



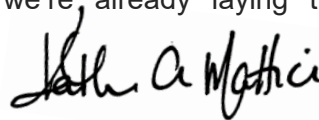
Whether riding “shutdown shuttles,” hopping on new commuter buses or zipping through new toll lanes on I-395/95, commuters in Northern Virginia found new ways to get to work in 2019 and NVTC played a significant role in each. The summer shutdown of six WMATA stations created an unprecedented opportunity to coordinate resources across the region. NVTC joined WMATA and regional partners to figure out how to get people where they were going. WMATA added local and express shuttle buses, VRE offered discounted step up tickets for Amtrak, DASH and Fairfax Connector ran more buses. Behind the scenes, NVTC led countless coordination meetings and calls before, during and after the shutdown, with an eye toward future shutdowns in 2020 and 2021.

The shutdown presented another opening. NVTC worked with DRPT, VRE, Fairfax County, Alexandria and OmniRide to create a first-of-its-kind joint marketing campaign aimed at getting people back on transit once the shutdown ended. That led to the creation of novarides.org, a one-stop website showing all the transit options available in the region.

Commuter Choice grew significantly this year. We awarded almost \$19 million for projects in the initial round of I-395/95 corridor. Nearly \$20 million went toward projects in the I-66 corridor in its third round of grants. We also initiated a move to a two-year grant cycle to ease the administrative burden on prospective grantees.

NVTC grew as an organization in 2019. We created four new staff positions which reflect our growing program responsibilities. We also moved into larger offices to accommodate our expanded staff and our role as a center for regional coordination.

With the year nearly behind us, we’re already laying the groundwork for an even bigger 2020.



Executive Director

Put your commute back in your hands.

#NoVaRides



Inside this Issue

- [WMATA FY2021 budget process begins ..2](#)
- [WMATA leaders testify on Capitol Hill..... 2](#)
- [Commuter Choice-funded buses start rolling3](#)
- [Using technology to improve transit performance3](#)
- [Transportation leaders hear from the public 4](#)
- [NVTC’s new human resources support.... 4](#)
- [Staff reviewing annual VRE survey..... 4](#)
- [VRE introduces new passes..... 4](#)
- [VRE readies Santa train 5](#)
- [Van Dorn bus loop reopens 5](#)



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Key Dates

- Dec. 9 NVTC-PRTC Legislative Briefing
- Dec. 10-11 CTB
- Dec. 18 NVTC WMATA Committee
- Dec. 20 VRE Operations Board Meeting
- Jan. 16 NVTC Commission Meeting
- Jan. 27 Virginia Transit Assn. Day in Richmond
- Feb. 6 Va. Assn. of Counties—
Va. Municipal League
Legislative Day

WMATA FY2021 budget process begins



WMATA General Manager Paul Wiedefeld recently released his proposed Fiscal Year 2021 budget totaling \$3.8 billion dollars. It includes \$2 billion in operating expenses and \$1.8 billion in capital expenses. The release of the budget begins a review process that is expected to wrap up in March 2020, with passage of a final budget.



Courtesy: WMATA

As part of that process, NVTC Commissioners and staff will review the proposal and share feedback with the Virginia members of the WMATA Board of Directors. The NVTC WMATA Committee will meet December 18 to deliberate on budget comments.

In January 2020, the Commission is expected to draft a letter outlining its comments on the proposed budget to be submitted as part of the public comment period.



Mr. Wiedefeld's proposed budget calls for number of changes including extending Metrorail hours until midnight weekdays and 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday, increasing Metrorail and some Metrobus frequency on Sundays, eliminating

nine bus routes, reducing service on some bus routes, and increasing non-fare revenue through measures including Metrorail station naming rights. The budget also proposes a fare increase, eliminating the transfer fee between Metrobus and Metrorail, a flat fare on weekends and an additional charge for cash paying with cash or loading Smar-Trip cards on Metrobus.



WMATA leaders testify on Capitol Hill

Virginia WMATA Board Member Paul Smedberg, WMATA General Manager Paul Wiedefeld, Washington Metrorail Safety Commission CEO David Mayer, and WMATA Inspector General Geoffrey Cherrington, recently appeared before



WMATA Board Chair Smedberg

the House Oversight Subcommittee on Government Operations. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-Va.), who introduced the Metro Accountability and Investment Act providing WMATA with dedicated federal funding

to make necessary capital improvements, chairs the subcommittee.

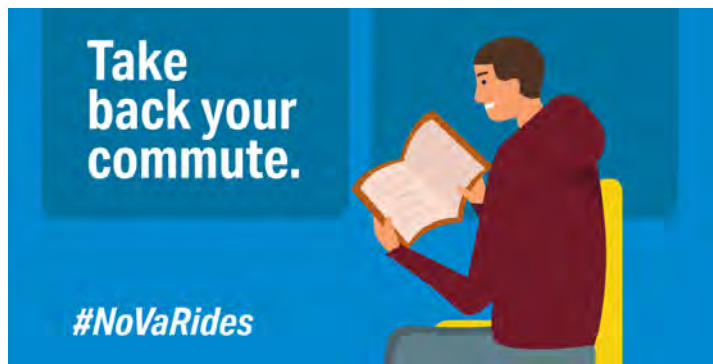
Connolly commended Wiedefeld on the preventative maintenance and safety work, improved on-time performance metrics and positive Metrorail ridership trends. Smedberg outlined his priorities, which include new ethics guidelines, making the case for reauthorizing federal dedicated funding for WMATA, implementing customer-focused improvements, and strengthening the Office of the Inspector General. The hearing was the first to examine how the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission is working with WMATA to prioritize safety recommendations and provide timelines for their implementation. Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D-Va.), a former NVTC Commissioner, also took part in the hearing.



Commuter Choice-funded buses start rolling

New I-395/95 Commuter Choice projects are already delivering improvements for commuters as part of the start of tolling on the I-395 Express Lanes. OmniRide launched five service enhancements, including the agency’s first express bus services from Stafford County. The two new Stafford County routes, which are fare-free through the end of the year, connect the Route 610/Staffordboro commuter lot with the Pentagon and downtown D.C. The fast, comfortable and direct service creates an appealing option for Stafford County commuters and certain trips are already operating with a majority of seats taken. In Alexandria, DASH implemented extensive service enhance-

these routes further over the coming months with real-time arrival signs at busy stops.

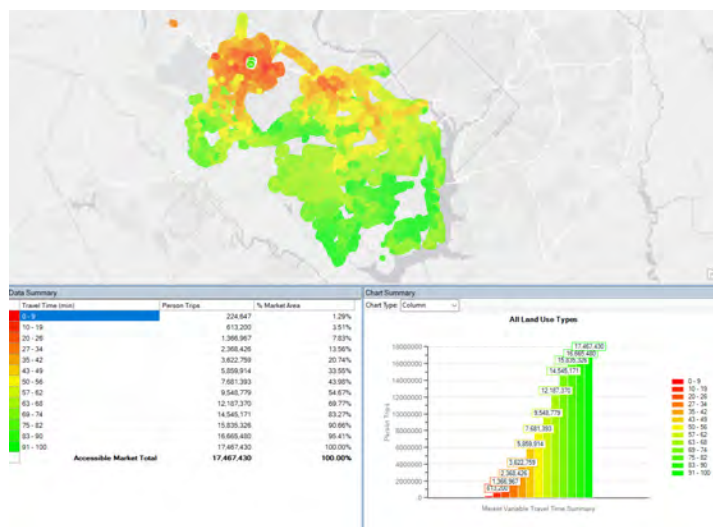


Using technology to improve transit performance

Program Analyst Matt Cheng recently joined Fairfax Connector staff and their consultant team to demonstrate the analysis possible with NVTC’s TBEST model. TBEST is a transit planning simulation tool that helps planners and policy makers evaluate bus route performance and accessibility based on land use and socioeconomic factors. Fairfax Connector will use it to redesign bus routes. NVTC staff have developed this model over the past two years to feature regional and jurisdictional transit systems as well as parcel-level land use data, making in-depth, short term analyses of travel patterns and market potential possible. Other applications of this tool have been used to evaluate Commuter Choice projects, assist with the Alexandria Vision Plan and to support Title VI analysis. The image below shows an isochrone map modeled with TBEST shows transit-accessible parcels classified by travel time in Northern Virginia, starting from Reston Town Center.



ments on the AT-1 and AT-9 routes October 13. These local routes connect riders with Metrorail as well as express buses that operate along I-395. The improvements include more frequent service and longer service hours daily, including new Sunday service on the AT-9. DASH will improve



Transportation leaders hear from the public

Executive Director Kate Mattice took part in the the fall CTB public meeting as part of a transportation leadership panel that heard public comment about Commonwealth and Northern Virginia transportation funding programs. The panel included Secretary of Transportation Shannon Valentine, DRPT Director Jennifer Mitchell, NoVa District Engineer Helen Cervo, VDOT Commissioner Stephen Brich, CTB member Mary Hynes and NVTA Chairman Martin Nohe. The event gave Kate an opportunity to talk about the work NVTC is doing and to engage with transportation leadership on important transit issues in Northern Virginia.



NVTC's new human resources support



NVTC welcomed Becky Merriner as our part-time Director of Human Resources. Becky currently serves as the Director of Human Resources for VRE and OmniRide and will continue those activities while she supports NVTC at least two days a month. Becky will ensure NVTC staff are up to date on necessary training and

human resources requirements, as well as provide guidance and support on NVTC employee staff training and development, recruitment and onboarding, as well as performance management. We're delighted to have Becky support our growing team and provide a dedicated human resources expert for our staff.

Staff reviewing annual VRE survey

NVTC staff recently joined their colleagues from PRTC/OmniRide and Virginia Railway Express to administer the VRE Master Agreement Survey. PRTC coordinates the on-board collection of surveys and NVTC coordinates the address verification analysis. Since results from the annual VRE Master Agreement Survey help determine jurisdictional subsidies, it is important to make sure the survey results are verified. VRE receives funds from Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William, Stafford and Spotsylvania counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fredericksburg, Manassas and Manassas Park. NVTC staff have streamlined the verification process through the use of GIS coding. Rhonda Gilcrest manages the address verification with assistance from Matt Cheng who provides the GIS support.



VRE



Virginia Railway Express has introduced new fare passes. Seven-day and 31-day passes replace five-day and monthly passes. VRE officials say the 31-day pass gives riders more flexibility to use Free Ride Certificates and will only be available on the VRE mobile app. Seven-day passes are available on the app and in the form of paper tickets.



VRE

VRE's Santa train rides again December 14. Santa and his helpers will make 14 excursions that day aboard trains with names like "Dasher Express," "Vixen Express" and "Rudolph Express." This is the 23rd year for the popular event. VRE also encourages riders to donate a new toy to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots drive at departure stations.



Photo: VRE

WMATA & DASH

The bus loop recently reopened at the Van Dorn Street Metrorail station. The loop had been closed and temporarily relocated as part of WMATA's Platform Improvement Project.

On Sunday, November 10th, the Van Dorn St Metro Station bus loop will be re-opening.



Route	Destination	Bay
AT1	Seminary Plaza	B
AT5	Eisenhower Ave Metro	C
AT5	Braddock Road Metro	B
AT7	Landmark Mall	A
AT7	Lee Center	C
AT8	Old Town Alexandria	B



Image: DASH

NVTC AND PRTC PRESENT

ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

Join our Commissioners for an overview of federal and state issues affecting transit in Northern Virginia



RSVP NOW!

December 9, 2019 | 8:30 AM-11 AM
Embassy Suites by Hilton
8100 Loisdale Rd, Springfield, VA

