



MEDIA RELEASE

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NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION CHAIR MAKES THE ECONOMIC CASE FOR INCREASED TRANSIT FUNDING IN NOVA

*DAVID F. SNYDER TESTIFIES AT COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
ON DRAFT FY2016-2021 SIX-YEAR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (SYIP)*

Arlington, VA— Citing the strong relationship between high-quality transit and the economic vitality of Northern Virginia, David F. Snyder, NVTC chair and vice mayor for the City of Falls Church, called for increased investment in Northern Virginia's regional transit network in testimony before the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) on April 28, 2015. Snyder's testimony highlighted areas of progress and promise and laid the groundwork for the CTB's continued support.

"Northern Virginia's transit network is the product of a strong regional partnership and a commitment from the Commonwealth to provide a range of transportation options to a rapidly growing and increasingly diverse populace," he said. "When you consider the growing demand for transit and the record of NVTC jurisdictions in providing quality transit service, it is clear that the region merits your continued support. The economic health of the Commonwealth depends on it."

Snyder's message will be reinforced by a report to be released on May 8, 2015 as part of NVTC's forum, Transit Means Business! The report, done by researchers at George Mason University, will detail why a strong network of transit service is key to the region's ability to compete globally for new businesses and new jobs.

Northern Virginians rely on transit to get to work and travel throughout the National Capital Region. A strong transit system is key to our ability – at both the regional and state levels – to compete for and retain businesses. Recently, here and across the country, companies such as Marriot, State Farm, Kaiser Permanente, and Amazon have announced that access to transit is a necessity when considering where to locate their businesses.

The FY2016-2021 SYIP totals \$12.9 billion, with \$9.5 billion earmarked for highway construction. The plan allocates \$3.4 billion for rail and public transportation. NVTC's transit systems will receive almost \$210 million in FY16, which includes capital and operating assistance for bus local transit systems and WMATA. There is another \$22.8 million in FY16 for capital and operating assistance for VRE. VRE also will receive Rail Enhancement Funds totaling \$15.4 million over the next several years.

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Many of the projects outlined in the SYIP are critical to Northern Virginia's ability to expand transit capacity and service in the region, such as new buses for the cities of Alexandria and Fairfax, and Arlington County; several bus and rail-related facilities in Alexandria, and Fairfax and Arlington counties; new VRE rail cars and funding for VRE's track leases; as well as operating and capital assistance for WMATA. The SYIP allocates funding for essential highway, bridge, rail and other transportation projects for the next six fiscal years, beginning July 1.

For a copy of NVTC's testimony go to www.NoVaTransit.org. The April 28, 2015 hearing took place at the VDOT Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax, VA 22030.

NVTC funds and promotes public transit in a district consisting of the counties of Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church. It currently is led by 19 commissioners who are local and state elected officials, including a representative of the Virginia Secretary of Transportation.

NVTC brings the region together to ensure that Virginia businesses and residents are served by a network of transit systems that allows our diverse region to thrive economically. NVTC funds and promotes transit in the counties of Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church, a 1,000 square-mile region with a population of 1.7 million. NVTC includes six bus systems – DASH, ART, CUE, Fairfax Connector, Loudoun County Transportation, and Metrobus – as well as Metrorail and the Virginia Railway Express. For more information, visit www.NoVaTransit.org or call 703-524-3322.

NVTC