections continue to improve. Mr. Alcorn stated that Maryland's jurisdictional subsidy is budgeted to rise by over 5% due to the subsidy formula that has been amended in recent years. He also noted that their subsidy growth is in part due to fare evasion levels on Metrobus and customer expectations of fare requirements. Mr. Alcorn affirmed that the Board will continue working to ensure all jurisdictions continue to receive high quality service. Mr. Flowers affirmed Mr. Alcorn's comments.

NVTC Comment Letter on the Proposed WMATA Budget

Chair de Ferranti introduced NVTC's comment letter regarding the WMATA budget then turned to Mr. Hager for further information. Mr. Hager explained that the letter has been distributed for feedback and, absent further feedback from Commissioners, the letter will be submitted as written. With no further comments or questions, Chair de Ferranti confirmed that the letter will be submitted prior to the February 10, 2026 deadline.

General Assembly Update

Legislative and Policy Committee Chair Aguirre provided background and a high-level overview of two bills presented in Virginia's 2026 legislative Session, HB900/SB730 and HB1179/SB638. Chair Aguirre then introduced NVTC Director of Programs and Policy Ann McGrane who explained these bills in more detail, including highlighting that either one of these bills will meet Northern Virginia's transportation funding needs. She described what each bill entails including changes to statewide and regional taxation to support WMATA, VRE and local transit systems. Ms. McGrane highlighted that both bills establish an NVTC regional fund, create a regional highway use fee to supplement the regional gas tax, provide new revenues to the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund and support public transit with a sustainable funding path.

NVTC Legislative Liaison Aimee Perron Seibert introduced Jenner Foster, a new member of the Commonwealth Strategy Group (CSG) legislative team working with NVTC. Ms. Perron Seibert briefly provided an overall picture of Virginia's transit needs and other key legislative and funding issues facing the legislature this General Assembly Session. Mr. Snyder asked about details of the transit funding bills, to which Ms. McGrane provided more information.

Other Items

With no further discussion from committee members, Chair Aguirre reminded members that the next Joint WMATA Committee/Legislative and Policy Committee meeting will be in person at NVTC on Thursday, February 19 at 6:00 p.m. and the NVTC Legislative Reception will occur on February 5, 2026 in Richmond.

Chair Aguirre adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.