



Research has long been a hallmark of NVTC’s service to its member jurisdictions and transit agencies, providing information and analysis on everything from transit funding to system performance to new technologies. The knowledge gleaned from these studies over the past five decades has helped transit to grow, becoming an integral part of the economy – not just in Northern Virginia, but in the Commonwealth as a whole. That’s why NVTC is studying the **economic impact of rail transit on statewide revenues**. NVTC’s analysis will demonstrate how high capacity transit helps provide revenues that support programs that benefit those across the Commonwealth, like education and healthcare to name a few.

Shifts in the transit landscape, a result of new services and technologies, require a better understanding of who rides and why. NVTC’s examination of the **characteristics of WMATA ridership** here in Northern Virginia will help shape efforts to rebuild Metro’s customer base. Insight into ridership dynamics will also help us determine how new entrants into the transportation scene – such as Uber and Lyft – are influencing riders and their transit choices.

Our **Regional Bus Agenda** is producing a variety of information beneficial to our transit providers and of interest to the media. The bus agenda is aimed at providing an understanding of bus operations in Northern Virginia across jurisdictional boundaries. Its goal is to identify gaps that may exist in our regional bus network and identify opportunities as to how our six bus systems can better serve the region.

NVTC’s research is designed inform our discussions about transit service in the region and identify opportunities for growth. We are proud of our contributions and look forward to adding to the transit knowledge base as we tackle novel and challenging research topics now and in the future.



Executive Director

Scenes from NVTC’s May Meeting



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Northern Virginia Transportation Commission
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Arlington, VA 22201
www.novatransit.org



Key Dates

- May 26 [Transit Capital Project Revenue Advisory Board Webinar](#)
- May 31 [Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee](#)
- June 1 [NVTC Monthly Meeting](#)
- June 8 [NVTA Monthly Meeting](#)
- June 15 [Getting Metro Back on Track](#)
- June 16 [VRE Operations Board](#)
- June 16 [Transit Capital Project Revenue Advisory Board Meeting](#)
- June 20-21 [CTB Monthly Meeting](#)
- June 21 [Transportation Planning Board](#)
- June 21 [NVTC Governance/Personnel Committee Meeting](#)

As SafeTrack Wraps Up, WMATA Readies for Service Changes, Fare Hikes

SafeTrack is winding down. During Surge 15, which ends June 15, Metro has closed five Orange Line stations in Maryland and the District of Columbia and reduced the frequency of trains on the Silver Line. Silver and Blue line trains operate every 12 minutes, while Orange Line trains run every 6-8 minutes. The final surge, which shuts down the Red Line between Shady Grove and Twinbrook, occurs between June 17 and 25. General Manager Paul Wiedefeld has indicated that track repair work will continue for the foreseeable future. Work zones for future construction projects would come with significant planning and advance warning, he said.

[Changes to Metro's fares, schedules, and rail system hours](#) will take effect June 25. The changes, approved by the Board of Directors earlier this year, are part of the transit agency's effort to right-size service, close a budget gap and provide needed time for preventive maintenance.

Most Metrobus and Metrorail fares will increase between 10 and 25 cents. Some low-ridership bus routes will be discontinued. Trains will arrive slightly less frequently during rush hour. And, Metrorail hours will

be adjusted to provide an additional eight hours of track access weekly to improve safety and service reliability.

Metro plans to conduct [extensive customer outreach](#) leading up to the implementation of the June 25 changes. Its outreach efforts will include signage aboard vehicles and at rail stations and key bus stops; email and text messages; social media; and handouts to be distributed to riders at high-traffic locations.



New Hours
Nuevas horas



New Fares
Nuevas tarifas



Metrorail Service Changes
Cambios en el servicio de Metrorail



Metrobus Service Changes
Cambios en el servicio de Metrobus

Join Virginia's WMATA Board Members for a Discussion of the Challenges & Opportunities in **Getting Metro Back on Track**

Forum is open to the public and accessible via Metrorail

Thursday, June 15, 2017 at 7 p.m.
Durant Arts Center
1605 Cameron Street
Alexandria, Virginia

This forum, which includes a presentation and question/answer session, is sponsored by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. Learn more about NVTC and the upcoming forum at www.novatransit.org.



Former VRE Ops Board Chair, ART Marketing Effort Receive VTA Awards

Northern Virginia is home to the recipients of two 2017 awards from the Virginia Transit Association (VTA). Virginia Railway Express (VRE) 2016 Operations Board Chair Gary Skinner and an Arlington Transit marketing campaign to grow weekend ridership were honored at a May 24 awards luncheon in Crystal City.

Skinner, recipient of the award for an outstanding contribution by an individual, was recognized for spearheading the effort to bring VRE to Spotsylvania County. The Spotsylvania station project endured nearly a decade of delay, but Skinner remained a stalwart advocate, eventually bringing the project to fruition. The station opened in November 2015.

“Let ART be your Weekend Ride!” received an honorable mention for marketing program. While designed to boost overall weekend ridership, the initiative focused primarily on four bus routes. ART targeted riders along those routes through social media, a blog series, e-

newsletters and a direct-mail postcard. The postcard included two, free, one-way weekend trip coupons for riders to redeem on the 42, 45, 55 or 87 bus. Weekend ridership on those routes grew by 11 percent, which held for months following the campaign.



NVTC Coordinates Bus Technology Purchases

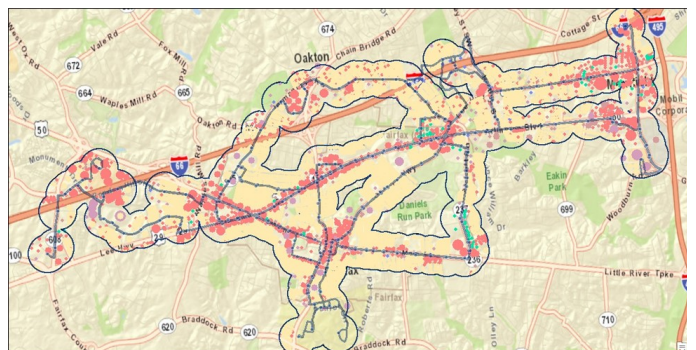
NVTC is coordinating efforts to prolong the life of existing bus fareboxes for Northern Virginia transit agencies, including equipment purchases to upgrade the farebox/driver control unit. This equipment will be used by participating jurisdictions in the late 2017 project testing phase, with full roll-out of the upgrade on the

bus fleets beginning in early 2018. Recognizing that this project is only an intermediary measure, NVTC continues to monitor regional activity related to the off-board fare collection and next generation fare collection components of the program.

NVTC Develops Bus Service Evaluation/Planning Tool

NVTC is developing a tool to assist member jurisdictions in evaluating and planning local bus service. The tool provides planning support for short- and mid-term bus operations. The initiative uses an analytical package known as Transit Boardings Estimation and Simulation Tool (TBEST), developed by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Based on data from the U.S. Census, MWCOG employment projections, land use information from jurisdictions, and transit network and ridership data from transit agencies, TBEST estimates transit demand at bus stops and projects the information into a geographic information system. Among NVTC’s pilot TBEST implementation projects is one modeling transit systems serving the City of Fairfax, including WMATA Metrobus, City of Fairfax CUE, and George Mason University shuttles. TBEST will allow

NVTC to help Northern Virginia’s transit operators evaluate policy scenarios and service changes. NVTC continues to adapt the planning tool for use throughout the region.



TBEST socio-economic market analysis image: transit systems serving the City of Fairfax

Transform 66 Multimodal Update

Two of 10 projects receiving funding under Transform 66 Multimodal will come online in the next few weeks, joining PRTC’s Gainesville to Pentagon commuter bus service, which began operating in December.

Service on Metrobus’ Route 2A (Washington Blvd.-Dunn Loring) will be expanded during morning and evening rush beginning June 25. By increasing bus frequency and decreasing route run times, this project will serve 150 new weekday riders, increasing daily ridership to 2,700. NVTC is contributing \$1,000,000 to this project.

Loudoun County is planning a mid-July ribbon cutting ceremony for its Stone Ridge park-and-ride lot. This new 300-space lot will anchor commuter bus service between Aldie and the McPherson Square Metrorail station. Bus service is scheduled to begin this summer. NVTC is providing \$1,940,939 to this project.

VDOT, meanwhile, continues to prepare I-66 for tolling. As of late May, all toll gantries, 12 of 22 overhead signs, 10 percent of ground-mounted signs and four of seven toll shelters have been installed. Tolling is expected to begin in late fall/early winter of 2017.



Key Milestones

| Activities | Dates |
|--|---------------------|
| Public Meeting regarding W&OD Trail Bridge | June 13, 2017 |
| Implement Initial Multimodal Projects | 2017 |
| Toll Day One | Late 2017 |
| Award Design-Build Contract for Eastbound Widening Project | Late 2017 |
| Eastbound Widening Construction | Mid 2018 – Mid 2020 |

LEND YOUR VOICE! MAKE IT COUNT! JOIN THE TRANSIT ACTION NETWORK

★ **WHAT** Transit supporters can’t always be at the Capitol when bills are considered, but elected officials want to hear their views. By joining the Transit Action Network, you will receive timely alerts when important decisions affecting public transportation are about to be made. Whether it’s the U.S. Congress, the Governor, the Virginia General Assembly, or your local governing body – you can contact them with one click to make your voice heard.

★ **WHO** All transit riders and supporters

★ **WHEN** It matters most

★ **WHERE** Your email inbox or mobile device

★ **WHY** To make it easy to communicate with your elected representatives and make a difference. So the next time funding for transit is under attack or a vote on a rail extension is near, your voice will matter!



The Transit Action Network is a free and zero-obligation e-advocacy program that works! Join today at vatransit.com and tell a friend so their voice can count too!

NVTC Hosts Transforming 66 with Transit at VTA Conference

Dozens of transit professionals from throughout Virginia attended NVTC's roundtable at the Virginia Transit Association conference, curious as to how transit will be used to transform the commute on I-66. The interactive discussion featured an overview by NVTC Executive Director Kate Mattice and a brief presentation by NVTC Transit Programs and Planning Manager Patricia Happ on the process used to select projects for the initial round of funding. Kathleen Leidich from Loudoun and Cristin Tolen from Arlington spoke to the benefits commuters will experience when their projects — which includes new and enhanced bus service, a park-and-ride lot, transportation demand management programs, and transit screens — come online in the late summer and fall.



NVTC Executive Director Kate Mattice (second from left) provides an overview of Transform 66 Multimodal at the Virginia Transit Association Conference. NVTC's Patricia Happ (left) and Arlington County's Cristin Tolen (second from right) also participated in the roundtable discussion.

Innovative Financing for Public Transportation

Value capture and small- and medium-sized public private partnerships are the subjects of a free June 7 webinar hosted by the Transportation Research Board. Value capture, the public recovery of a portion of increased property value created from public infrastructure investment, has been successful in some U.S. cities. Presenters will review these case studies. Public-private partnerships can also be used by transit agencies to improve

existing services as well as deliver new services and facilities. Presenters will demonstrate an interactive tool for identifying, evaluating, and screening opportunities for small- and medium-sized P3 initiatives.



Around Town: Headlines from/about NVTC Jurisdictions and Partners



[Take the Capital Bikeshare Expansion Survey!](#)

[DASH Offers Students A Summer Pass](#)

[Charting Arlington's Growth of Capital Bikeshare](#)

[When is it cheaper to choose carsharing over car ownership?](#)

[Tax Reform is Jeopardizing the Future of Commuter Benefits](#)

[Virginia House, Senate to stream some meetings](#)



[County Named Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community](#)

[Test Track for the Future of Connected and Driverless Cars](#)

[Fairfax Connector launches bus tracker site, text service](#)

[Metro GM calls for more funding. But is Loudoun ready to take on the costs?](#)

[County officials say nearly 50 percent of Loudoun's Metrorail construction complete](#)

[VDOT scraps plan for flyover ramp at Dunn Loring Metro station](#)



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority



Transit advocates and local government officials [celebrated the completion of the Crystal City Multimodal Center](#) on May 18. The ribbon-cutting ceremony highlighted improvements [that expand bus capacity around the Crystal City Metrorail Station](#). The project creates a safer, more efficient area for the 20,000 people who use the station each day, with new curb space designated for shuttles and kiss-n-ride, new bus shelters, improved sidewalks and crosswalks, and new lighting. NVTA provided \$1.5 million to the project.



Virginia Railway Express



VRE honored [three current and former Operations Board members](#) for their contributions to the commuter railroad's establishment and long-term success by naming a locomotive for them during a May 13 ceremony at the Broad Run Station. The honorees were Maureen Caddigan, Prince William County supervisor; Joe Alexander, a founding member of the Operations Board, former board chair and Fairfax County supervisor; and David Brickley, founding member of the Operations Board and former member of the Virginia House of Delegates. VRE also dedicated a bench, to be placed permanently near the Manassas Station, in honor of the late Richard Peacock, long term VRE rider and passenger rail advocate.



Transportation Planning Board



Of eight [planning studies and design projects approved for technical assistance from the TPB](#), three are in Northern Virginia. Development of travel monitoring program in Tysons will allow for timely programming and funding decisions. A review and analysis of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure along Columbia Pike will result in a plan for progressive improvements. An engineering analysis will help improve bicycle and pedestrian connections to future Metrorail stations in Loudoun County. The value of the technical assistance is \$45,000 for each of the two Fairfax County projects and \$25,000 for the Loudoun County project.

TPB's Transportation Land Use Connections (TLC) Program, established in 2006, supports local jurisdictions dealing with the challenges of integrating land-use and transportation planning at the community level. To date over 100 technical assistance projects have been funded through the program.

WMATA



Artwork featuring a musical motif may decorate the walkways of the Reston Town Center station when it opens in 2020. Designed by artist Joshua Wiener, the powder-coated aluminum sculptures include an oversized drummer, bassist, and horn player, along with long red and teal ribbons. [Station artwork is part of Metro's Art in Transit program](#). WMATA's staff chose Wiener's design after an initial call for proposals and a final round that considered work by three artists. The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, which is overseeing Phase 2 of the Silver Line, will fund the \$250,000 art acquisition. WMATA's Board still must approve the artwork.

