



Tis the season of giving and Congress and President Joe Biden have given public transit in America a gift of historic proportions. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) authorizes up to \$108 billion, including \$91 billion in guaranteed funding for public transportation. In Northern Virginia Metro, VRE and OmniRide will immediately benefit from formula funding changes.

The bill contains a long list of benefits for Virginia. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, based on formula funding alone, Virginia would expect to receive about \$1.2 billion over five years to improve public transportation options across the Commonwealth. There's also money to improve Amtrak's Northeast Corridor, rebuild roads and bridges with an eye on safety for cyclists and pedestrians, and purchase or lease of low and no emissions buses and the facility upgrades they require.

The legislation also creates the National Infrastructure Project Assistance grant program to support multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects of national or regional significance. That program has the potential to benefit major efforts like building a new Long Bridge over the Potomac River for the exclusive use of VRE and Amtrak passenger trains.

Our local bus systems may also want to participate in FTA's enhanced Low and No-Emission Bus and Bus Facilities Competitive Grant Program which has been significantly increased to \$5.6 billion to support the transition of transit vehicles to low or zero-emission technologies.

We are grateful for this once-in-a-generation infrastructure boost that will be remembered for decades.

*John A. Mathici*  
Executive Director

Inside This Issue

Commuter Choice on the I-66 Corridor Round Five call for projects opens 2

Infrastructure bill means \$1.2 billion for Virginia transit 2

NVTC Legislative Committee reviews legislative agenda for 2022 3

Review finds Virginia transportation funding models working well 3

NVTC's Transit Technology Program featured at regional meeting 4

Talking transportation to emerging leaders 5

Chair Cristol talks transportation investment with business leaders 5

APTA TRANSform convenes in Orlando 6

Metro Board reviews recent and future bus improvements 6

Warm welcome to Monique Blyther & best of luck to Dan Goldfarb 7

Metro Board reviews ridership and revenue outlook 8

Key Dates

- Dec. 6 - NVTC-PRTC Legislative Briefing
- Dec. 7 - 8 - Commonwealth Transportation Board
- Dec. 14 - Virginia Passenger Rail Authority
- Dec. 15 - Regional Public Meeting
- Jan. 6 - Commission Meeting

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission  
2300 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 230  
Arlington, VA 22201

[NoVaTransit.org](http://NoVaTransit.org)  
[NoVaRides.org](http://NoVaRides.org)  
[@NoVaTransit](https://twitter.com/NoVaTransit)  
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### **Commuter Choice on the I-66 Corridor Round Five call for projects opens**

NVTC's Commuter Choice team is accepting applications for multimodal transportation improvements in the I-66 Inside the Beltway corridor, including along parallel roads and transit lines, that will be funded through I-66 toll revenues in FY 2023 and FY 2024. Proposed projects must benefit Inside the Beltway toll payers and support Commuter Choice program goals of maximizing corridor person throughput, improving mobility, expanding transportation options and enhancing transportation safety and reliability. NVTC conservatively anticipates that \$12 million will be available for new projects over the two-year period, with a higher funding level possible if Inside the Beltway toll revenues continue to rebound.

The Commuter Choice team has been meeting with interested eligible applicants—counties, cities, towns and transit providers in Virginia Planning District 8 – to discuss project ideas and review the needed application materials. While overall peak-period, peak-direction commute travel in the I-66 corridor remains below historical levels, NVTC is encouraging applicants to consider applying for capital projects that will provide long-term benefits, ideally for both peak- and off-peak commuters.

The Commission authorized NVTC staff to open the Commuter Choice on the I-66 Corridor Round Five call for projects at its meeting November 4. NVTC will accept applications through Friday, January 28, 2022, and anticipates approval of a program of projects by the Commission and Commonwealth Transportation Board in June 2022.

### **Infrastructure bill means \$1.2 billion for Virginia transit**

The White House is touting the benefits of the newly-signed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The Biden administration says new investments and reauthorization in the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) provide \$89.9 billion in guaranteed funding for public transit over the next five years, calling it “the largest Federal investment in public transit in history.”

The [White House](#) and [Federal Transit Administration](#) also released fact sheets detailing what the bill means for Virginia. It includes \$1.2 billion for transit in the Commonwealth, as well as money for highways, electric vehicle chargers, airports, high-speed internet, water infrastructure, climate change mitigation and cyber defense. The bill also [reauthorizes](#) \$150 million annually for Metro through 2030 and makes additional transit investments in neighboring D.C. and Maryland.



*President Joe Biden signs the The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.  
Photo via [@WhiteHouse](#) on Twitter*

## NVTC Legislative Committee reviews legislative agenda for 2022

NVTC's [Legislative and Policy Committee](#) met this November 12 to discuss recent activity at the state and federal levels that will impact transportation and transit in Virginia and to review the draft Legislative & Policy [Agenda](#) for 2022. NVTC Legislative Liaison Aimee Perron Seibert provided a breakdown of recent election results and looked ahead to the administration of Gov.-elect Glenn Youngkin and the Republican takeover of the House of Delegates. Ms. Perron Seibert noted that transportation was not a major subject in campaigns this year and expressed hope that his administration would not make significant changes to policy. Ms. Perron Seibert said her team will work with the yet-to-be-named transportation secretary and new House Transportation Committee leadership to educate them on Northern Virginia's transportation needs. VRE Legislative Liaison Bennett Resnick provided a federal outlook, highlighting the \$1.2 billion provided for Virginia in the infrastructure bill that President Joe Biden will sign Monday.

The full Commission will be asked to approve the legislative agenda in December. I also reminded committee members about our NVTC-PRTC [Joint Legislative Briefing](#), to be held Monday, December 6 in Springfield.



## Review finds Virginia transportation funding models working well

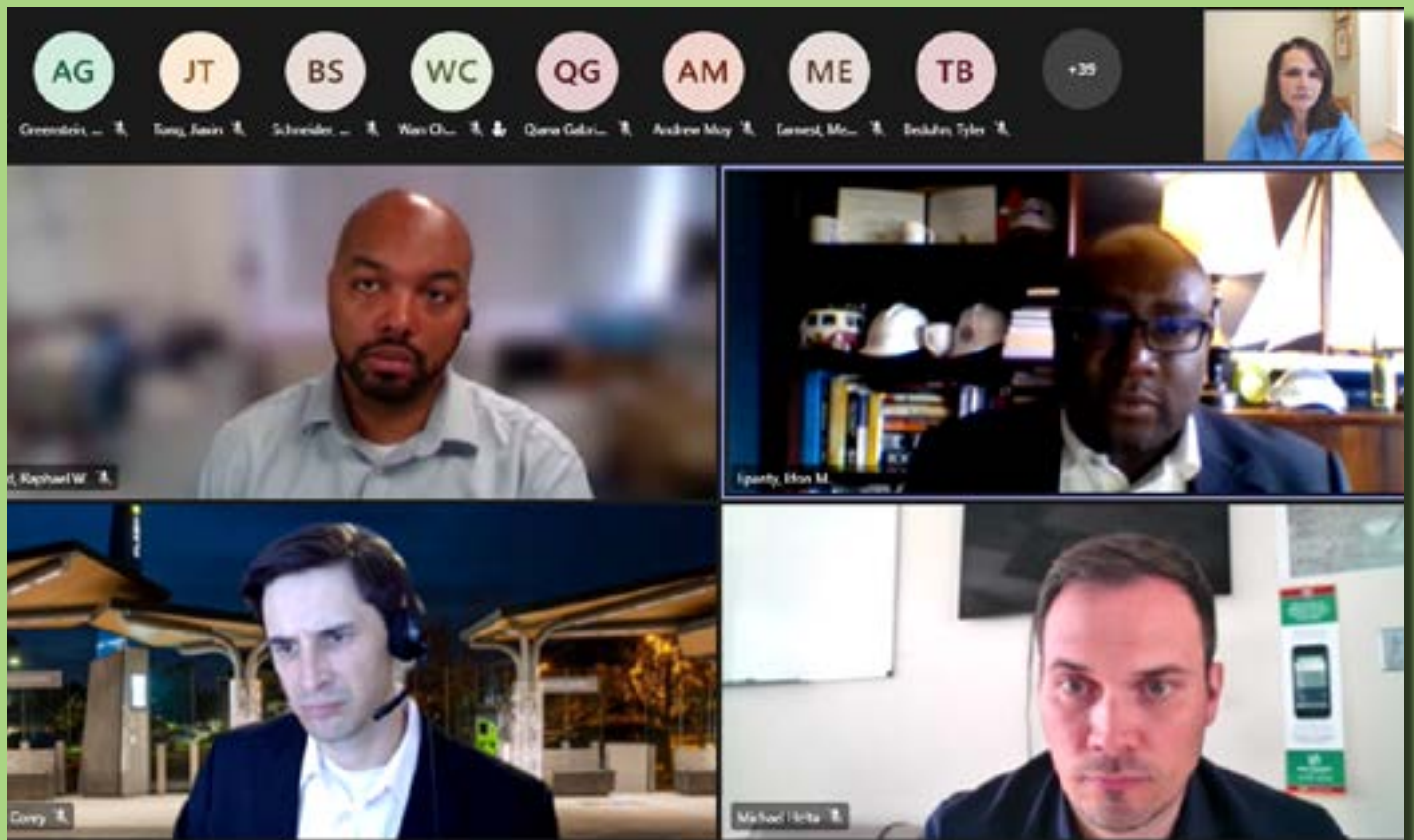
The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) presented its draft Transportation and Infrastructure Funding [report](#) November 8. JLARC found that funding models are designed well and work effectively. Commission members did warn that more money could be needed for transit in the future, especially if ridership levels do not bounce back to pre-pandemic levels. The report notes that the Virginia General Assembly increased transportation revenues by 16% to \$578 million in 2020, which addresses near and long-term funding concerns. "Revenue increases will help to strengthen the state transportation system by providing more funding to improve the condition of existing roads and bridges, and to make system improvements to address congestion, safety and economic development needs," the report finds. JLARC also says the restructured revenue stream will make it less likely the Commonwealth will experience revenue shortfalls as fuel consumption decreases over time.

## NVTC's Transit Technology Program featured at regional meeting

NVTC's Transit Technology Senior Program Manager Patricia Happ participated in the Washington, D.C. Section Institute of Transportation Engineers (WDCSITE) [Annual Meeting](#) as part of a panel on bus technology November 18. The panel, organized by WSP and moderated by Corey Pitts of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation, also included panelists from Metro, Maryland Transit Administration and Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation.

Topics of discussion included zero-emission buses and fare technology, which are both part of NVTC's Transit Technology program portfolio. Patricia shared findings from NVTC's work on zero-emission bus planning, including the Zero-Emission Bus Symposium we hosted in October and subsequent discussion held as part of the the November Commission meeting. These findings include the importance of strategic planning, engaging regional partners and leaders, partnering with utilities and identifying funding. Panelists also discussed planning for bus performance, charging infrastructure and utility resiliency planning. Additionally, the conversation emphasized the importance of regional coordination with local flexibility to realize economies of scale.

On fare technology, issues addressed by panelists included rear-door boarding, the impacts of COVID-19 on fare payment operations, mobile payments and equitable fare policies. Patricia shared conclusions of NVTC's recently released white paper [Zero-Fare and Reduced-Fare Options for Northern Virginia Transit Providers](#). The document is designed to provide Commissioners and Northern Virginia's bus system decision-makers with policy and technical considerations for zero-fare and reduced fare transit service.



*Patricia Happ (top right) listens to panelists*

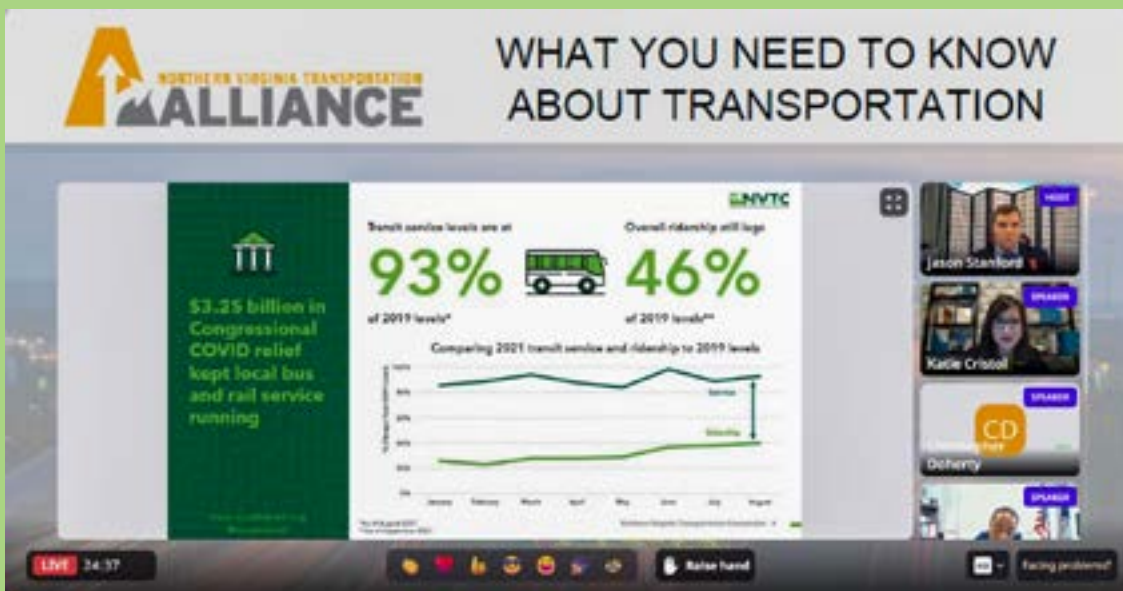
### Talking transportation to emerging leaders

Executive Director Kate Mattice spoke to leadership professionals November 18 about how important of transit and transportation are to sustained economic growth in Northern Virginia. The panel was part of Economic Development Day for the [Leadership Arlington](#) Class of 2022. The organization cites its purpose “to transform a highly motivated group of individuals into a network of leaders with the knowledge and commitment to benefit our community.” I also took part in a challenge exercise where asked participants, given the uncertainty that still exists due to the COVID-19 pandemic, how should Northern Virginia approach transportation investments to meet these changing needs while still protecting the economic benefits of its transit network?



### Chair Cristol talks transportation investment with business leaders

Chair Katie Cristol represented NVTC as part of the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance’s 17th annual What You Need to Know About Transportation [webinar](#) October 28. Chair Cristol explained the work of NVTC and highlighted important milestones for transit, like establishing dedicating funding for Metro. She also pointed out the economic benefits of transit for Northern Virginia, calling it an investment, like education. Virginia Secretary of Transportation Shannon Valentine delivered the keynote address for the event and the other panelists included Phyllis Randall, Chair, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, John Lynch, VDOT Northern Virginia District Administrator, Christopher Doherty, Corporate Affairs Director, I-66 Express Mobility Partners and Jeannette Chapman, Director, Stephen S. Fuller Institute.



### **APTA TRANSform convenes in Orlando**

The week of November 8 Executive Director Kate Mattice attended the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) [TRANSform](#) Conference in Orlando. It was billed as the industry’s premier showcase of technologies, products and services. It’s also an opportunity to connect with transit professionals from across the country and to learn more about emerging best practices in the industry, especially during this time of pandemic recovery. The photos below show a few highlights from the gathering.



### **Metro Board reviews recent and future bus improvements**

The Metro Board received an update on the region and Metro’s progress on the strategy recommendations outlined in the [Bus Transformation Project](#) on November 18. Since the [Board](#) and [NVTC’s](#) endorsements of the Bus Transformation Project’s goals in early 2020, Metro and the region have accomplished the following:

*Updated Metrobus Service Guidelines:*

- Implemented free transfers between Metrobus and Metrorail
- Introduced Mobile Payment

- Started and funded a Bus Priority capital program at Metro

Bus Transformation Update

## Bus Priority Progress in Region

Bus Lanes in DC

Bus Lanes in Silver Spring, MD

A Bus Priority Queue Jump Signal in DC

Metroway in Alexandria and Arlington, VA

Montgomery County's Flash BRT Service

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Major next steps to advance Bus Transformation Project goals include:

- Launching a bus network redesign study
- Advancing Bus Priority efforts with jurisdictional partners in the areas of transit signal priority, queue jumps, all-door boarding and bus lane enforcement
- Including local transit providers in Metro's pass products
- Advancing Metro's zero-emission vehicle program

### Warm welcome to Monique Blyther & best of luck to Dan Goldfarb

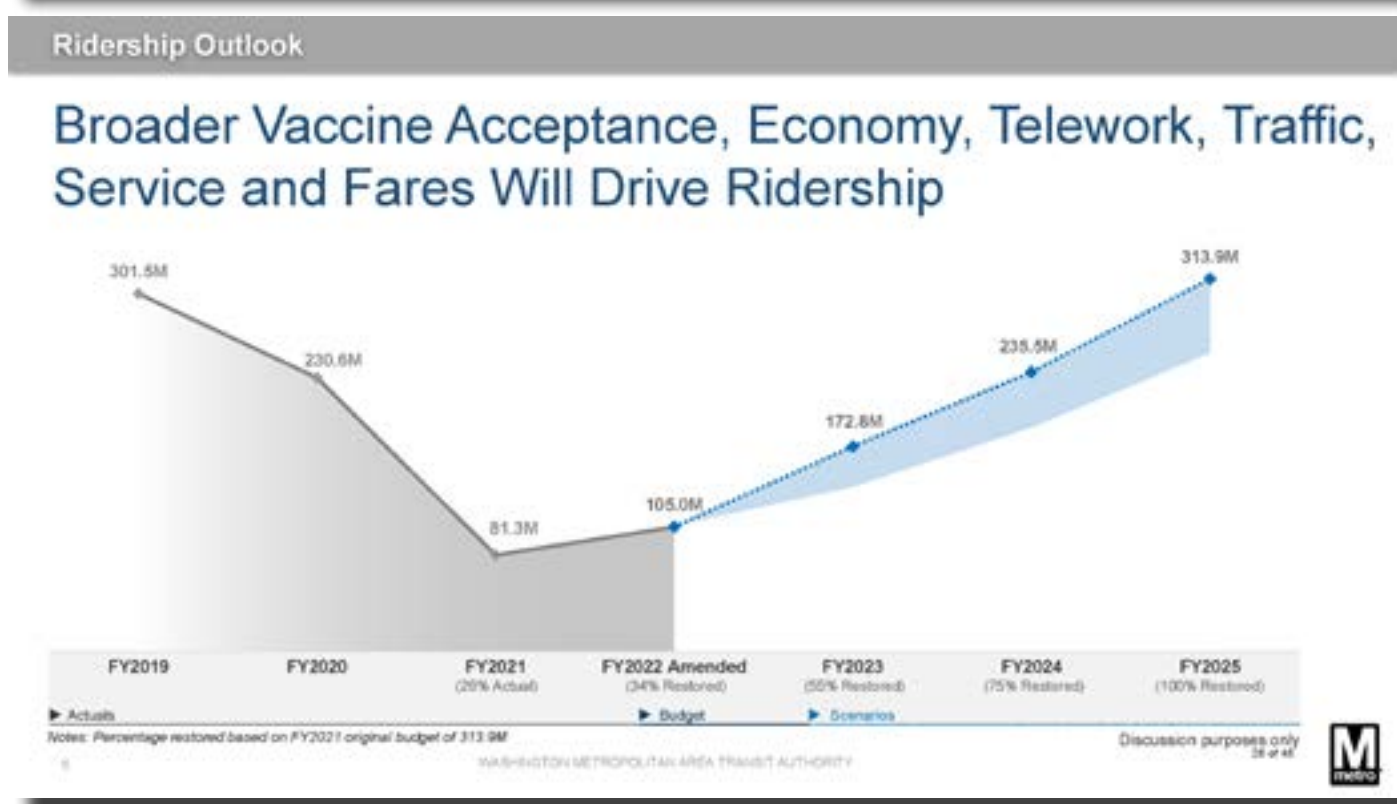
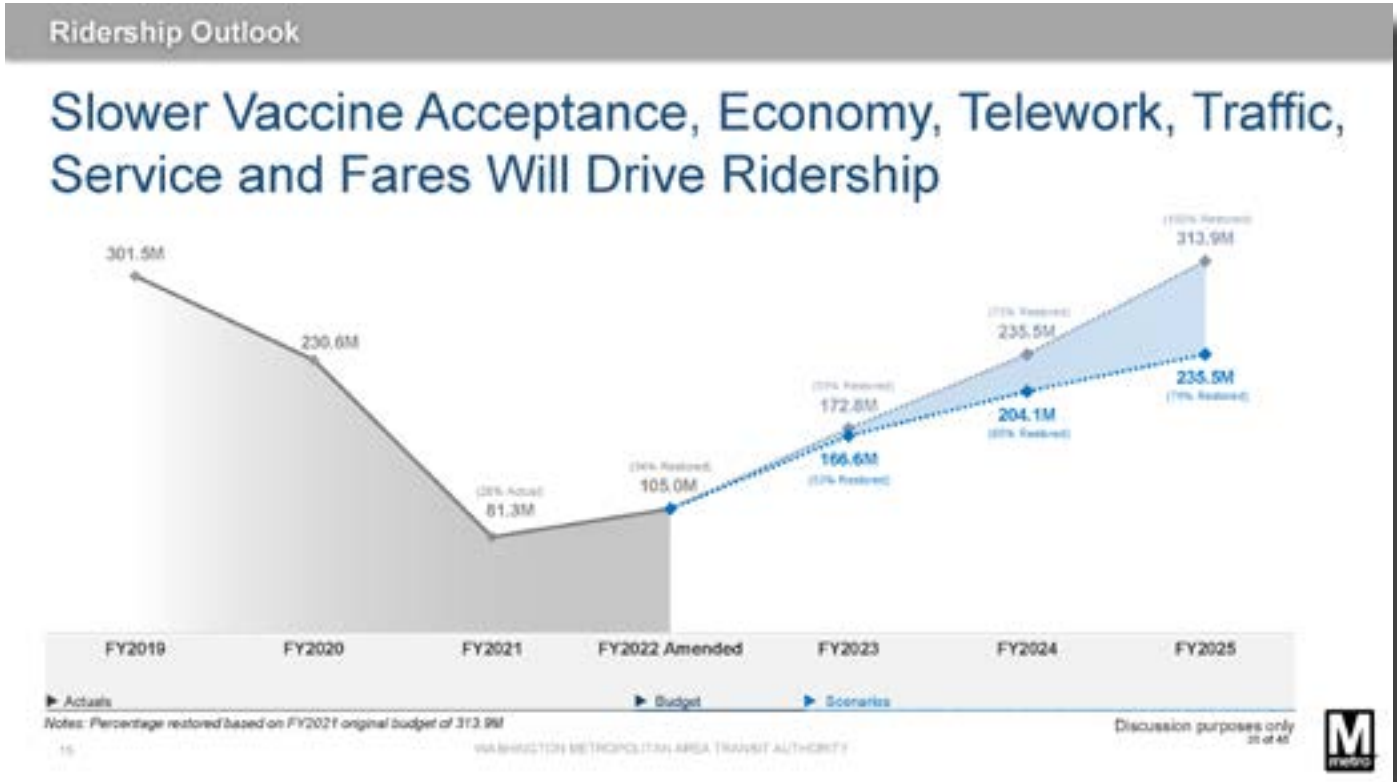
We are happy to introduce the newest member of our team, Monique Blyther. Monique is an award-winning video journalist and digital marketer who is passionate about storytelling and all things transportation. For the past four years Monique has served the region as a communications specialist for VDOT, Northern Virginia district and as Traffic Reporter for WTOP 103.5 FM. Now that she's made the switch to transit, Monique will be leading NVTC's visual communications and engagement initiatives and expanding the use of video and digital tools in support of our mission.



After 6 years at NVTC, Dan Goldfarb left NVTC to delve deeper into his passion, travel demand forecasting. Dan has been a wonderful member of the NVTC family and we will greatly miss his professional dedication and his wonderful sense of humor that can bring a smile to anyone's face on the most chaotic and stressful of days. We wish Dan the best of luck in his new professional pursuits and we hope to continue seeing him on VRE's Holiday Train for years to come!

## Metro Board reviews ridership and revenue outlook

The Metro Board’s Finance and Capital Committee received an update on Metro’s FY 2023 Ridership and Revenue Outlook October 28. Staff presented ridership scenarios for the next three fiscal years, FY 2023 to FY 2025. They estimate gradual ridership recovery that achieves anywhere from 75% to 100% of pre-pandemic ridership by FY 2025. The primary factors for ridership recovery are vaccine acceptance, the economy, telework, traffic, service and fares.





NVTC AND PRTC PRESENT

# ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

Join transit leaders and special guests for an in-person overview of federal and state issues affecting transit in Northern Virginia

## RSVP NOW!

8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
Monday, December 6, 2021  
Embassy Suites by Hilton  
8100 Loisdale Rd, Springfield, VA  
Email [tenleyohara@novatransit.org](mailto:tenleyohara@novatransit.org) to RSVP



POTOMAC & RAPPAHANNOCK  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Carlos Monje**

## SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Secretary of Transportation  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
**Shannon Valentine**



## REGIONAL TRANSIT LEADERS

**Paul Smedberg**  
Metro Board of Directors Chairman  
**Rich Dalton**  
VRE Chief Executive Officer  
**Bob Schneider**  
PRTC Executive Director  
**Kate Mattice**  
NVTC Executive Director

