



Advancing Transit

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



Advancing Transit

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

- 3 Executive Summary
- 4 NVTC Supports Efforts to Establish Sustainable Transit Funding
- 6 Northern Virginia Public Transit Ridership Thrives
- 7 NVTC Continues to Urge Metro to Find Cost Savings, Increase Efficiency
- 8 Commuter Choice Program Achieves Record Ridership
- 10 Envision Route 7 Advances Detailed Study, Community Outreach
- 12 Making Buses Faster and Cleaner
- 13 Using Data to Tell the Public Transit Story
- 14 Virginia Railway Express Looks to the Future
- 15 Legislative Forum
- 16 NVTC in the News
- 17 Awards and Honors
- 18 NVTC in the Community
- 20 Commission Officers
- 21 Remembering Gerry Connolly and Cathy Hudgins
- 22 Member Jurisdictions
- 23 Financial Management

Executive Summary

2025 was a standout year for the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. We celebrated record-breaking ridership across the region's public transit agencies, including key bus routes funded through NVTC's Commuter Choice program. The Envision Route 7 project, planning for bus rapid transit connecting Tysons and Alexandria, engaged hundreds of people to hear how they want to improve bus service along one of the busiest transit corridors in Northern Virginia.

Perhaps, most importantly for the future strength of the public transit network, NVTC Commissioners and staff played integral roles in two generational efforts to establish sustainable, long-term funding for public transit. While DMVMoves provided a roadmap for transit across the Greater Washington Region, SJ 28, the General Assembly's Growing Needs of Northern Virginia Public Transit Joint Subcommittee, drilled down to the practical, examining the sources of funding that could be most effectively used to maintain a safe and reliable system and keep it effectively moving people through the region.

We supported this critical work and other NVTC projects and programs by producing timely reports and online explorers to provide deeper understanding of the complex way public transit is funded, how bus priority measures can improve the overall rider experience, how agencies can work together to plan for zero-emission bus infrastructure and other studies designed to offer functional transit-focused research.

NVTC also provided leadership at the state, national and regional levels, meeting regularly with lawmakers, administration officials and agency senior staff to ensure NVTC's policies and regional position remain strong.

I'm proud of NVTC's dedicated staff. Their expertise and dedication shines through in the work we do to tie the region together. I'm confident that NVTC will build on the successes of 2025 and remain the premier transit agency in Northern Virginia.



Kate Mattice
Executive Director



David F. Snyder 
Chair
City of Falls Church

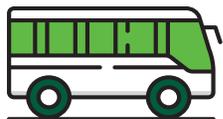
NVTC Supports Efforts to Establish Sustainable Transit Funding

NVTC endorsed two bold efforts in 2025 to strengthen the financial security of the region's public transit network and ensure that Northern Virginia's 2.1 million weekly riders will enjoy safe and reliable transit for years to come.

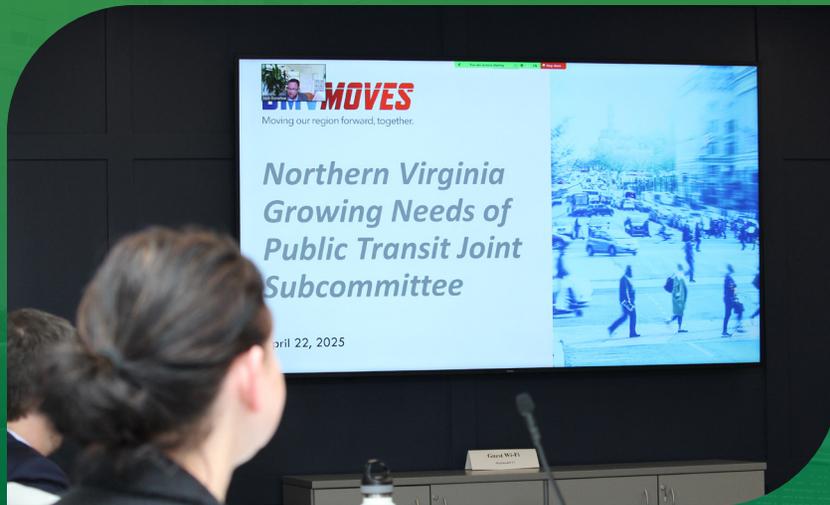
Despite recent ridership successes, transit in the region is at risk of serious service cuts as temporary funding expires and inflation outpaces existing transit funding sources.

DMVMoves, the task force convened by Metro and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, looked at sustainable funding for the Greater Washington region. The General Assembly's SJ 28 Northern Virginia Growing Needs of Public Transit Joint Subcommittee focused on identifying ways Virginia can solve its share of funding needs for Metro, Virginia Railway Express and local transit operators. While separate efforts, these two groups shared some members, coordinated efforts and developed complementary recommendations.

NVTC worked closely with the two committees over a nearly two-year period.



2.1 million
weekly riders



NVTC supports a long-term funding solution that provides approximately \$400M a year, growing annually and split between the Commonwealth and Northern Virginia, to address our region's transit needs.



Metro

NVTC and the Commonwealth need to identify funding to permanently sustain the Metro operating subsidy and Virginia's share of the DMV MOVES capital funding to maintain and modernize the Metro system.



Virginia Railway Express

Virginia is making once-in-a-generation investments in rail in Virginia, but VRE cannot leverage these investments without additional money to sustain and expand service after Long Bridge opens.



Local Bus Systems

Northern Virginia's local bus systems struggle with the same financial stressors as transit agencies across the nation. With additional funding these agencies can maintain their current service levels while providing some financial relief to local governments.

NVTC further supports appropriate oversight to ensure the cost effectiveness of all new funding and cost controls for each public transit agency.

Northern Virginia Public Transit Ridership Thrives

Northern Virginia's transit network thrived in FY 2025, showing that public transit remains strong and growing, while moving 2.1 million people each week.

All transit ridership was 15% higher in FY 2025 compared to FY 2024. Metro and Virginia Railway Express (VRE) led the nation in ridership growth, compared to their peers. Within the Northern Virginia region, VRE had the strongest ridership increase over the past fiscal year, growing 25% year-over-year.

The region's bus ridership has grown considerably in the last few years. Northern Virginia buses experienced the highest ridership levels in a decade. Major efforts to revise bus networks in Alexandria and across the Metrobus system increased efficiency and realigned routes to better serve passengers.

CUE, DASH and Fairfax Connector represent three different sized agencies that serve different rider bases and land use patterns. Even with these differences, all three agencies have surpassed 2019 ridership numbers. Long-haul commuter routes experienced the largest jump in riders. In the first quarter of 2025, ridership doubled for Loudoun County Transit and OmniRide, while VRE ridership soared 76% in the first half of 2025, largely driven by federal return-to-office directives.



NVTC Continues to Urge Metro to Find Cost Savings, Increase Efficiency

NVTC maintains a close relationship with Metro that dates to the Commission's founding in 1964, providing oversight and appointing members of the Metro Board of Directors.

NVTC appointed Waltern Alcorn as a principal director to the Metro Board to facilitate jurisdictional rotation and ensure the interests of all NVTC Commissioners are represented on the Board.

Metro enjoyed best-in-class ridership growth, a 50% reduction in crime and \$532 million in cost savings and cost avoidance in the last two years and was honored as the Outstanding Public Transit Agency of the Year by the American Public Transportation Association in 2025. Following close coordination with NVTC staff and partner jurisdictions, Metro launched the Better Bus Network in June, offering new connections across the region without any additional cost to operate the network.

Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA

Beyond supporting the Virginia members of the Metro Board of Directors, NVTC publishes the “**Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA**,” as mandated by Virginia law. In addition to highlighting key priorities of the Commission. The report offers strategies for Metro to continue its efforts toward reducing cost growth and increasing revenues as well as safety, reliability and financial performance data.

This year's report details NVTC's support for a long-term, sustainable funding solution for Metro. It also recommends controlling labor cost and overtime, creating a reserve fund, streamlining Metro reporting requirements, coordinating a jurisdictional audit, encouraging collaboration with the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission and other opportunities to reduce costs and increase revenues.



Commuter Choice Program Achieves Record Ridership

The Commuter Choice program reinvests toll revenues into public transit and other transportation improvements along the I-66 and I-395/95 corridors in Northern Virginia. Commuter Choice funded projects hit a new ridership record in 2025, supporting over 65,000 trips each workweek.

Each weekday in FY 2025, Commuter Choice funded projects recorded over 13,000 daily trips, saving commuters a total of:

 **2,400**
Hours Travel Time Saved

 **231,000**
Fewer Vehicle Miles Traveled

 **\$28,000**
in Fuel Saved



NVTC | **Commuter Choice**

Commuter Choice

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

[NoVaTransit.org/CC](https://www.novatransit.org/cc)

- 178 million investment in projects has improved transportation for Northern Virginians.
- 197M fewer vehicle miles traveled
- 293 automobile crashes avoided
- \$67.7M in regional economic benefit from reduced travel delay
- \$25.9M in fuel cost savings for commuters



Following similar trends across the region, Commuter Choice funded bus routes saw significant ridership gains over the previous fiscal year. Commuter Choice funded bus routes recorded ridership increases compared to the same period in FY 2024:



34%

increase in ridership on Commuter Choice funded bus routes in the I-66 Corridor

25%

increase in ridership on Commuter Choice funded bus routes in the I-395/95 Corridor



The I-95/395 Program of Projects adopted in 2025 funded 15 projects totaling \$39.5 million, which included a second award of \$10 million for Fairfax County's Richmond Highway bus rapid transit project. Other funded projects included:

\$7.4 million

for DASH to continue enhanced service on Line 35, the busiest route in the DASH system, running every 10 minutes on weekdays between Alexandria's West End and the Pentagon.

\$2.3m

for Metro to start new bus service (Route A29) running between the Van Dorn Street Metro, Shirlington and downtown Washington, D.C.

\$2.1m

for VRE to complete final design of future improvements to the Leeland Road Station.

Each year, NVTC calculates the cumulative successes of Commuter Choice. Since its inception in 2017, investments in Commuter Choice funded projects have resulted in over 10.5 million trips across both corridors, saving commuters 197 million fewer vehicle miles traveled, 1.9 million hours of travel time savings, and nearly \$26 million in fuel cost savings.

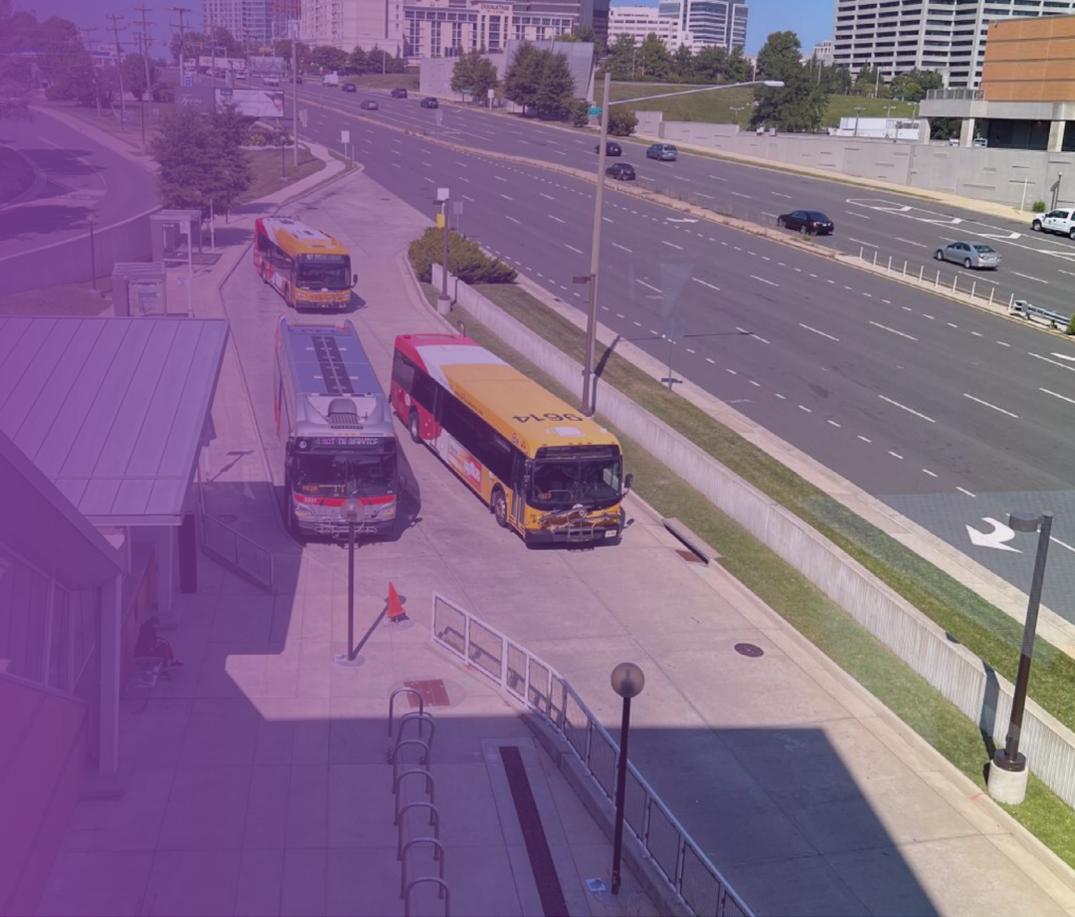
Envision Route 7 Advances Detailed Study, Community Outreach

The Envision Route 7 bus rapid transit (BRT) system connecting Tysons and Alexandria completed a significant study and public outreach phase in 2025.

Supported by a Community Project Funding Grant championed by Rep. Don Beyer and the late Rep. Gerry Connolly, NVTC began a detailed analysis of the proposed route between Seven Corners and the Mark Center/Southern Towers in Alexandria. The study aims to both identify issues related to traffic congestion and examine infrastructure improvements that will help buses move more easily through the corridor.

NVTC hosted a well-attended open house in October as well as bus stop chats and pop-up events to reach a broader section of people who live and work along Route 7. Members of the public were asked to complete a survey about how they travel through the corridor and what public transit improvements they would like to see come to fruition.





Explore Envision Route 7

Bus Rapid Transit connecting
Tysons to the Mark Center

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission

Envision Route 7 also launched a community newsletter designed to provide regular updates on the project and launched an online [explorer](#) to explain the project and potential bus priority infrastructure improvements.

NVTC also held critical meetings with project partners in the Cities of Alexandria and Falls Church, Arlington and Fairfax Counties, Metro, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation and the Virginia Department of Transportation.

NVTC will analyze the study data and survey responses and present results in 2026.



Making Buses Faster and Cleaner

NVTC's program staff coordinate with regional transit agencies and local governments to explore and implement methods to improve public transit.

How Bus Priority Can Improve Service

Bus priority infrastructure can improve bus speeds and overall cost of service by freeing buses from traffic congestion. NVTC created a bus priority [website](#) to help the public understand where bus priority treatments currently exist in Northern Virginia and how they work.

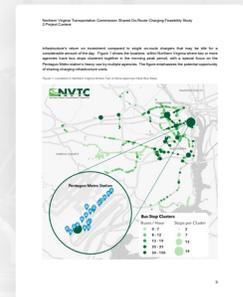
Transit signal priority (TSP) helps buses move more easily through traffic by giving buses a head start over other traffic. Queue jumps provide additional space for buses to move around traffic at intersections. Dedicated bus lanes on highly traveled corridors provide a smoother, more reliable ride for bus riders while improving safety and traffic flow around bus stops.

Shared Infrastructure for Battery Electric Buses

NVTC released its [Shared On-Route Charging Feasibility Study](#), which studied the feasibility of sharing on-route chargers for battery electric buses (BEBs), in March.

Sharing BEB infrastructure could reduce the overall capital costs of transitioning to BEBs.

The study identified 18 shared layover locations used by ART, DASH, Fairfax Connector or Metro that have the potential for installation of shared charging infrastructure, providing guidance to agencies and localities that wish to expand electric-bus efficiency.



Regional Coordination for Zero-Emission Buses

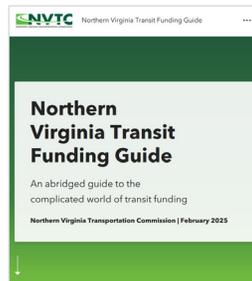
NVTC recently selected a firm to provide technical assistance and guidance to NVTC's Zero-Emission Bus (ZEB) Working Group over a two-year period, continuing NVTC's emphasis on regional coordination established in its Northern Virginia ZEB Strategic Plan.

Using Data to Tell the Public Transit Story

The Transit Data and Analysis program uses data to tell the story of public transit in Northern Virginia in easy-to-understand formats.

Transit Funding Guide

In 2025, NVTC debuted the [Transit Funding Guide](#), an interactive tool created as an informational guide to how transit is funded in Northern Virginia at the federal, state, regional and local levels. The guide also details how Metro is funded and how Virginia funds Metro.



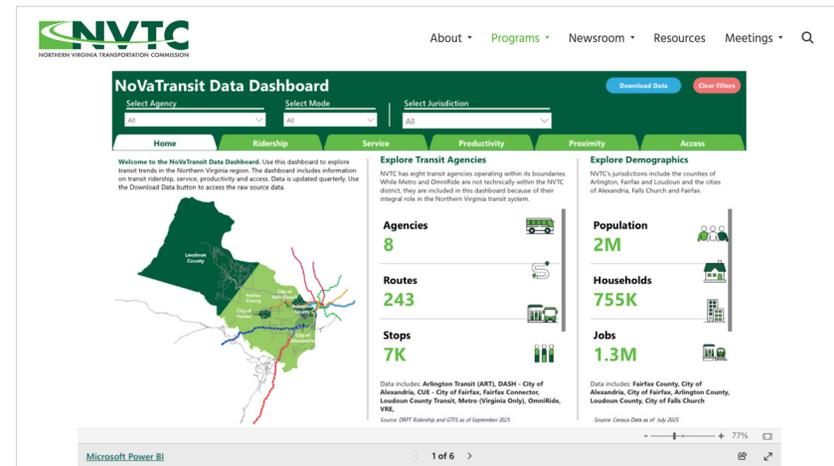
Online Explorers and Interactive Maps

The Transit Data and Analysis program works closely with the other NVTC programs to develop effective visuals and graphics. This year, work included the development of the Envision Route 7 Explorer and the Bus Priority Interactive Map.

Transit Data Dashboard

NVTC overhauled the [Transit Data Dashboard](#), which was first introduced in 2022, to provide a more streamlined and user-friendly experience. The dashboard tracks the eight transit agencies serving Northern Virginia and allows users to explore data points including ridership, how much service the agencies provide, and proximity, a measure of how well transit provides coverage to homes and jobs.

The access tab, showing how many jobs people can reach using transit, was updated with new methodology and can now be viewed using an interactive map.





Virginia Railway Express Looks to the Future

NVTC helped found Virginia Railway Express (VRE) and co-owns the commuter railroad with the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC). Both Commissions appoint members of the VRE Operations Board and must approve VRE's annual budgets, policy and fare changes, major investments and legislative initiatives.

VRE undertook significant forward-looking steps in 2025 designed to guide and implement system improvements and expansions.

Manassas Line Funding Agreement

VRE and the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) executed a five-year, \$155 million agreement to acquire four property interests along the line that are critical to VRE's current and future commuter rail operations.

System Plan 2050 Adoption

VRE adopted its System Plan 2050 in July, the long-term plan and vision for the commuter rail system's evolution over the next 25 years. The System Plan 2050 outlines an ambitious future that pivots VRE from a commuter-focused rail service to a regional rail system, with frequent bi-directional, weekend and late-night service for the first time in VRE's history.

Alexandria Station Improvements

VRE and VPRA broke ground in November on a suite of projects in and around Alexandria Station. VRE's \$133.7 million investment will significantly improve the passenger experience at the station through upgrades that modernize and rehabilitate the platforms for safety and efficiency.



Legislative Forum Looks Ahead to Long-Term Transit Funding

NVTC celebrated a decade of hosting its Legislative Forum in December. The event, held jointly with the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) and Virginia Railway Express (VRE), explored the challenges and opportunities facing the transit agencies that serve the region.

It also reviewed the work done by the General Assembly's SJ 28 Growing Needs of Northern Virginia Public Transit Joint Subcommittee and DMVMoves in preparation for the 2026 General Assembly Session.

More than 200 attendees heard a lively discussion from leaders at ART, Metro, OmniRide and VRE, elected officials, appointees and community leaders. NVTC's Legislative Agenda is integral to the Legislative Forum. The 2026 [Legislative Agenda](#) reflects a drive toward long-term sustainable funding that supports Northern Virginia's transit needs. It also calls for funding to provide adequate growth to meet current operating and capital needs for Metro, VRE and local bus providers.

The Legislative Forum also furthers NVTC's goal to serve as a regional entity, bringing people and organizations together to coordinate efforts to advance public transit in Northern Virginia.



NVTC in the News

National and local news media covered the actions of the Commission and staff throughout the year. News stories reported on efforts to establish long-term funding for public transit, the Commuter Choice and Envision Route 7 programs, votes related to Virginia Railway Express investments and federal return-to-office effects on transit ridership.

WJLA

- › Proposed changes to bus commute along congested Route 7 gets public feedback from riders bit.ly/4oToPNn

Virginia Mercury

- › Virginia commissions approve \$155 million Manassas rail line agreement bit.ly/4p0F9Mo

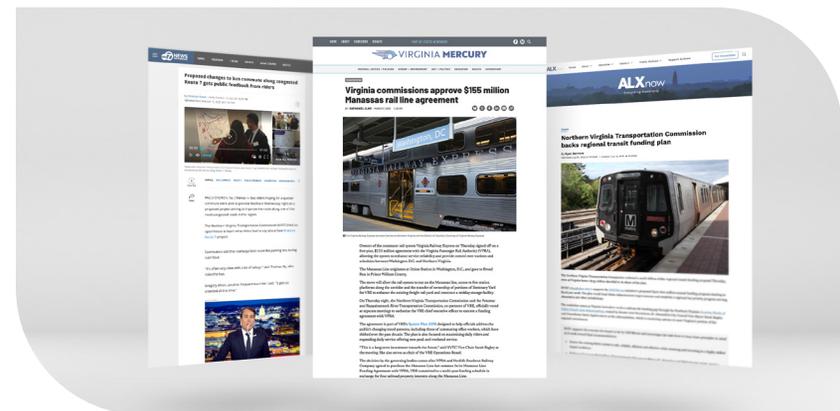
ALXnow

- › Northern Virginia Transportation Commission backs regional transit funding plan bit.ly/48yBaAM
- › New rush-hour bus route would connect Shirlington to Alexandria and Metro Center bit.ly/4rqivyH

FFXnow

- › Richmond Highway BRT, other bus lines set to receive regional transit funding bit.ly/4ohuY50

Read more: novatransit.org/news-and-media/nvtc-in-the-news/



Awards and Honors

NVTC 60th anniversary documentary receives excellence award

NVTC's 60th Anniversary Documentary was honored by The Communicator Awards in the category of General-Documentary, Excellence 2025 from the Academy of Interactive & Visual Arts.



Mass Transit magazine recognizes NVTC's Ann McGrane

Mass Transit magazine honored Deputy Director of Programs and Policy Ann McGrane as one of its 40 Under 40. Ann joined NVTC in 2022 as transit technology senior program manager, overseeing our work on the Value of Transit and zero-emission bus technology. In her current role, Ann manages our team of analysts, supports transit funding efforts and is the liaison to the communications team.



WTS-DC honors Kate Mattice as Woman of the Year

WTS-DC selected Executive Director Kate Mattice as Woman of the Year, an honor that recognizes a woman who is an outstanding role model and has contributed to the advancement of women and minorities in transportation.



Photo Courtesy of WTS-DC

Virginia Transit Leadership Institute

Senior Program Manager Adam Hager graduated from the second class of the Virginia Transit Leadership Institute (VTLI), presented by the Virginia Transit Association.



NVTC in the Community



NVTC Commissioners and staff embraced the “public” part of public transit, remaining engaged in regional, state and national events throughout the year.

From speaking at national conferences, to attending Virginia Transit Association Day in Richmond to marching alongside DASH in the World Pride parade, Commissioners and staff shared the work of NVTC and celebrated milestones for the local governments and transit agencies in Northern Virginia.





Commission Officers



David F. Snyder [▶](#)
Chair
City of Falls Church



Sarah Bagley [▶](#)
Vice-Chair
City of Alexandria



Matthew F. Letourneau [▶](#)
Secretary-Treasurer
Loudoun County

NVTC Committee Chairs



Canek Aguirre [▶](#)
*Legislative and
 Policy Committee*
City of Alexandria



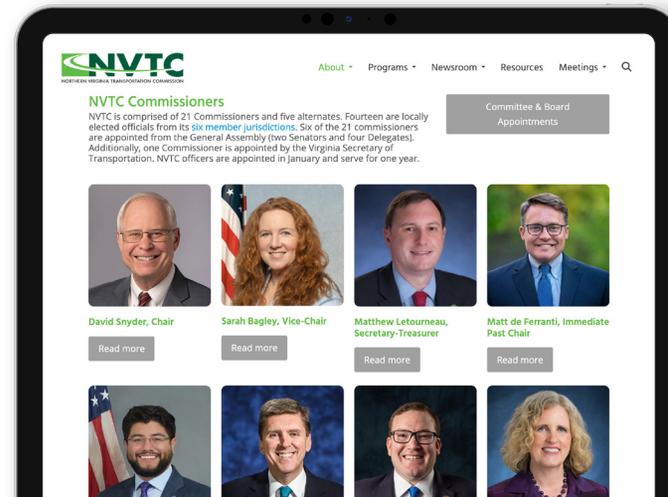
Dalia Palchik [▶](#)
*Program Advisory
 Committee*
Fairfax County



Matt de Ferranti [▶](#)
WMATA Committee
Arlington County

Meet Our Commissioners Online

[View All Commissioners Here](#) [▶](#)
 (novatransit.org/commissioners)



Remembering Gerry Connolly and Cathy Hudgins

Northern Virginia lost two longtime champions of public transit in May with the deaths of Rep. Gerry Connolly and former Fairfax County Supervisor Cathy Hudgins.

Rep. Connolly served nine years as a member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission when he was Chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

A tireless advocate for public transit, he championed Metro's Silver Line, calling out the importance of connecting Dulles International Airport by rail, while also supporting Virginia Railway Express and our local bus systems.

In an interview for NVTC's 60th anniversary **documentary**, Rep. Connolly reflected on NVTC's importance to Northern Virginia: "I think NVTC quietly served as both a sounding board for new ideas, but also as a strong resource for developing alternative modes of transportation."

Cathy Hudgins came to the Commission in 2004, serving 16 years and leading NVTC as chair in 2010. Ms. Hudgins played a critical role as a longtime appointee and chair of the Metro Board of Directors. She was also committed to building the Silver Line, ensuring the completion of its first phase to Reston.

A resolution marking her departure from the Commission stated, "Ms. Hudgins is appreciated by her colleagues for being a thoughtful, steady and insightful leader who is a voice of reason and an agent for change."



Member Jurisdictions

NVTC thanks our local, state, regional, federal and non-governmental partners for their valuable contributions toward advancing public transit.



Our Partner Organizations



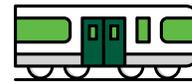
Federal Transit Administration



Financial Management

NVTC fiscal year 2025 financial and compliance reports received clean audit opinions. The two opinions covered the financial position of NVTC's activities and the internal control over financial reporting and compliance with laws, contracts, regulations, grant agreements and other matters.

Total NVTC Fiscal Year 2025 Revenue
\$402 million



\$220 million
State Assistance

State assistance for Metro operating and capital commitments of the NVTC jurisdictions, contracted through NVTC with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), came to \$220 million.



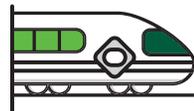
\$79.7 million
State Assistance

State assistance for local operating and capital needs, which NVTC applied for on behalf of its member jurisdictions' transit systems, came to \$79.7 million.



\$33.4 million
Revenues

Net revenues from the regional gas tax, which NVTC received for Metro operating and capital requirements, equaled \$33.4 million.



\$19.5 million
State Assistance

DRPT assistance to VRE, for which NVTC served as grantee, totaled \$19.5 million.



\$15.0 million
CROC Funding

\$15 million annual Commuter Rail Operating and Capital funding, derived from regional gas tax revenues, received by NVTC on behalf of VRE.



\$33.4 million
Commuter Choice

\$33.4 million in toll-related revenues received for the I-66 and I-95/395 Commuter Choice programs.

Advancing Transit

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

The 2025 Year in Review is a product of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission

Contact Us

**Northern Virginia
Transportation Commission**
2300 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 230
Arlington, VA 22201

(703) 524-3322
nvtc@novatransit.org
novatransit.org

Follow Us



@NoVaTransit
facebook.com/NoVaTransit



@NoVaTransit
x.com/NoVaTransit



Northern Virginia Transportation Commission
linkedin.com/company/northern-virginia-transportation-commission



@novatransit_ig
instagram.com/novatransit_ig



Northern Virginia Transportation Commission
youtube.com/@NoVaTransit