

Leveraging Northern Virginia's Express Lanes: 10 Years of NVTC's Commuter Choice Program

Investing Toll Revenue to Improve Travel
Across Northern Virginia

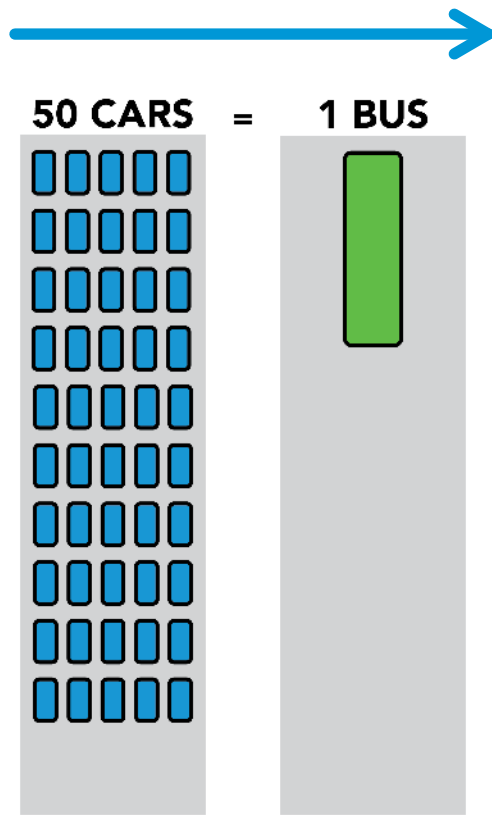


Kate Mattice
Executive Director
Northern Virginia Transportation Commission



Express Lanes + Transit = A Perfect Combination

Benefits of Express Lanes



- Improved traffic flow and travel times
- Predictable and reliable travel
- Congestion relief and spillover reduction
- Improved safety by reducing conflict points

Add Transit

Transit options mean **more** people can move with **fewer** vehicles

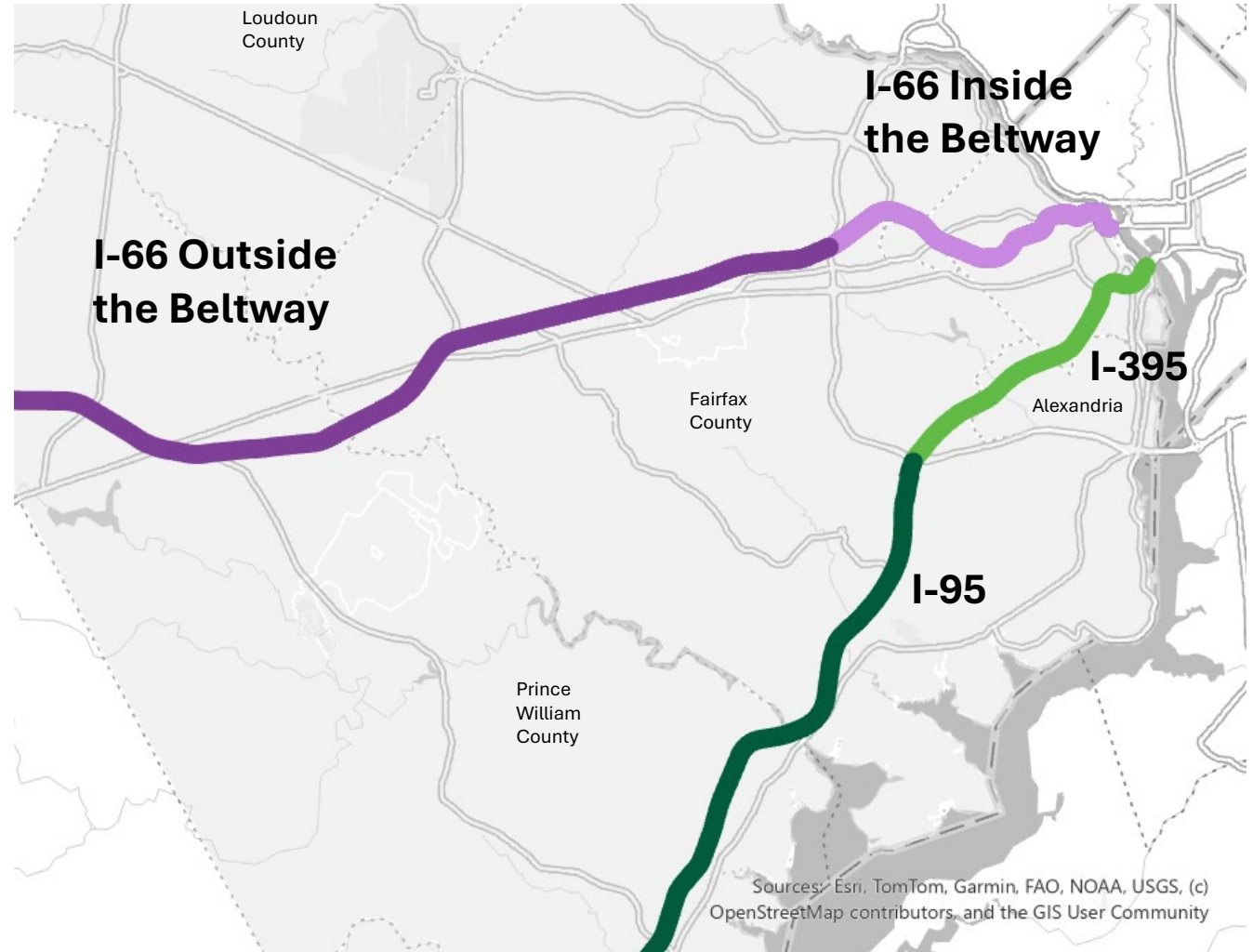
- Reduce traffic in general purpose lanes AND express lanes
- Improve travel times
- Support reliable travel
- Improve safety
- Lower tolls



About NVTC's Commuter Choice Program



- Partnership between the Commonwealth and NVTC since 2016
- Data-driven competitive grant program
- Serves I-66 and I-95 corridors
- Invests toll revenues into transit, ITS and TDM projects
- Focuses on moving people
- Two-year funding cycle



A Regional Program with State and Local Partners

State Government
Approval & Disbursement



DRPT
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

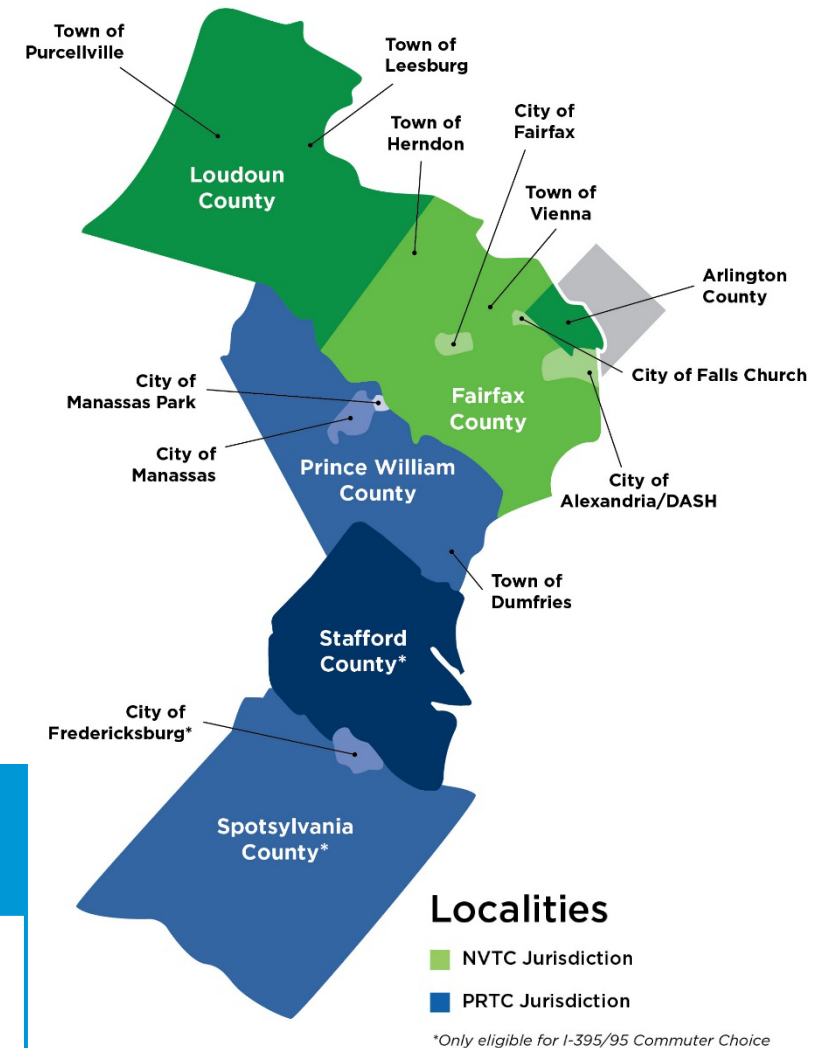


Transportation Commissions
Policy & Oversight



POTOMAC & RAPPAHANNOCK
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
*I-395/95 corridor only

Local Jurisdictions & Transit Operators
Implementation & Reporting

Criteria and Eligibility Defined Through MOA

Eligible Project Types



Bus or Rail Service



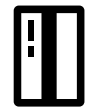
Bus or Rail Capital Projects



Roadway Improvements



Access to Transit (bike/ped)



Transportation Demand Management (TDM)
(fare buy-down, customer outreach, etc.)



Quick Project Delivery

Funds must be obligated **within two years** of allocation and fully expended **within five years** of allocation.



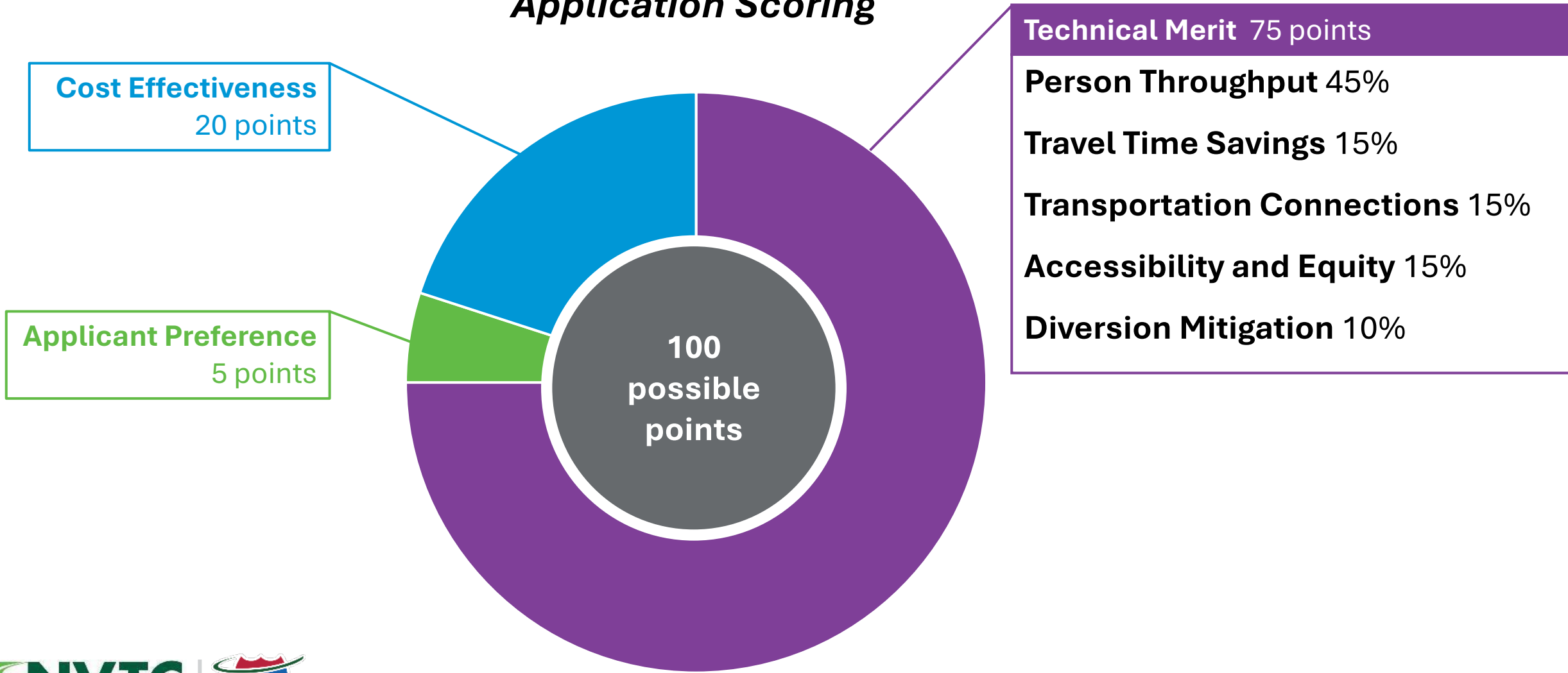
Project Requirements

Projects must meet **at least one of four** improvement goals outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement:

- ✓ **Maximize Person Throughput**
- ✓ **Improve Mobility**
- ✓ **Support New, Diverse Travel Choices**
- ✓ **Enhance Transportation Safety and Travel Reliability**



A Competitive, Data-Driven Evaluation Process

Application Scoring



Results: Strategic Investments to Help Move the Region

\$212M in capital and operations funding to support travelers along I-66 and I-395/95 Express Lanes

 **15** 

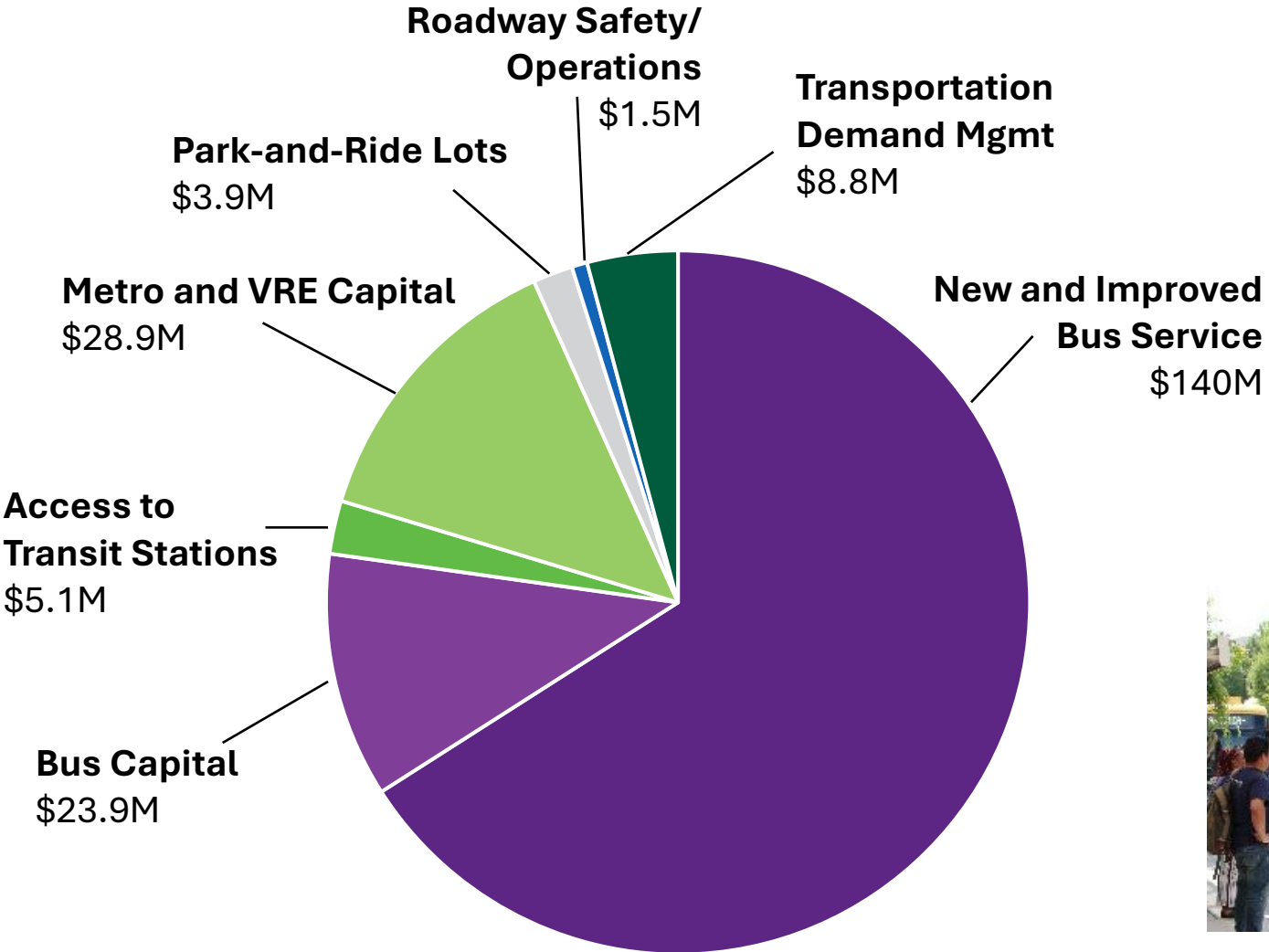
agencies, cities or counties

 **72** 

unique projects



Results: Projects that Meet Unique Needs of Communities



Results: 10 Years of Commuter Choice Impact

- ✓ Improve Commutes
- ✓ Enhance Mobility
- ✓ Improve Quality of Life

Saved
\$25.9M
in fuel cost for Virginians

Prevented
293
vehicle crashes

Moved more than
10.5M
people along I-66 and I-395/95

Avoided
1.9M
hours of travel delay

Reduced
197M
vehicle miles traveled



OmniRide and Fairfax Connector routes traveling on I-66 Outside the Beltway **saved up to 15 minutes per trip** once the Express Lanes opened in 2022

Community Impact: Stafford County



Commuter Choice funding has made transit more attractive with:

New Commuter Bus Routes and Coaches

Linking Stafford County with the Pentagon and Washington D.C.

More Frequent Bus Service

27 daily trips move over 200,000 people annually

VRE Platform Extension

Lengthened Leeland Road station to enable longer VRE trains



“These OmniRide routes are crucial for commuters heading to the Pentagon and Arlington. Without them, hundreds of commuters would have to drive (increasing traffic) or find alternate sub-optimal methods”

-Stafford resident (2025)



Community Impact: Loudoun County



Commuter Choice funding has made transit more attractive with:

New Park-and-Ride Lot

Creating new links between Loudoun and key employment centers

Commuter Bus Routes and New Coaches

Saving Loudoun commuters over 20 minutes per trip

Incentives for New Transit Users

TDM programs provided incentives to try new service

“I rely on these two morning and two afternoon trips from the Dulles South/Stone Ridge and East Gate lots for a reliable, congestion-free commute. Please keep it funded so our growing community continues to have this essential transit option.”
-Loudoun resident (2026)



Community Impact: City of Alexandria



Commuter Choice funded lines 35 and 36 carry a combined **2.5M riders each year**

Commuter Choice funding has made transit more attractive with:

Buses running every 10-15 minutes

gets riders to destinations faster

Real-time arrival signs

for a reliable and informed wait

Newer, bigger buses

to meet demand and improve the rider experience



“As a West Alexandria resident, I rely heavily on the frequency of this service. Personally, it has been a key resource enabling me to connect with and explore parts of the community.”

-Alexandria resident (2025)



I-66 FY 2027 – 2028 Program of Projects



FY 2027 – 2028 Funding Cycle



I-66 FY 2027 - 2028 Program of Projects

Proposed Program

\$60.5M in awards | **14** projects

Benefiting communities in
Loudoun, Prince William, Fairfax and Arlington



13 bus service projects
including
7 bus purchases



1 rail capital project

What I-66 and I-395/95 Travelers are Saying...



*I use this line to take my daughter to and from daycare several times a week. Because my trip includes a transfer, **high frequency service** is very important to ensuring I can get to daycare and then on to work on time.*



*This is a great program, **thank you for providing better bus service in NoVa!***



*Si esta linea es **MUY IMPORTANTE!** La necesitamos, los que vivimos aqui y trabajamos y no tenemos coche. (Yes, **this line is VERY IMPORTANT!** All of us with no cars that work and live here need it.)*



Thank You!



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Appendix

Proposed FY 2027-2028 I-66 Program Of Projects (1 of 2)

Grantee	Project Title	Proposed Award
Arlington County	Route 55: East Falls Church Station to Rosslyn Station Enhanced Service	\$475,000
Arlington County	Ballston-MU Station West Entrance	\$20,000,000
Fairfax County	Route 698: Stringfellow Road Park-and-Ride to the Pentagon Express Service (Continuation)	\$1,684,916
Fairfax County	Route 699: Monument Drive Park-And-Ride to Downtown Washington D.C. Express Service (Continuation)	\$4,588,744
Fairfax County	Route 697: Stringfellow Road Park-and-Ride to L'Enfant Plaza Express Service (Continuation)	\$4,072,453
Fairfax County	Route 598: Reston to the Pentagon Express Service (Continuation)	\$2,514,209
Loudoun County	Route 483/883: Harmony Park-and-Ride to Downtown Washington, D.C. Enhanced Service (Continuation)	\$219,005

Proposed FY 2027-2028 I-66 Program Of Projects (2 of 2)

Grantee	Project Title	Proposed Award
Loudoun County	Leesburg Park-and-Ride to Downtown Washington, D.C. New Service	\$269,698
Loudoun County	Route 281/681: Stone Ridge Park-and-Ride to Downtown Washington, D.C. Enhanced Service (Continuation)	\$476,008
Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission	Route 622: Haymarket to Rosslyn Express Service (Continuation)	\$605,600
Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission	Route 612: Gainesville to Pentagon/Navy Yard Express Service (Continuation)	\$1,773,700
Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission	Gainesville to Central/Northeast DC New Express Service	\$9,445,500
WMATA	Route F2X: Spring Hill Station to West Alexandria New Limited-Stop Service	\$11,255,525
WMATA	Route A6X: Dunn Loring to the Pentagon New Limited-Stop Service	\$3,112,587

Total Proposed Funding	\$60,492,945
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