Transit Resource Center Mission

What is the Transit Resource Center?

The Transit Resource Center provides technical assistance to member jurisdictions; collects, analyzes, and reports data from all NVTC’s programs; manages the Envision Route 7 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project; and supports coordination with other regional transportation organizations.

- National Transit Database (NTD)
- Transit Boarding Estimation and Simulation Tool (TBEST)
- Transit Data Compilation and Quarterly Reports
- Special Studies and Research
Data and Research Analysis

NVTC is a repository for a growing amount of valuable transit data (ridership, parking utilization, etc.) and uses the data to support research and analytical efforts for NVTC programs.
High point of working at home occurred during the summer in the Washington Region. Nationwide the peak of people working at home was in July. For comparison, in New York where the pandemic impacted people early, the peak was in April. In California and Florida the peak percent of people working at home occurred in October. Towards the end of 2020, people were returning to work places. The rate of returning to the office is happening the slowest in the District of Columbia.

Source: University of Maryland COVID Impact Analysis https://data.covid.umd.edu/
2020 COVID-19 Transit Impacts

- Transit boardings in Northern Virginia decreased 44% from January 2020 to May 2020 as compared to the same period in the previous year 2019.

- Comparing ridership during the key COVID impacted months of April 2020 and May 2020, boardings show an 88% decrease for transit in Northern Virginia as compared to the same period in 2019.

- For April 2020 and May 2020 bus boardings decreased 79% from the same period in year 2019.

- For April 2020 and May 2020 Metro station entries decreased 96% from the same period in year 2019.

- VRE ridership decreased 98% for during the peak of the pandemic in 2020.
In the beginning of 2020, transit ridership was up 16% from the previous year, with rail modes up 20% and bus up 16%. By the end of the year transit was down 70%, with rail down 87% and bus down 47%. Commuters still make up the majority of transit trips, and these trips tend to be longer than non-commute trips. As people return to the office, transit demand is expected to increase.

Source: Department of Rail and Public Transportation OLGA Data Submissions from Transit Providers
In the beginning of 2020, weekday and weekend average bus ridership was up approximately 7% over the previous year. In April and May average bus ridership was down approximately 70%. By the end of year weekday average ridership was down 51%, but weekend ridership was down approximately 20%. The majority of transit ridership loss is due to teleworking. Transit dependent households still must depend on the bus for their mobility.

Source: Department of Rail and Public Transportation OLGA Data Submissions from Transit Providers
Daily traffic volumes were slightly greater than historic data in the beginning of 2020. As stay at home orders impacted travel, traffic decreased by 42% on the Beltway. Recent traffic count data on the Beltway shows less than a 10% decrease to historic volumes. When looking at non-interstate traffic volumes in Northern Virginia, the difference in the morning peak period compared to historic data shows a 23% decrease. When looking at the midday volumes the decrease is less than 5%. As activity levels return to pre-pandemic levels, highway demand would be expected to increase first with transit demand following.

Source: https://public.tableau.com/profile/simona.babiceanu#!/vizhome/COVID-19VirginiaTrafficVolumes/ByLinkidDir
Near-term outlook for NOVA transit

- Recent monthly data shows an uptick in transit.
- Operators are starting to increase service levels.
- Commuter trips will continue to have the greatest impact on overall regional transit demand.
- In Northern Virginia, teleworking has a greater impact on rail ridership.
- Bus ridership has been less impacted by teleworking than rail ridership.
- Bus was and continues to be a key mode for many frontline workers.