



As we move into October, it's time to reflect on a month of significant milestones, each unique in the history of Northern Virginia and NVTC. The beginning of September saw the end of the summer-long shutdown of six WMATA stations in Alexandria and Fairfax County. The shutdown marked the first time in the over 40-year history of Metrorail that stations were closed for construction over a significant period. It forced thousands of Virginia commuters to find a new way to work. Fortunately, WMATA, VRE, DASH, Fairfax Connector, DRPT and other partners stepped up to provide travel alternatives. That cooperation provided a model for future shutdowns, expected in the summers of 2020 and 2021.

The shutdown inspired another first—NVTC's first-ever joint marketing campaign. We worked closely with our regional partners to create a pro-transit message to encourage ridership once the trains started running again. And it's not just about trains, we want people to ride the bus as well, whether it's a long-distance commute or a short hop. Our message is simple: NoVaRides transit.

Our program that uses toll revenue to support commuter efforts also moved forward in September. The NVTC and PRTC Joint Commission Working Group unanimously endorsed a list of projects that will be put in place once tolling comes to the I-395/95 corridor. VDOT recently announced tolling will begin in November. The I-395/95 Commuter Choice program follows the successful implementation of a similar program for I-66 Inside the Beltway.

In reflecting on these milestones, we realized that another theme emerged, one of deepening regional cooperation. By coming together, we can accomplish more than any single agency or jurisdiction can do alone. As our region continues to grow, we can expect more opportunities to use our combined strength to tackle regional transportation challenges.



John A. Mathici
Executive Director

Inside this Issue

Summer shutdown ends	2
#NoVaRides rolls out	4
I-95/395 inaugural program endorsed	4
Northern Virginia PIOs meet	5
DC2RVA milestone reached	5
COMTO on Capitol Hill	5
OmniRide tests new buses	5
DASH extends \$1 fares	5



Northern Virginia Transportation Commission
2300 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 230
Arlington, VA 22201
NVTC@novatransit.org
www.novatransit.org



Key Dates

Oct. 3	NVTC Commission Meeting
Oct. 16-17	Commonwealth Transportation Board Meeting
Oct. 18	VRE Operations Board Meeting
Nov. 14	NVTC Commission Meeting
Nov. 14	NVTC Legislative & Policy Committee Meeting
Dec. 5	NVTC Commission Meeting
Dec. 9	NVTC-PRTC Legislative Briefing
Dec. 18	NVTC WMATA Committee

Summer WMATA shutdown ends, rebuilt stations debut

Six Metro stations in Northern Virginia reopened in early September following a summer shutdown designed to give WMATA time to undertake a major rebuilding effort. Rail service returned to Braddock Road, King Street-Old Town, Eisenhower Avenue, Huntington, Van Dorn Street and Franconia-Springfield stations in time for the morning rush on September 9. According to WMATA, the stations had deteriorated due to age and exposure to the weather and needed to be rebuilt to ensure passenger safety and efficient train operation. Upgrades to the stations include new passenger information displays, shelters with charging points, non-slip tiles, speakers that provide clearer announcements and emergency call buttons.

Metrobus, Alexandria's DASH, Fairfax Connector, and PRTC's OmniRide provided additional service during the more than three month shutdown. VRE took on additional passengers and offered discounted Amtrak Step Up tickets.

This was the first of three summer shutdowns. In 2020, East Falls Church, West Falls Church, Dunn



Loring and Vienna stations will be closed for rebuilding. Arlington Cemetery and Reagan National Airport stations will close for reconstruction in Summer 2021. WMATA expects to release details on next year's shutdown later this year.



Construction and shuttle photos courtesy WMATA



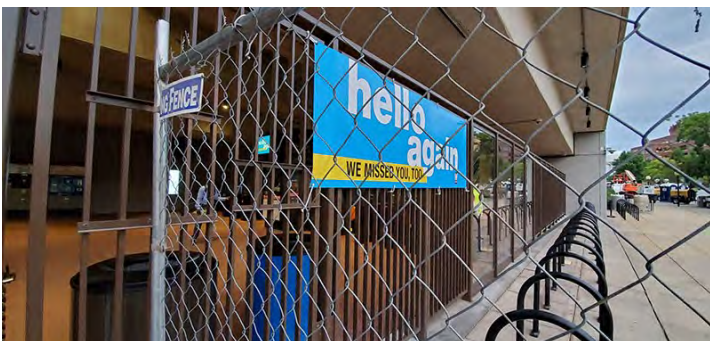
Future WMATA Shutdowns

2020

- East Falls Church
- West Falls Church
- Dunn Loring
- Vienna

2021

- Arlington Cemetery
- Reagan National Airport

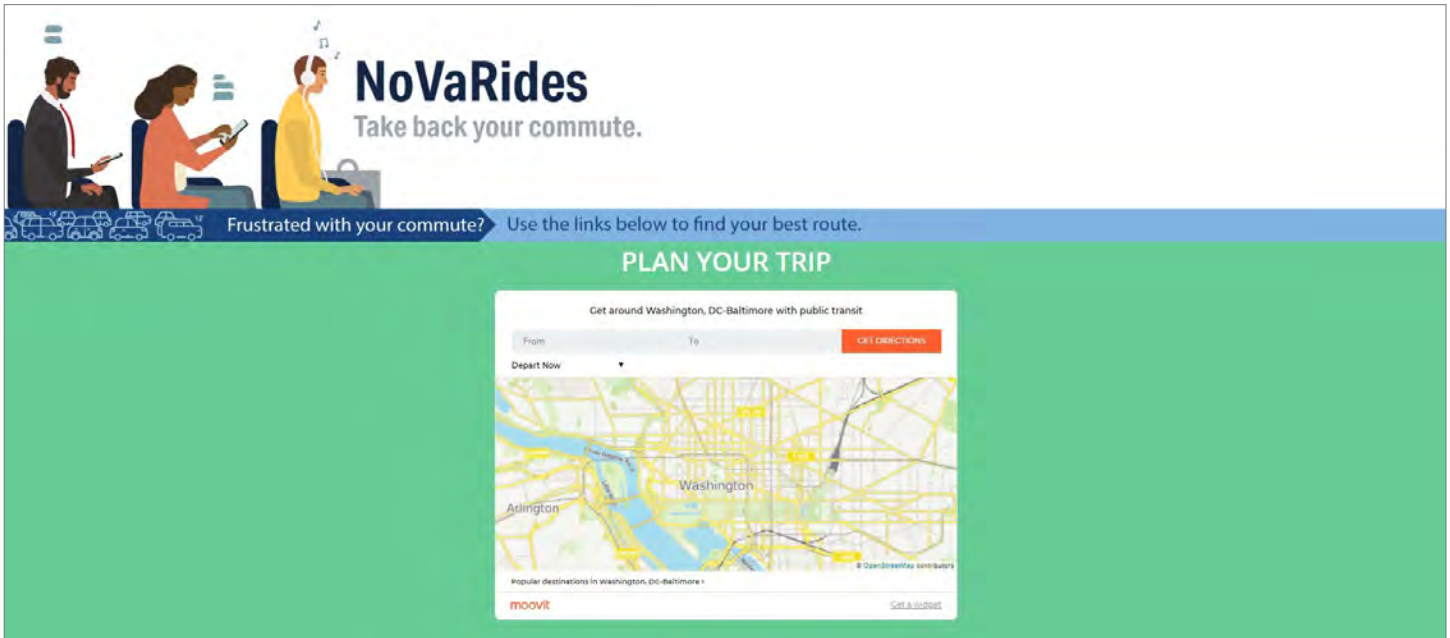


#NoVaRides rolls out, encourages riding transit

The #NoVaRides marketing campaign rolled out September 16. Backed by a grant from DRPT, staff from NVTC, Fairfax County, the City of Alexandria and OmniRide spent the summer collaborating on the design of novarides.org, and the visual and written elements of the campaign. The campaign encourages people to go to the website to use the trip planning tool or click on the links for the transit providers serving Northern Virginia. The 12-week



campaign will be heard on radio and seen online and in movie theaters. It runs into December. The kickoff coincided with Try Transit Week and Car Free DC.



Joint Commission Working Group Endorses Inaugural I-395/95 Program

The NVTC and PRTC Joint Commission Working Group, led by Fairfax County Supervisor Jeff McKay, unanimously supported the staff-recommended pro-

grams, five enhanced bus services, and 2 TDM efforts. Collectively, these projects would move an additional 700 people through the corridor each weekday morning.

Applicant	Application Title	Application Status	Funding Request
NVTC	I-395/95 Commuter Choice Program Administration, Evaluation, Oversight, Marketing and Outreach		\$ 800,000
OmniRide	Enhanced Bus Service from Dale City to Ballston	100	\$ 251,600
DASH	Enhanced Bus Service on AF-1 Plus, West End to Van Dorn Metro	92	\$ 5,040,000
OmniRide	Enhanced Bus Service on Prince William Metro Express, OmniRide Transit Center to Franconia-Springfield Metro	85	\$ 462,400
OmniRide	Enhanced Bus Service on Route 1 Local, Quantico to Woodbridge VRE	80	\$ 1,133,500
Fairfax County	New Bus Service to the Pentagon with Gambell and Backlick North Park and Side Improvements	80	\$ 3,540,900
NVTC	New TDM Outreach Campaign for Military Facilities	78	\$ 396,384
OmniRide	New Bus Service from Stafford to Downtown D.C.	77	\$ 3,569,300
DASH	Enhanced Bus Service on AF-9, Mark Center to Potomac Yard	74	\$ 1,949,000
OmniRide	New Bus Service from Stafford to the Pentagon	66	\$ 3,485,300
Arlington County	Commuter Store at the Pentagon Transit Center	65	\$ 211,862
Fairfax County	Enhanced Bus Service to the Pentagon with Saratoga and Backlick North Park and Side Improvements	57	\$ 3,842,500
Fairfax County	New TDM Outreach Campaign for Military Facilities	56	\$ 300,000
Stafford County	Expanded Transit Access to Leesland Road VRE Station	35	\$ 2,648,487
Kingston County	Roadway Improvements at Glebe Road and I-395 Interchange	18	\$ 3,050,000
PRVD Transit	New Bus Service from North Stafford to Quantico VRE Station - <i>Determined by applicant</i>		\$ 322,519
Arlington County	Operational Enhancements of the Crystal City - Pentagon and Pentagon - Crystal City		\$ 150,000
Arlington County	Enhanced Bus Service on Metrobus 774 (Arlington Square to Southern Boulevard) - <i>Determined by applicant</i>		\$ 303,000
TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST			\$31,273,875

Staff recommendation:
 10 projects,
 \$19.0 million program
 3 new bus services,
 5 enhanced bus services and
 2 TDM efforts
 would move 700 more people through the corridor (in the morning inbound east)



gram of projects for the first round of the I-395 Commuter Choice Program. Ten projects, totaling \$19 million, will be forwarded to the two commissions for consideration and approval at their October meetings. The ten projects include three new bus ser-



Matt Friedman and Jae Watkins attended a meeting of Northern Virginia Public Information Officers working in transportation, hosted by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority.

DC2RVA



The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), in cooperation with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), announced that the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Washington, D.C., to Richmond Southeast High Speed Rail Project, also known as DC2RVA, has been signed, completing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) study process and making the project eligible to receive additional federal funding to advance project planning. The vision for DC2RVA is to increase rail capacity in order to deliver additional and more reliable passenger and commuter rail parallel to the heavily congested I-95 corridor. The DC2RVA high speed rail project would add a third track along the stretch between the two cities, and a fourth track from Alexandria to Long Bridge, which connects Virginia and D.C. over the Potomac River.



Brittany Sumpter attended a panel discussion sponsored by COMTO (Conference of Minority Transportation Officials) on Capitol Hill.

OMNIRIDE



OmniRide will test a new style of commuter bus for several weeks in September, continuing to research what vehicles should be included in its fleet of the future.

The new bus that's being tested features two exits – one at the front and one in the middle – so passengers can disembark quickly. Passengers will continue to enter at the front door where the fare box is located. The second exit door also features a wheelchair ramp that leads to a low-floor area that accom-



modates two wheelchairs and a few seats. That design is a big change from OmniRide's current Express bus fleet that lifts wheelchairs several feet up and into the bus.

DASH Bus



Alexandria's DASH bus has extended \$1 mobile app fares until December 31, 2019. The app allows riders to buy and use fares with a debit or credit card. The app also accepts PayPal. The app allows users to purchase single and multiple fares. The app rolled out at the start of the summer WMATA shutdown and gave riders a new way to buy fares while ticket vending machines were at Metro stations in Alexandria.



NVTC AND PRTC PRESENT

ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

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



SAVE THE DATE!

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



Presents

How Northern Virginia is preparing for Amazon HQ2 through Transportation Improvements

October 8, 2019, 5:30 PM

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission
2300 Wilson Blvd., Main Floor Conference Room
Arlington, VA 22201

Fee: Free to COMTO members. \$10 for non-members.

COMTODC.com



Panelists
Jennifer Mitchell, Director,
Virginia Department of Rail and
Public Transportation (DRPT)

Christian Dorsey, WMATA and
Arlington County Board Member

Dennis Leach, Director of
Transportation, Arlington County