NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

RESOLUTION #2614

SUBJECT: Adopt Commuter Choice Policy and Technical Evaluation Criteria Changes

WHEREAS: The Third Amended and Restated Memorandum of Agreement – Transform66: Inside The Beltway Project ("I-66 MOA") and the Amended and Restated Memorandum of Agreement Regarding the Annual Transit Investment from the 395 HOT Lanes ("I-395/95 MOA") require that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and, on the I-395/95 corridor, the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) develop and maintain criteria for project selection;

WHEREAS: The current Commuter Choice per project maximum funding award of $20 million was instituted in 2021 and has not been increased as project costs have increased in the past five years;

WHEREAS: The current Commuter Choice technical evaluation criteria process was approved in 2022 and includes Technical Merit (75 points), Annualized Cost Effectiveness (20) and Applicant Preference (5) criteria;

WHEREAS: The Commissions (NVTC and PRTC) wish to provide additional funding for high-performing capital projects while still ensuring funding availability for a wide variety of projects that can scale based on funding availability per cycle;

WHEREAS: The current technical evaluation criteria for Accessibility and Equity and Diversion Mitigation do not provide sufficient differentiation among scoring for projects;

WHEREAS: Safety is an improvement goal in both of the I-66 and I-395/95 MOAs;

WHEREAS: Prior to each application period, staff review existing policy and evaluation criteria for possible refinement;

WHEREAS: Staff have identified one policy change and several modifications to the evaluation criteria as part of that review; and

WHEREAS: These proposed changes, summarized below, were presented to PRTC and NVTC at their September 2026 meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hereby approves one policy change and three technical evaluation criteria changes to the Commuter Choice program in both the I-66 Inside the Beltway and I-395/95 corridors:

1) Change the maximum funding award per project from a flat $20 million to up to 50% of available funding in a given cycle;
2) Update the Accessibility and Equity criterion scoring so projects may receive up to four points;
3) Remove the Diversion Mitigation criterion and replace it with a Safety criterion; and
4) Reallocate five points from the Transportation Connections criterion to the to-be-created Safety criterion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that approval of these changes in relation to the I-395/95 corridor program is contingent upon PRTC's approval of a comparable resolution.

Approved this 1st day of October 2026.

Sarah Bagley
Chair

Maureen Coffey
Secretary-Treasurer