



RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION

SUBJECT: Commending the Honorable Katie Cristol for Her Service as Chair of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission for 2020 and 2021

WHEREAS: The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) serves as the voice of public transit in Northern Virginia, promoting the region's transit network through effective and efficient public transit and ridesharing programs to foster economic vitality in the region and the Commonwealth;

WHEREAS: The Honorable Katie Cristol was elected chair of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission for 2020 and 2021;

WHEREAS: Ms. Cristol has been an advocate of balanced transit investments in the region, transportation infrastructure enhancements, emergency preparedness, economic development, improved transit service, pedestrian-friendly initiatives, reduced-fare initiatives and transportation equity;

WHEREAS: In 2020, Ms. Cristol led NVTC during its 56th year of operations and, as chair, she led the Commission's rapid shift to a 100% virtual environment following the unprecedented shutdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, all while ensuring Commission business was conducted in a timely and effective manner;

WHEREAS: Ms. Cristol helped NVTC communicate the Commission's support and encouragement for WMATA as it managed pandemic-related budget and ridership challenges;

WHEREAS: Ms. Cristol championed WMATA and NVTC's efforts to coordinate effective transit options for riders while many Orange, Silver and Blue Line Metrorail stations were closed for major rehabilitation and upgrades;

WHEREAS: Ms. Cristol engaged with the NVTC WMATA Committee, local jurisdictional leaders, and regional stakeholders to develop and submit two major WMATA policy documents to the Virginia Legislature - *Report of Virginia's 3% Cap on the Growth in Operating Assistance Payments to WMATA*, as well as the *3rd and 4th Annual Reports on the Performance and Condition of WMATA*;

WHEREAS: Ms. Cristol supported a thoughtful and strategic approach to award limited I-66 Inside the Beltway toll revenue under the fourth round of I-66 Commuter Choice funding while facilitating policy adjustments to provide grantees with maximum flexibility to implement vital transit projects during the peak of the pandemic;

WHEREAS: Ms. Cristol advocated for improved investments in transit technology, resulting in a successful regional launch of the SmarTrip mobile app and a vital update to the Northern Virginia Regional Fare Collection Strategic Plan;

WHEREAS: Ms. Cristol supported NVTC's efforts to market transit to a diverse and growing Northern Virginia audience, resulting in NVTC receiving the Outstanding Public Transportation Marketing Award from the Virginia Transit Association for a regionwide marketing campaign;

WHEREAS: Due to the challenges of the pandemic and the Commission holding virtual and hybrid meetings, as well as welcoming 10 new NVTC Commissioners in 2020, the Commission elected Chair Cristol to continue as chair throughout 2021.

WHEREAS: In 2021, Ms. Cristol led NVTC during its 57th year of operations and, as chair, saw the region through many more milestones, including returning to in-person hybrid Commission and committee meetings, enhancing the collaboration and relationship-building for which NVTC is known;

WHEREAS: Ms. Cristol continued to support NVTC's cautious yet strategic approach to investing toll revenue, resulting in the approval of the supplemental fourth round of I-66 Commuter Choice funding and a second round of the I-395/95 Commuter Choice funding;

WHEREAS: Ms. Cristol continued to advocate for high-quality, high-capacity transit in Northern Virginia, resulting in NVTC receiving a DRPT grant to continue vital work on the Envision Route 7 Bus Rapid Transit project;

WHEREAS: Ms. Cristol supported NVTC's timely discussion of both zero- and reduced-fare transit programs resulting in a widely distributed policy White Paper and NVTC's effort to help the region be strategic in its transition to zero/low-emission bus fleets; and

WHEREAS: Ms. Cristol championed the Transforming Rail in Virginia initiative that aims to dramatically improve VRE and freight rail service in the region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hereby commends the Honorable Katie Cristol for her leadership of NVTC for 2020 and 2021 and her service to the citizens of Northern Virginia and to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Ms. Cristol as an expression of its gratitude and in appreciation for her leadership and work on the Commission in promoting and funding public transit and ridesharing in Northern Virginia.

Approved this 6th day of January 2022.



Canek Aguirre
Chair