



# NVTC Joint WMATA and Legislative & Policy Committee Meeting

Meeting materials available at [novatransit.org](http://novatransit.org)

January 29, 2026

# Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks
2. October 16, 2025 Meeting Summary
3. Joint Committee Overview and Work Plan
4. WMATA FY 2027 Proposed Budget and FY 2027-2032 CIP
  - A. NVTC Comment Letter
5. General Assembly Update
6. Other Items



# 3. Joint Committee Overview and Work Plan



# WMATA Committee Scope and Responsibilities

Commission
<p><i>Meets monthly</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discuss and inform Commissioners during the WMATA portion of the agenda</li><li>• Receive reports from the WMATA Committee and WMATA Board Members</li><li>• Take formal action on NVTC policy positions on WMATA</li></ul>

NVTC WMATA Committee
<p><i>Meets 5-6 times a year</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provides a forum for consensus-based recommendations to the Commission on WMATA policy positions</li><li>• Provides strategic guidance to staff on WMATA related policy matters and NVTC's responsibilities from legislation</li></ul>

Regional Staffing Structure
<p><i>Ongoing coordination</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NVTC staff coordinate a regional staffing structure that includes DRPT and jurisdictional staff</li><li>• Prepares Virginia WMATA Board members for WMATA Board meetings</li><li>• Builds consensus on Virginia issues related to WMATA and facilitates multi-jurisdictional representation</li></ul>

# WMATA Committee Proposed 2026 Work Plan

January-February

April – June

September – December

Committee  
Engagement

- 2026 Work Plan
- WMATA budget update
  - NVTC comments
- Legislative update

- General Assembly recap
- WMATA OIG visit
- WMATA real estate update
- 2026 NVTC WMATA Annual Report approach

- WMATA ridership and trends update
- Develop 2026 NVTC WMATA Annual Report
- Preliminary discussion of WMATA FY 2028 budget

Commission  
Engagement

- Review impacts of any new legislation affecting WMATA
- WMATA GM and Board Chair visit NVTC

- **Action: Authorize submission of the 2026 Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA**

# Legislative and Policy Committee Scope and Responsibilities

Commission	NVTC Legislative and Policy Committee	Regional Context
<p data-bbox="435 508 749 551"><i>Meets Monthly</i></p> <ul data-bbox="300 632 868 1203" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="300 632 868 775">• Discuss legislative updates from Washington and Richmond</li><li data-bbox="300 818 868 961">• Receive reports from Legislative and Policy Committee</li><li data-bbox="300 1003 868 1203">• Take formal action approving NVTC federal and state legislative agenda</li></ul>	<p data-bbox="1072 508 1538 551"><i>Meets 5-6 times a year</i></p> <ul data-bbox="1014 632 1582 1203" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1014 632 1582 832">• Forum for committee members to discuss federal and state policy and impacts to NVTC</li><li data-bbox="1014 875 1582 1018">• Provide strategic guidance to staff on legislative and policy matters</li><li data-bbox="1014 1061 1582 1203">• Develop annual legislative agenda for Commission review and approval</li></ul>	<p data-bbox="1798 508 2244 551"><i>Ongoing coordination</i></p> <ul data-bbox="1727 632 2295 1203" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1727 632 2295 775">• NOVA Legislative Liaisons meetings during General Assembly Session</li><li data-bbox="1727 818 2295 1018">• Weekly reporting on key legislative issues and bill status during General Assembly Session</li><li data-bbox="1727 1061 2295 1203">• Stakeholder engagement on relevant issues throughout the year</li></ul>

# Legislative and Policy Committee Proposed 2026 Work Plan

January-March

April – June

September – December

Committee  
Engagement

- Committee Work Plan review
- Weekly General Assembly updates

- Debrief on General Assembly Session
- Next steps on Northern Virginia transit funding

- Continued engagement on relevant funding and policy changes from 2026 General Assembly Session
- Develop 2027 Legislative Agenda

Commission  
Engagement

- Reporting on key legislative issues

- Debrief on General Assembly session

- **Action: Approve 2027 Legislative and Policy Agenda**



## **4. WMATA FY 2027 Proposed Budget & FY 2027-2032 CIP**

# WMATA FY 2027 Operating Budget Overview

(\$ in millions)	FY2025 Actual	FY2026 Budget	FY2026 Forecast	FY 2027 Proposed Budget	FY2028 Forecast	FY2029 Forecast
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$594	\$564	\$632	\$651	\$719	\$732
<b>Gross Expenses</b>	\$2,531	\$2,607	\$2,650	\$2,740	\$2,823	\$2,874
Preventive Maintenance Transfer	(\$89)	(\$109)	(\$84)	(\$126)	(\$82)	(\$60)
<b>Net Expenses</b>	\$2,442	\$2,498	\$2,566	\$2,614	\$2,741	\$2,814
<b>Gross Subsidy</b>	(\$1,848)	(\$1,934)	(\$1,934)	(\$1,963)	(\$2,022)	(\$2,082)
Prior Year Savings		\$28	\$28	\$0		
Federal Relief	\$123	\$0	\$0			
<b>Jurisdictional Contribution</b>	\$1,753	\$1,906	\$1,906	\$1,963	\$2,022	\$2,083
<b>Operating Result</b>	\$28	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

- FY 2026 and FY 2027 anticipated revenue **higher** than previous forecasts.
- Preventive maintenance transfers **lower** than previous years and **continuing to decrease**.

Source: [December 11, 2025 Safety and Operations Committee](#)

# WMATA FY 2027 Operating Budget Overview

- Bus and rail enhancement concepts **primarily funded through operating efficiencies.**
- **No fare increase** in FY 2027.
  - Anticipated increase in FY 2028.
- FY 2027 baseline paid ridership growth of **2.3%**, and **4.9% with service improvements.**



## Metrobus

- **More efficient bus operations** through schedule optimization
- **Add capacity and improve on-time performance** to address emerging crowding and reliability issues
- **Increase frequency** to drive ridership and improve customer experience
- **Enhance span and coverage** to key routes to provide more consistent service



## Metrorail

- **More efficient rail operations** through train length optimization and Automatic Train Operation
- **Better all-day and late night service** to improve network usefulness for trips across the day and support major destinations with more frequent service
- **Add peak capacity** to mitigate crowding on the Red, Orange and Silver Lines

MetroAccess: Service area remains at FY2026 levels

Source: [December 11, 2025 Safety and Operations Committee](#)

# WMATA FY 2027 Operating Budget Overview

## FY2027 PROPOSED BUDGET – SUMMARY OF STATE AND LOCAL OPERATING REQUIREMENTS

<i>(Dollars in Millions)</i>	<b>Metrobus Subsidy</b>	<b>Metrorail Subsidy</b>	<b>MetroAccess Subsidy</b>	<b>Total Subsidy</b>	<b>Debt Service</b>	<b>Jurisdictional Contributions</b>
<b>District of Columbia</b>	<b>\$394.4</b>	<b>\$293.0</b>	<b>\$58.6</b>	<b>\$746.0</b>	<b>\$33.3</b>	<b>\$779.3</b>
Montgomery County	\$104.9	\$156.2	\$35.2	\$296.4	\$15.4	\$311.8
Prince George's County	173.1	163.6	78.1	414.7	15.8	430.5
<b>Maryland</b>	<b>\$278.0</b>	<b>\$319.7</b>	<b>\$113.3</b>	<b>\$711.1</b>	<b>\$31.3</b>	<b>\$742.3</b>
City of Alexandria	\$25.7	\$41.9	\$2.4	\$70.1	\$1.8	\$71.9
Arlington County	46.1	86.8	2.8	135.7	-	135.7
City of Fairfax	1.3	2.2	0.5	4.0	0.1	4.1
Fairfax County	72.4	156.4	20.5	249.3	5.6	254.9
City of Falls Church	2.0	2.1	0.1	4.2	0.2	4.3
Loudoun County	0.1	42.7	0.0	42.8	-	42.8
<b>Virginia</b>	<b>\$147.7</b>	<b>\$332.1</b>	<b>\$26.3</b>	<b>\$506.0</b>	<b>\$7.7</b>	<b>\$513.7</b>
<b>Net Operating Subsidy</b>	<b>\$820.0</b>	<b>\$944.9</b>	<b>\$198.2</b>	<b>\$1,963.1</b>	<b>\$72.3</b>	<b>\$2,035.4</b>

\*Totals may not sum due to independent rounding

Source: [WMATA FY 2027 Proposed Budget](#)

# FY 2027-2032 Capital Improvement Program

- WMATA is focused on **addressing the backlog to maintain state of good repair.**
- Investment in key programs reliant on **DMVMoves funding.**

## 8000-Series Railcars

- Proposed Capital Program only includes base contract for 256 railcars
- Railcar option(s) 1+ require additional regional investment

## Rail Modernization

- Proposed Capital Program includes rail automation, with installation of communications-based train control (CBTC) on the Red Line
- System-wide modernization dependent on additional regional investment

## TWO SIX-YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAM SCENARIOS FOR CONSIDERATION

1

Assumes no new regional investment

FY2027 – FY2032: \$11.3B

2

Assumes additional annual regional investment\* of \$460M (indexed and bondable)

FY2027 – FY2032: \$15.8B

\*DMVMoves Proposal

Source: [December 11, 2025 Safety and Operations Committee](#)

# Draft NVTC Comment Letter – Next Steps

- Feedback on draft letter circulated earlier this week.
- Incorporate committee feedback into final draft for chair signature.
- NVTC staff to submit letter to WMATA by Feb. 10.

Support legislative efforts in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia to advance the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) scenario that includes DMVMoves funding.

Advance rail modernization on the Red Line and continue to refine the costs and benefits of a systemwide modernization program.

Ensure that funding is secured to allow Option 1 of the 8000-series railcar contract to be executed to avoid production disruptions or delays.

Until legislation obviates the need to address the current 3% cap on growth in Virginia's operating assistance to WMATA, ensure Virginia's proposed subsidy does not conflict with the 3% cap.

Continue to look for opportunities to identify one-time and recurring cost savings in the operating and capital budgets.



## 5. General Assembly Update



# Key Bills

- [HB900](#) (Sullivan) / [SB730](#) (Surovell) – Sales and use tax on taxable services and digital personal property; taxes levied in certain transportation districts; funding for transportation.
- [HB1179](#) (Tran) / [SB638](#) (Ebbin) – Transportation funding.

# Upcoming Events

- **February 2** – VTA Advocacy Day in Richmond (new date)
- **February 5** – NVTC Legislative Reception in Richmond

Washington Dulles International Airport

**NVTC & CSG PRESENT:**

**RSVP TODAY**

Thursday, February 5, 2026  
4:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Commonwealth Strategy Group  
118 North 8th Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Join the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission & Commonwealth Strategy Group for refreshments & conversation about the value of transit.

RSVP HERE:



**NVTC**  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**COMMONWEALTH STRATEGY GROUP**

# Questions



NVTC General Assembly Legislative Update – As of January 29, 2026

**HB900 (Sullivan) & SB730 (Surovell) Sales and use tax on taxable services and digital personal property; taxes levied in certain transportation districts; funding for transportation. (Sickles “Big Bill”)**

**Summary:** Decreases the retail sales and use tax from 4.3 percent to four percent and expands such tax to taxable services, defined in the bill, and digital personal property, also defined in the bill, beginning on January 1, 2027. Additionally, the bill imposes (i) an additional retail sales and use tax in any county or city that is a member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission at the rate of 0.385 percent; any county or city that is embraced by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority but that is not a member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission at the rate of 0.615 percent; and any county or city that is a member of the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission at the rate of 0.2 percent; (ii) a retail delivery fee in the amount of 20 cents upon each retail delivery, defined in the bill, made in any county or city located within the Northern Virginia Transportation District or the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission; and (iii) a regional highway use fee on all vehicles in the Commonwealth that are subject to the existing highway use fee.

**Status: In Committee (House Finance; Senate Finance and Appropriations)**

**NVTC Position: Support**

**HB1179 (Tran) & SB638 (Ebbin) Transportation funding. (SJ 28 Bill)**

**Summary:** Changes various provisions of existing transportation funds, including the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Capital Fund, and creates new funds for the Northern Virginia Transportation District and the localities embraced by the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission for regional transit purposes. The bill imposes a regional sales and use tax for certain localities, a tax on transportation network companies, a tax on retail deliveries, and a tax on regional commercial parking. The bill also imposes a regional highway use fee on all vehicles in the Commonwealth that are subject to the existing highway use fee.

**Status: In Committee (House Appropriations; Senate Transportation)**

**NVTC Position: Support**

**HB200 (McQuinn) Certain transit entities; funding and administration.**

**Summary:** Changes the purposes and geographic applicability of the Transit Ridership Incentive Program and removes various other requirements related to the program's administration and use of funds. The bill removes the requirement for the Secretary of Transportation to coordinate with certain other entities for the purpose of revising the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Compact of 1966 and implementing other reforms necessary to ensure the near-term and long-term viability of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. The bill also repeals the sunset on provisions delegating to local building officials the enforcement of the Uniform Statewide Building Code for bus shelters to be constructed for transit agencies receiving state funds from the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund.

**Status: In Subcommittee (Transportation)**

**NVTC Position: Support**

**HB564 (Reid) & SB583 (Salim) Parking, stopping, and standing enforcement; bus obstruction monitoring systems.**

**Summary:** Allows localities to authorize the use of bus obstruction monitoring systems by a public transit agency operating within the locality for the purpose of enforcing local ordinances related to parking, stopping, or standing in bus stop zones or in lanes reserved for transit buses or other specific vehicles during posted times.

**Status: In Subcommittee (House Transportation; Senate Transportation)**

**NVTC Position: Support**

**HB330 (McClure) Signs and advertisements adjacent to certain highways; signs affixed to real property owned by WMATA.**

**Summary:** Authorizes signs containing advertisements or notices that have been authorized by a county or a city and that are securely affixed to real property that is owned by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to be erected, maintained, and displayed within 660 feet of the right-of-way of any Interstate System, National Highway System, or federal-aid primary highway, provided that such signs comply with any applicable federal requirements.

**Status:** In House

**NVTC Position:** No Position/Tracking

**HB547 (Helmer) & SB731 (Salim) Private companies providing public transportation services; employee protections.**

**Summary:** Specifies that the governing body or transportation district commission of any county or city that contracts with a private company to provide transportation services shall require such company to (i) provide each of its employees compensation or benefits as specified in the bill, (ii) provide transportation services through its own employees, and (iii) ensure that all employees of the public transportation system employed by a predecessor private company be offered employment with any successor company without loss of compensation or benefits.

**Status:** In Subcommittee (House Labor and Commerce; Senate Local Government)

**NVTC Position:** No Position/Tracking – Needs amendments for PRTC/VRE

**HB1000 (Cole) Rappahannock Area Transportation Authority created; funding; recordation tax; sales and use tax; report.**

**Summary:** Creates the Rappahannock Area Transportation Authority, initially comprising the counties with a population in excess of 150,000 and cities located in Planning District 16. The bill authorizes any locality in Planning District 16 to join the Authority by resolution or ordinance of such governing body. The Authority will administer transportation funding generated through the imposition of (i) an additional regional 0.5 percent sales and use tax, (ii) an additional transportation improvement grantor's fee at a rate of \$0.06 per \$100 of the consideration for the conveyance, and (iii) a local transportation transient occupancy tax at a rate of one percent of the amount of the charge for the occupancy of any room or space occupied in any county or city in Planning District 16. The bill also increases the annual distribution of recordation tax revenues to cities and counties from \$20 million to \$55 million and dedicates \$15 million of such annual distribution to the Rappahannock Area Transportation Fund, created by the bill.

**Status:** In Subcommittee (Appropriations)

**NVTC Position:** No Position/Tracking – Could impact SJ 28 related provisions re: PRTC regional funds

*Tolling*

**HB1399 (Franklin) Toll relief; maximum charges.**

**Summary:** Limits to \$200 per month the tolls charged to residents of the Commonwealth via electronic toll collection devices for the use of toll bridges, toll ferries, toll tunnels, or toll roads in the Commonwealth. The bill prohibits misusing, sharing, or transferring an electronic toll collection device for the purpose of (i) generating tolls to reach the toll charges limit or (ii) obtaining toll-free use of toll facilities in the Commonwealth. The bill authorizes the free use of all toll bridges, toll roads, and other toll facilities in the Commonwealth for drivers who are recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits.

**Status:** In Committee (Transportation)

**NVTC Position:** No Position/Tracking

**HB731 (Leftwich) Free use of toll facilities; certain disabled veterans.**

**Summary:** Authorizes the free use of all toll bridges, toll roads, and other toll facilities in the Commonwealth for drivers who have been rated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having a 100 percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability. The bill also replaces the current window sticker for certain persons exempted from tolls due to a disability with a specialized electronic toll collection device identifying such person as eligible for free passage.

**Status:** **Tabled**

**NVTC Position:** **No Position/Tracking**

**HB943 (Franklin) Free use of toll facilities; campus police officers.**

**Summary:** Authorizes campus police officers to use all toll bridges, toll ferries, toll tunnels, and toll roads in the Commonwealth without the payment of toll while in the performance of their official duties.

**Status:** **In House**

**NVTC Position:** **No Position/Tracking**

*Taxation*

**HB978 (Watts) Taxation in the Commonwealth.**

**Summary:** Levies the retail sales and use tax on the following services: admissions; charges for recreation, fitness, or sports facilities; nonmedical personal services or counseling; dry cleaning and laundry services; companion animal care; residential home repair or maintenance, landscaping, or cleaning services when paid for directly by a resident or homeowner; vehicle and engine repair; repairs or alterations to tangible personal property; storage of tangible personal property; delivery or shipping services; travel, event, and aesthetic planning services; and digital services. Digital services are defined in the bill as the following: software application services, computer-related services, website hosting and design, data storage, and digital subscription services. The services taxed under the bill include any transaction for digital services where the purchaser or consumer of the service is a business but do not include any service otherwise exempt under law...

**Status:** **In Committee (Finance)**

**NVTC Position:** **No Position/Tracking**

**HB979 (Watts) Taxation provisions.**

**Summary:** Increases the standard deduction to \$10,000 for single individuals, \$15,000 for individuals eligible to claim head of household for federal tax purposes, and \$20,000 for married individuals beginning in taxable year 2027 and indexes such deduction amount for inflation beginning in taxable year 2028. The bill also removes the aggregate amount of housing opportunity tax credits that may be claimed for qualified projects across all calendar years and exempts food purchased for human consumption and essential personal hygiene products from the local sales tax. The bill establishes two new tax brackets beginning on and after January 1, 2027, that tax income in excess of \$600,000 but not in excess of \$1,000,000 at a rate of eight percent and income in excess of \$1,000,000 at a rate of 10 percent. Finally, the bill provides that 50 percent of revenues generated by the new tax brackets will be dedicated to localities for maintenance, operation, capital outlays, debt and interest payments, or other expenses incurred in the operation of public schools.

**Status:** **In Committee (Finance)**

**NVTC Position:** **No Position/Tracking**

VPRA

**HB141 (Reid) Virginia Passenger Rail Authority; exemptions.**

**Summary:** Exempts the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority from certain requirements, procurement and technology procedures, fees, and charges and expands certain existing exemptions to which it is already entitled.

**Status:** In House

**NVTC Position:** *No Position/Tracking*

**HB446 (Simon) Virginia Passenger Rail Authority; eminent domain.**

**Summary:** Expands the authority of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority to exercise the power of eminent domain.

**Status:** In House

**NVTC Position:** *No Position/Tracking*