NVTC Releases Report on the Performance & Condition of WMATA

Document Submitted to Governor & General Assembly
Report Details Commission Priorities for Managing Costs

Arlington, VA - The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission today submitted its first legislatively mandated annual “Report on the Performance and Condition of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority” (WMATA) to Virginia’s Governor and General Assembly. The report, which is due each year on November 1, presents data vital to understanding how Metrorail and Metrobus are performing and articulates the Commission’s priorities for controlling WMATA’s operating costs.

“This report, the first of many, will serve as a baseline for future years. It will allow us, as we continue to track data, to paint a picture of improvements over time. The report is also a vehicle through which NVTC and its jurisdictions will share strategies that WMATA can use to manage costs and make its operations more efficient.”

-Paul Smedberg
NVTC Chairman

Twenty-two short- and long-term strategies, designed to reduce the growth in WMATA’s costs and to improve the efficiency of its operations, are included in the report. NVTC developed the strategies in coordination with its local jurisdictions, which are responsible for funding WMATA. When implemented, the strategies will help WMATA rebuild rail and bus ridership, enhance the efficiency of Metrobus and Metrorail, control costs for labor and contracted services, optimize revenue collection, increase non-fare revenues, and enhance the efficiency of the workforce and contractors.

While NVTC has long been charged with the funding and stewardship of WMATA, its responsibilities increased in 2018 due to passage of Virginia’s omnibus transit bill (HB1539/SB856). The bill specifies that NVTC report on safety and reliability, financial performance, and ridership, in addition to strategies. In future years, as the transit agency begins receiving funds from the recently created Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Capital Fund, NVTC will report on their usage to improve the safety and reliability of Metrorail.

“NVTC recognizes the importance of the commonwealth’s investment in WMATA and will continue to serve as a steward of its funds,” said Smedberg. “Future reports will detail WMATA’s expenditures as well as its efforts to...
improvements in safety and reliability."