



It's easy to get caught up in short-term trends and overlook the real long-term successes manifesting themselves in our communities. In the case of transit, it can take years to plan, build and start running new service. How do we know its impact on the region? That's where the Council of Government's State of the Commute survey comes in. The latest version of the triennial survey found that just under 1 in 6 people in the Washington region drives alone to work. That's down from 1 in 7 when the survey started in 2001. Meanwhile, transit use from 2004 to now increased 7%. It's not that hard to imagine these trends continuing. In the next few years we'll see the opening of Phase II of the Silver Line to Loudoun County and the Purple Line connecting Prince George's and Montgomery Counties in Maryland. The introduction of tolling on I-66 Inside the Beltway has already had a measurable effect on commuter behavior and we expect similar changes when tolling starts on I-395/95. Partly funded by Commuter Choice, people who once drove to work now also have more opportunities to ride buses into the district.

The survey also identifies a significant correlation between where people live and whether they ride the bus or train. Just over half of all people who live within half-a-mile of rail rode the train to work. Just over a third who live within the same distance from a bus stop took transit. Metrorail has become such a part of the fabric of our region that 44% of people considered how far a new home or job would be from a Metro station when they were contemplating making a change.

"Growth in and regional improvements to different commuting options like transit and teleworking is allowing more residents in the D.C. region to leave their cars at home," said Nicholas Ramfos, Commuter Connections Director when COG released the survey.

We are part of enabling the growth and improvements. Every extra train or bus trip we support gives commuters another chance to leave their cars at home. While progress can be hard to see day-to-day, it's encouraging to know that our efforts to improve transit in the region are headed down the right track.



Executive Director

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Key Dates

- Nov. 15 VRE Operations Board Meeting
- Nov. 20-22 Governor's Transportation Conference
- Dec. 5 NVTC Commission Meeting
- Dec. 9 NVTC-PRTC Legislative Briefing
- Dec. 18 NVTC WMATA Committee
- Dec. 20 VRE Operations Board Meeting
- Jan. 16 NVTC Commission Meeting

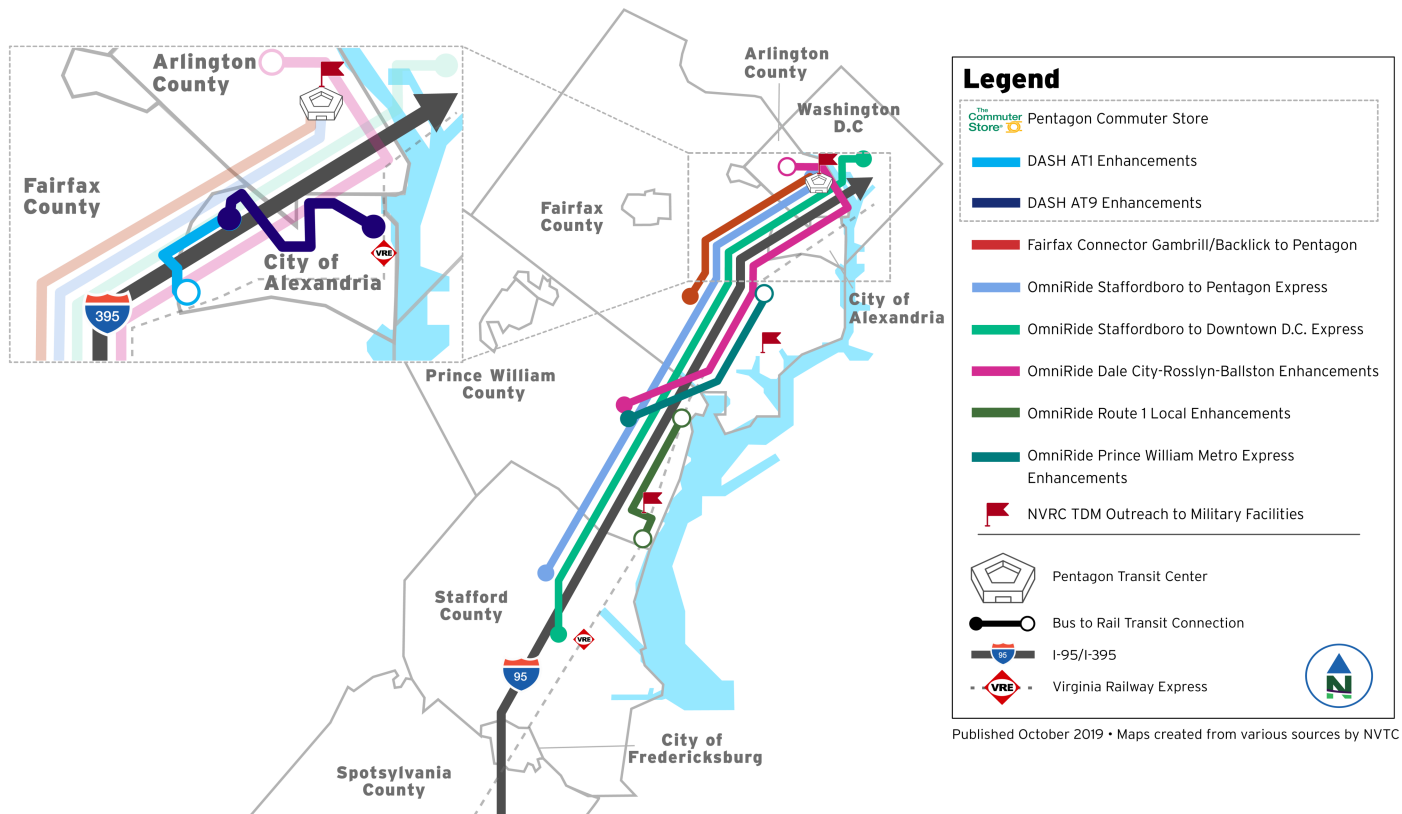
CTB greenlights \$18.9 million in I-395/95 Commuter Choice projects

The CTB voted to approve a group of 10 transit and multimodal projects in Northern Virginia to be funded by annual transit payments provided by Transurban to the Commonwealth that will begin this fall before 395 Express Lanes tolling gets underway. Supporting mass transit improvements in the I-395 and I-95 corridor is part of the 395 Express Lanes project agreement between the Commonwealth and Transurban. The public-private partnership agreement provides an annual transit payment of \$15 million, with a yearly escalation, from Transurban to the Commonwealth. The 10 projects that will move forward when the 395 Express Lanes open were selected through a competitive grant application process managed by NVTC, led internally by Ben Owens and Jae Watkins. It initiates a 68-year partnership among the Commonwealth, NVTC and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC). By the conclusion of the partnership, Transurban will have funded more than \$2 billion in transit improvements. The projects are expected to move an additional 700 people through the corridor each day and save close

to 89,000 hours of travel delay each year. These are the approved projects:

1. Enhanced bus service from Dale City to Ballston
2. Enhanced bus service on AT-1 Plus: West End to Van Dorn Metro
3. Enhanced bus service on Prince William Metro Express: OmniRide Transit Center to Franconia-Springfield Metro
4. Enhanced bus service on Route 1 Local: Quantico to Woodbridge VRE
5. New bus service to the Pentagon with Gambrill and Backlick North Park and Ride Improvements
6. New TDM outreach campaign for military facilities
7. New bus service from Staffordsboro to D.C.
8. Enhanced bus service on AT-9: Mark Center to Potomac Yard
9. Enhanced bus service from Staffordsboro to the Pentagon
10. Commuter Store at the Pentagon Transit Center

For drivers who will occasionally pay a toll to take the 395 Express Lanes, the projects will help provide congestion relief on the general-purpose lanes in addition to expanded public transit options. Visit <http://www.novatransit.org/programs/commuterchoice/i395-95commuterchoice/> to learn about the enhanced transit services they can use on 395 Express Lanes when the project opens in November.



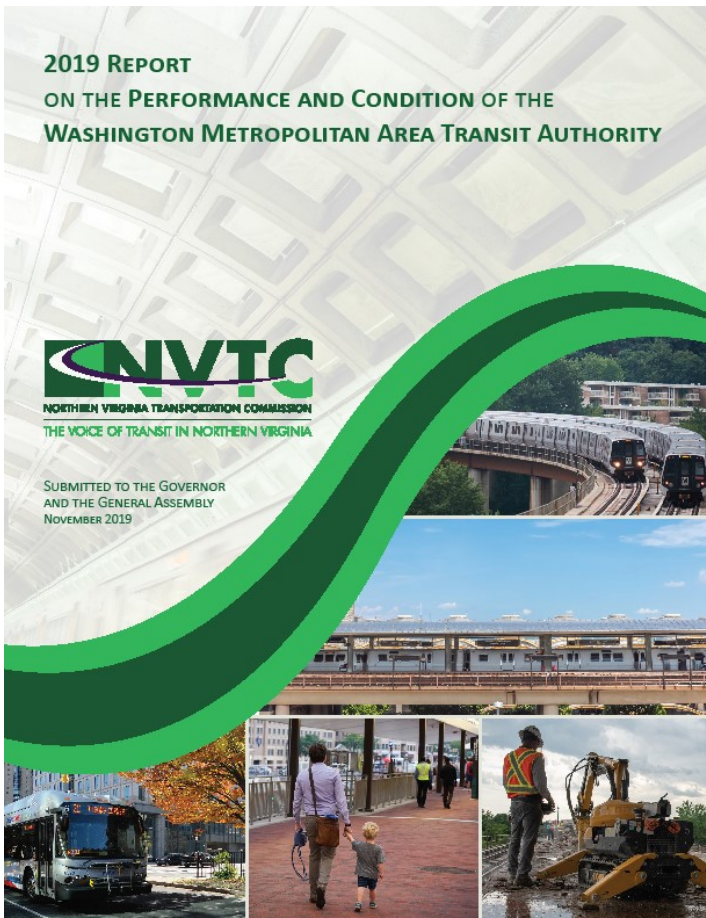
2019 WMATA Report goes to governor, General Assembly

The Commission recently approved the 2019 Report on the Performance and Condition of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. The report serves as the primary mechanism for NVTC to articulate our priorities for controlling costs and improving efficiencies at WMATA. It provides a one-stop shop for Metrorail and Metrobus performance data, as well as reports on WMATA's use of dedicated funds. The report further documents the capital projects funded by WMATA using the new dedicated funding. New and continuing recommended strategies this year include:

- Maximize use of eight-car trains
- Improve weekend rail service
- Develop parking passes
- Optimize parking facilities
- Expand and enhance fare passes
- Rebuild ridership and improve efficiency
- Increase non-fare revenues
- Control cost escalation and enhance efficiency

Evaluating the summer WMATA shutdown to prepare for future reconstruction

NVTC, WMATA and jurisdictional staff reviewed lessons learned from the Summer 2019 Platform Improvement Project. Led by Matt Cheng, staff discussed critical steps and events in the planning and coordination timeline, which started in May of 2018 through the reopening of the stations in early September 2019. Jurisdictional staff were also able to give feedback on how mitigation and supplemental services fared during the summer and how implementation of traffic, supplemental service and communication strategies might be improved for future transit outages or major construction projects. While many of the mitigation strategies this summer performed well, some possible improvements include: better communication of construction dates and impacts; increased opportunities for bus shuttles and roadway management; and more innovative and flexible transit options for riders affected by a shutdown. A general overview of these lessons learned and improvements will be provided to the Commission at its December meeting.

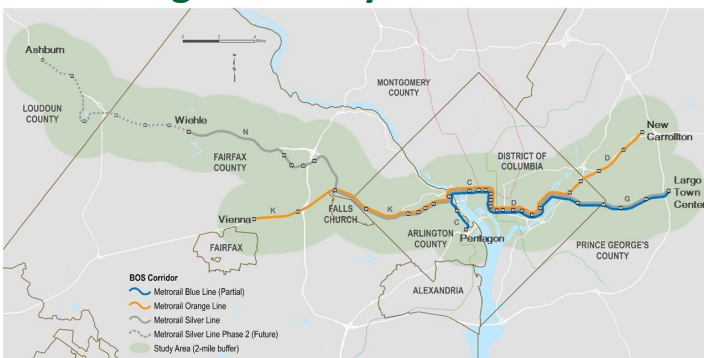


Loudoun's WMATA funding adjustment

The WMATA Board voted unanimously to update its funding formula for regional Metrobus service in anticipation of Loudoun's entry as a full WMATA funding partner. Previous WMATA Board Policy assumed that all funding partners had Metrobus service in their respective jurisdictions, so the change enacted by the WMATA Board reflects the unique situation of Loudoun County joining the system while never having requested Metrobus service. NVTC staff worked closely with Chairman Matt Letourneau and Loudoun County staff on this issue. It was guided through the WMATA Board process by Commissioners Paul Smedberg and Christian Dorsey to resolve this unique circumstance .



Examining the Rosslyn bottleneck



WMATA's Blue, Orange and Silver Lines merge at the Rosslyn tunnel, creating a bottleneck. WMATA has embarked on a capacity and reliability study of these three lines to improve service, reduce crowding, and reduce delays due to service issues and track and maintenance work. The agency is studying various alternatives and will engage with the public and stakeholders at key points over the next year. NVTC staff are participating in the process through the project's stakeholder technical committee and strategic advisory committee.

Transit leaders gather for APTA conference in New York

Kate Mattice attended the American Public Transportation Association 2019 TRANSform conference in New York, along with colleagues from VRE, ART, DASH, WMATA, as well as the Federal Transit Administration. This annual gathering of public transportation providers, vendors, and partners brought together more than 2,000 professionals to focus on the best practices of emerging technologies, including many of the initiatives being explored by our Northern Virginia transit providers. Kate also met with officials from New York's MTA regarding their new OMNY contactless fare payment system and toured the recently opened Second Avenue Subway extension and collaborated with transit leaders on shared legislative priorities.





Patricia Happ and Dinah Girmah attended the APTAtech Conference in Columbus, Ohio. (Top left)

Jae Watkins and Zach Smith attended the ACT Legislative Summit on Capitol Hill. (Top right)

Commissioner Christian Dorsey and Arlington Director of Transportation Dennis Leach participate in a panel on "How Northern Virginia is Preparing for Amazon." (Bottom left)



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



WMATA



Reconstruction work continues for bus loops and kiss & ride lots at six Metro stations in Virginia. The work is part of the Platform Improvement Project. Tile installation also continues at two stations. While buses continue to operate in temporary locations at a number of stations, restoring the bus loops and kiss & ride lots is a high priority. WMATA's contractors are expected to continue punch list work inside the stations through the end of the year. As the bus loops are restored, customers should be aware that some work will continue to finish installing upgrades in bus shelters, including lighting, charging stations and digital information displays.



Photos: WMATA

OmniRide



OMNIRIDE

Stafford residents will have a new commuting option starting Monday, November 4, when OmniRide begins operating two new Express bus routes from the Staffordboro Commuter Lot with service to L'Enfant Plaza and the Pentagon. This is the first time in its 33-year history that OmniRide has launched bus service with an origin point outside the Prince William County area. In Stafford, OmniRide Route 543 will offer four morning trips and four afternoon/evening trips serving the 14th Street corridor and L'Enfant Plaza. OmniRide Route 942 will offer four direct trips to the Pentagon in the mornings and five return trips in the afternoon/evenings. Fares on the new routes will be free through December.

ART



A recent ART Satisfaction Study shows that the majority of riders have a positive image of ART and that ART enjoys high satisfaction among users.

Recommendations following the study include: Continue to talk with current and potential customers to understand how to better tailor services to their transportation needs, target investments in service and marketing and invest in improving the bus service.



DASH Bus



The City of Alexandria and DASH have developed a short term and long term plan to redesign its bus network. The purpose of the project is to create a more useful bus network that encourages more people to get to more places using transit. The city hosted public meetings in October and has another one planned for November.

