

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT AUGUST 2014

50th Anniversary
Funding Issue Briefs
October Planning Session
New Service and Construction
Planning Initiatives and Projects
WMATA
NEPP Project Update

FOIA/Remote Voting
DRPT Report
NVTA
TPB
VRE
Conferences
Key Dates

Join us CELEBRATE *50 YEARS* OF TRANSIT INNOVATION

September 4, 2014 ~ 6:30 PM
George Mason University Arlington Campus
Founders Hall
3351 N. Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA
RSVP by August 25 to:
nvtc@nvtcd.org



Special thanks to [George Mason University](http://www.gmu.edu) for supporting this event.

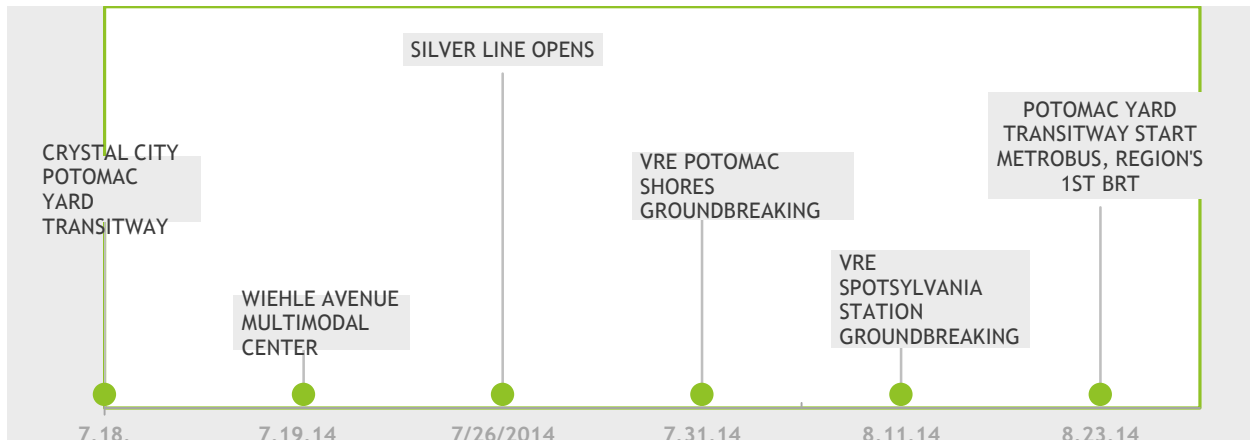
COMMENTS REQUESTED

Take a moment to review these issue briefs on federal and state funding. Send comments to nvtc@nvtcd.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OCTOBER 27TH PLANNING SESSION

At NVTC's Planning Session on October 27th, Commissioners will review progress to date on the priorities set in 2013 and define how NVTC will move forward in promoting how high quality, high capacity transit is vital to the economic vitality of Northern Virginia. Our outcomes for the session will be a final draft strategic framework that will define NVTCs priorities for the next three to five years and an implementation plan to achieve regional goals of increased connectivity, expanded commuter rail, and innovative and sustainable investments in regional transit including Metro, VRE, and other regional transit infrastructure and service. There are several activities that will inform this process—among them the development of the FY2016 budget, research and outreach activities on the economic benefits of transit investment, and strengthening of our regional planning and policy capacity. Building on discussions over the last several months, NVTC staff are organizing a series of work sessions with each member jurisdiction's transportation team over the next six weeks. The Management Advisory Committee are reviewing a draft strategic framework and will have a work session in September to prepare for the Commission planning session. Commissioners will be asked to review the framework and offer comments through a variety of means including a survey. **Special thanks to the MAC members for keeping this effort on track with each jurisdiction.**

NEW SERVICE AND CONSTRUCTION



PLANNING: REGIONAL AND STATE INITIATIVES AND NEW PROJECTS

July and August have been packed with planning and funding activities that lay the way for future transportation investments regionally on Rt. 7 and I-66 and across the state on VTRANS. The Commission's October planning session will include updates on Rt. 7, I-66 and VTRANS.

Rt. 7 Phase II Kick Off

On July 25th, NVTC's project lead Claire Gron convened the Rt. 7 Technical Advisory Committee to develop a revised scope of work for Phase II. In addition to focusing on alignment and modal options, the revised scope will address exploring funding options, take into account changes in federal requirements, and develop an outreach strategy. The TAC includes representatives from NVTC member jurisdictions, DRPT, WMATA, and VDOT.

I-66 Outside the Beltway/Rapid Bus Transit

Secretary Layne's July announcement of a multimodal approach to improving transportation on I-66 outside the beltway kicked off an aggressive schedule to complete planning activities and to break ground next year. VDOT has tapped NVTC for the Stakeholder Advisory Committee and DRPT has included us in the Transit and TDM Working Group. Early sessions have focused on fleshing out the rapid bus transit concepts and highlighting concerns about connection with transit facilities and services outside the footprint of the project itself. In coming weeks, NVTC staff will participate in Transit/TDM Working Group Sessions on Transit Access Points and the Transportation Management Plan for the project. VDOT is scheduled to brief NVTC at our October 2 meeting.

Commonwealth Planning Activities: VTRANS & HB 2

NVTC is working closely with NVTA and the Virginia Transit Association, members of the VTRANS Multimodal Advisory Committee, on initial trends analysis for an update of the state's long range transportation plan, VTRANS. All NVTC staff will participate in a

webinar on the VTRANS Update next Wednesday; we will also participate in several of the regional briefings on VTRANS to be held Sept. 8. Based on several discussions with Deputy Secretary Donahue, NVTC is identifying best practices for transit metrics for project prioritization. HB 2 calls for a new statewide prioritization framework that takes into account several factors for prioritizing state investment of construction funds.

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT, STATE ASSISTANCE, AUDITS & FINANCIAL REPORTS

As we work to close out FY2014 and move forward in the annual audit, NVTC's Director of Finance prepares to assist the Executive Director in formally kicking off the development of FY2016 budget.

Budget Development

In September, Commissioner's will be asked to forward to the member jurisdictions, notice of the proposed FY2016 general and administrative budget direct jurisdiction contributions. Scott Kalkwarf is preparing descriptions of project budgets to accompany the General and Administration budget to help give a more comprehensive picture of resources available for regional initiatives. This tool, along with identification of resources needed for the updated strategic framework and implementation, will form the basis for development of the FY2016 budget. Final approval of the budget is targeted for January.

Audits/Compliance/Financial Reports

We are on track to present the June and July financial report at the September meeting. PBMares will be onsite in September to complete fieldwork for the FY2014 annual audits of NVTC and VRE, with presentation expected to be made to the Commission in December. For NVTC this includes an audit opinion of the financial statements, a report on the internal control over financial reporting and on compliance, and a report on compliance for major federal programs. VRE will receive similar auditor opinion reports, with the exception of compliance of major federal programs, which PBMares will audit through PRTC. The FTA has recently conducted the Triennial Review of VRE's federal programs through PRTC. Last week Scott Kalkwarf participated in the AICPA National Governmental Accounting and Auditing Update Conference which highlighted new and proposed accounting and auditing standard as well as the guidance on how COSO standards apply to the public sector.

FY2015 State Assistance

Because of the streamlined project agreement process with DRPT, NVTC as grantee was able to execute the FY2015 WMATA operating and capital subsidy assistance agreements during the first week of July. NVTC received the July operating assistance payment as scheduled, and invoiced the WMATA capital subsidy payment made on July. As a result, NVTC will receive approximately \$34 million in state assistance during the first quarter and funding will be available for the October 1 payment to WMATA. The individual jurisdictions as grantees for the local capital and operating assistance are in the process executing those agreements, with all expected to be completed in September.

WMATA

Silver Line

[The Governor and USDOT Secretary joined regional leaders for the opening ceremony of the Silver Line on July 26.](#) [Early reports on ridership](#) were positive. Here is [WMATA's report on the first week's numbers](#).

CFA

WMATA circulated a draft of the administrative framework for the new Capital Funding Agreement on August 18, and will hold a session with jurisdictional funding partners to review this framework in early September. Loudoun County and NVTC will be part of the work sessions. Here is a copy of a briefing on the process and the milestones for developing the CFA.

May 2014 Dashboard Report

The June and July Dashboard Reports will be included in the Commission's September Kit.

OIG CY2014 Work Plan Includes Review of WMATA's Calculation of Local Subsidies.

WMATA briefed jurisdictional staff in June and outlined plans for the study. The OIG plans to complete this study by March 2015.

FMO Corrective Actions

WMATA has committed to address all items in the FMO Corrective Action Plan by June 2015. The Board is scheduled to receive a status update in September. FTA placed WMATA on restricted drawdown status due to issues stemming from the FMO which in turn has triggered cash flow concerns. As a result, the WMATA Board authorized Metro to secure \$250 million in interim financing.

DATE	MEETING	KEY ISSUES
Early September	CFA Work Session	CFA administrative document
9/11	Finance & Administration Committee	- FY14 Operating Budget Review - Update on Status of FMO CAP
9/11	Customer Service and Operations Committee	Update on NEPP
9/25	WMATA Board Meeting	
10/9	Finance & Administration Committee	FY16 Proposed Budget Review
10/9	Customer Service and Operations Committee	Bus Stops and Pathways Accessibility Cost Impact
10/23	WMATA Board Meeting	

NEPP PROJECT UPDATE

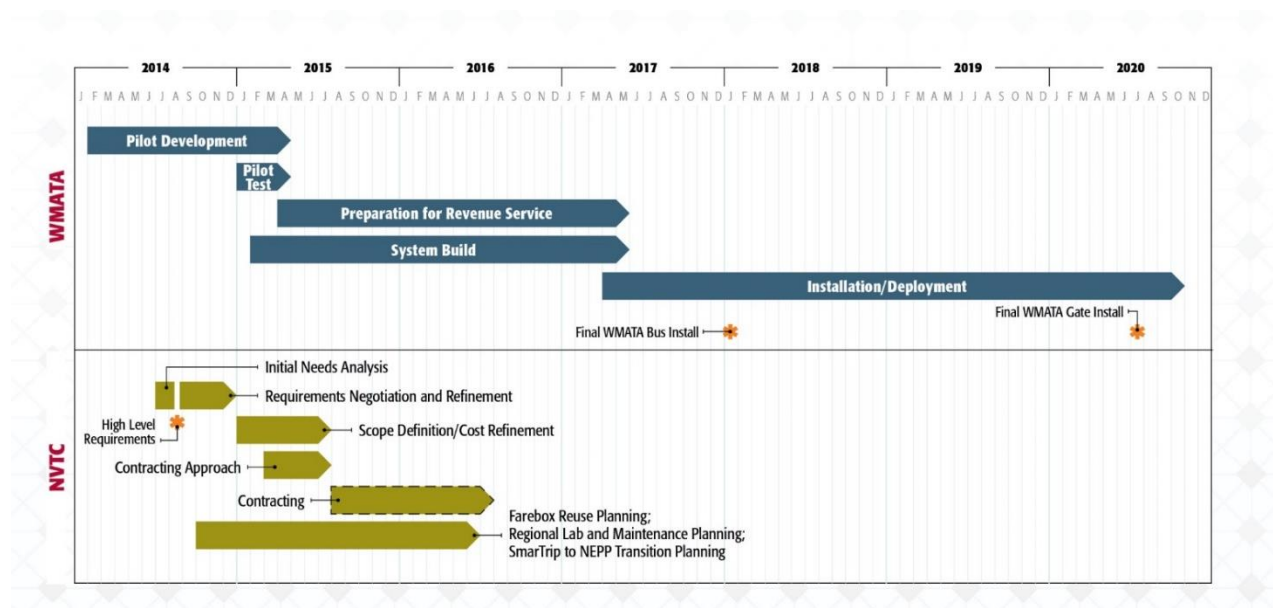
NVTC continues its coordination and support of regional partners on the New Electronic Payment Program (NEPP) which is schedule to move to pilot testing of the new payment solution starting in January. NVTC’s project lead, Jillian Linnell, will update the Commission in October on the status of the effort and next steps with respect to resources required to sustain the technical assistance project and planning for funding for the acquisition phase of the project.

WMATA’s Timeline

The WMATA pilot is currently scheduled to take place from January – June 2015. The pilot test will include 10 Metrorail stations throughout the system (Pentagon City, Eisenhower Avenue, Ballston and Pentagon in Virginia) and a number of bus routes. The target go-live date for revenue service of NEPP remains May 2017. WMATA recently shared the DBIOM (Design, Build, Installation, Operations and Maintenance) Agreement with Accenture, with the Northern Virginia agencies. WMATA will continue to use the bi-weekly regional partner calls to discuss NEPP and provide updates. They are also developing a framework for working groups that will help define and address the numerous NEPP planning and implementation issues. At a regional partners meeting on Augusts 22, WMATA will further discuss the framework for the working groups.

NVTC’s NEPP Timeline

Over the last month, NVTC’s technical consultants met with all of the regional partners to identify each agency’s NEPP needs and concerns. NVTC’s technical consultants have provided an initial summary of the agency profiles and a tentative timeline of milestones for the NOVA regional partners (see below). The agency profiles will be shared with the Accenture Regional Coordination Team. The next meeting is Monday, August 25. Accenture will participate in a meeting with the Northern Virginia partners in early September.



NVTC NEPP MILESTONES

FOIA/REMOTE VOTING

NVTC staff is reviewing its FOIA policy in light of recent changes to the law designed to allow entities such as NVTC to have electronic participation in meetings. The statute allows for members participating via phone, members participating remotely do not count towards quorum. [A quorum must be physically assembled at the meeting location.](#)

DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION (DRPT) REPORT

The Department of Rail and Public Transit reports on FY2015 WMATA funding, I-66 corridor improvements, Route 1 Multimodal Alternatives Analysis and Rail.

NVTA

[VDOT Presents HB599 Study Basic Project Ratings to NVTA.](#)

Basic ratings will help inform the development of NVTA's Six Year Plan (FY15-16). Final detailed ratings will be presented at the end of the year.

TPB

New Director

[Kanti Srikanth started as new Transportation Planning Board Director August 6.](#)

Transit Representation on TPB

The TPB will be asked to approve a resolution addressing its compliance with federal requirements. MAP-21 requires that public transportation providers be represented on the MPO by October 1, 2014. Currently WMATA is a member of the TPB.

CLRP Update

The draft Financial Analysis of the 2014 CLRP Update will be presented to the TPB in September. TPB is scheduled to take action on both the 2014 CLRP Update and Financial Analysis at its October meeting.

VRE

VRE Jurisdictions Asked to Amend Master Agreement on Weighted Voting

NVTC and PRTC forwarded the Master Agreement Amendment to all the VRE jurisdictions for their approval. Arlington County, City of Alexandria and Fairfax County are scheduled to consider this amendment at their Board and Council meetings in September.

VRE Management Audit Update

The Management Audit team from Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) updated the Joint Audit Committee (JAC) on the Management Audit and presented the Phase I report. The Management Audit team will brief the Committee again in September and is scheduled to present a draft of the Phase II report.

All Aboard for the Groundbreaking of New VRE Stations

July 31st, Governor McAuliffe joined federal, state, local and railroad officials for the groundbreaking of a new station at Potomac Shores. Two weeks later, VRE broke on the Crossroad Station. Neither mud nor torrential rain suppressed excitement of attendees some of who had begun work on this in the 1990's.

CONFERENCES

2014 APA Virginia Annual Conference.

In July, Claire Gron attended the annual conference of the Virginia chapter of the American Planning Association (APA), including sessions on current passenger rail projects in Virginia and planning and economic development.

TRB Workshop on Data and Statistics for Valuing Transportation Infrastructure and Transportation's Contribution to the Economy.

The July workshop initiated a three-year effort to review current methods used to estimate the value of transportation infrastructure and consider how they might be improved.

APTA's Multimodal Operations Planning Workshop.

The conference is dedicated to promoting and advancing the work of professional public transportation planners and schedulers. Session topics relevant to NVTC include: last miles connections, restructuring service around high frequency service, planning coordination and public outreach.

KEY DATES

8/20	VTRANS Webinar
8/27	I-66 Transit/TDM Working Group: Transit Access Points
9/4	NVTC Commission Meeting & NVTC's 50 th Anniversary
9/8	Meeting with CTB Members
9/21-24	Railvolution
9/29	Virginia Transit Association Executive Committee
10/12-15	Commonwealth Transportation Board Meeting Board Meeting
10/12-15	APTA Annual Meeting & Expo
10/27	NVTC Planning Session 1:pm
11/9-11	VACO Conference
11/12-14	Governor's Transportation Conference
12/12	Forum on Economic Benefits of Transit