



Northern Virginia Transportation Commission

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Report

December 2014

Metrics Matter: HB2 Update

Over the last several months, a interagency work group has focused on developing processes and metrics for implementation a prioritization framework for rating projects seeking highway construction funds for expansion projects. Consistent with the legislation, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) will adopt a framework by July 1, 2015. The framework will provide a transparent manner for projects to be prioritized for six different factors. In addition to cost benefit, the factors will include congestion mitigation, economic development, accessibility, safety, and environmental quality. In close coordination with other transit systems and NVTA, NVTC is providing technical assistance to state and regional partners on developing multimodal project selection tools that are outcome based and are not biased for or against a particular mode. Early next year, the Commonwealth plans to release the framework for public comment. The [OPI website](#) provides more information on this effort.

Virginia Transit Association Adopts Legislative Agenda

At its November Board of Directors Meeting, the Virginia Transit Association (VTA) adopted a legislative agenda focusing the need to address shortfalls in transit funding and supporting key regional concerns. In addition, the Board had a briefing on the implementation of HB2 which requires the CTB development of a prioritization framework for multimodal projects funded through highway construction funds. NVTC will participate in a technical advisory group to DRPT on HB2 implementation. NVTC Vice Chair Dave Snyder serves as VTA's Vice President. He and Executive Director Kelley Coyner participated in the VTA's November Board of Director's Meeting in Richmond.



2014 Governor's Transportation Conference

At the Governor's Transportation Conference in Roanoke, Secretary Layne spotlighted transit and rail opportunities in the Commonwealth. Jennifer Mitchell highlighted the benefits of both modes to the state's economy and local communities. NVTC Staff as well as staff from member jurisdictions were represented at the Conference.

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Items of interest

- NVTC Monthly Financial Report
- [NVTC's CTB Testimony](#)

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WMATA Updates and News

Progress Continues to Address FTA Financial Management Oversight Report Findings

The WMATA Board received an update on the [status of WMATA's Corrective Action Plan \(CAP\)](#) items to address FTA's Financial Management Oversight (FMO) report in November. To date, documentation has been submitted to FTA for 62 of the 65 CAP items. WMATA has committed to addressing the three outstanding CAP items and implementing long-term compliance monitoring.

WMATA Virginia Ridership October 2014			
	Oct. 2013	Oct. 2014	Percent Change
Metrorail			
Total	8,732,745	10,112,310	15.8%
Weekday Average	307,845	329,544	7.0%
Metrobus			
Total	1,929,414	1,929,046	0.0%
Weekday Average	75,325	75,197	-0.2%
MetroAccess			
Total	27,220	28,954	6.4%

WMATA's Customer Service and Operations Committee to be Briefed on NEPP

[WMATA's Customer Service and Operations Committee will receive a briefing on the New Electronic Payments Program \(NEPP\) at its December 4th meeting.](#)

WMATA Awarded Two Federal Resiliency Grants

In September, FTA announced that [WMATA will receive two Federal Resiliency Grants](#) totaling \$21M. These funds will support three projects to harden the rail system and reduce the risk of damage from flooding during future natural disasters.

TIGER Grant Bus Priority Projects

The Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) received a briefing on the status of WMATA's bus priority projects funded through Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants. Three projects are in Northern Virginia: 1) transit signal priority enhancements along the Route 7 corridor (start of operations in June 2015); 2) Pentagon Transit Center improvements and a new Army Navy Drive bus station (completion of construction in October 2015); and 3) Franconia-Springfield Metrorail station bus improvements (completion of construction in March 2016).

Commuter Benefit Cuts Have Hit WMATA Ridership, Passenger's Bottom Line

- ⇒ Since the change, WMATA's traditional commuter market - full-fare customers who travel from suburban stations to the core at peak times – has fallen by about 1.5%.
- ⇒ The average impacted SmartBenefits customer must now pay \$0.84 extra per trip – this is the equivalent of a 20% fare hike.

See more at [PlanItMetro's November 6th Blog](#)

Latest WMATA Reports

November

- [WMATA Board Meeting](#) (11/20)
- [Finance & Administration Committee](#) (11/6)
- [Customer Service & Operations Committee](#) (11/6)
- [Safety & Security Committee](#) (11/20)

December

- [Audits & Investigations Committee](#) (12/4)
- [Governance Committee](#) (12/4)
- [Planning, Program Development & Real Estate Committee](#) (12/4)
- [Customer Service & Operations Committee](#) (12/4)
- [Finance & Administration Committee](#) (12/4)

Stayed Tuned for NVTC Reports on Transit & Regional Economy

In conjunction with Virginia Tech, George Mason University, and the Southeast Research Institute, NVTC is preparing several short reports on transit and the regional economy. These include statistical, graphic, and historical analyses of:

- Jobs in relationship to NOVA transit facilities
- Job growth as it correlates to transit investment and service
- Case Studies of the Value of Transit to Virginia Businesses
- Historic relationship between patterns of economic activity & land use and transit in Northern Virginia
- Resources for policy makers, businesses, and transportation agencies on the role of transit in the economy

In the April, NVTC will showcase these research reports at a forum on the Role of the Transit in the Regional and Commonwealth. NVTC's trio of planners David Gron, Claire Gron, and Jillian Linnell launched this projects over the summer and fall.

See VTA's Website for Resources on [Making the Business Case for Transit](#)

Regional Planning

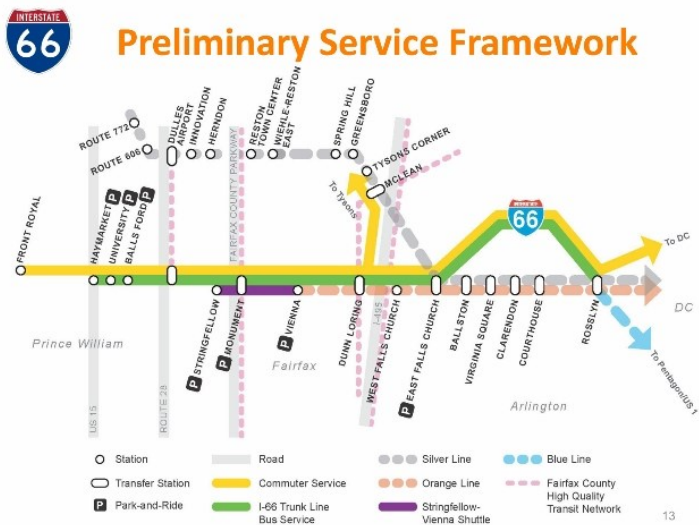
I-66 Inside the Beltway Bus on Shoulder (BOS) Pilot to Start Mid-January

The opening of the I-66 Inside the Beltway Bus on Shoulder (BOS) Pilot was delayed from mid-November until mid-January for four locations along I-66 inside the Beltway due to issues related to the MOUs between VDOT and participating transit agencies. The [pilot program](#) will last one year. Early next year, NVTC will work with participating jurisdictions to monitor the pilot's progress.

I-66 Corridor Improvements Project Includes Multimodal Options

As reported by the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), VDOT and DRPT are working on a project to transform 25 miles of I-66 into a multimodal facility that moves traffic and people more efficiently, with improvements such as express lanes, rapid bus service and a park-and-ride network from the Capital Beltway to Haymarket.

The Transit/TDM Advisory Group (TTAG) met on October 15th to review existing conditions and a framework for access points, park & ride lots, and rapid bus service in the corridor. The group also discussed the development of possible transit/TDM scenarios for 2040 and possible measures of effectiveness. The TTAG had a working group meeting on November 19th to develop transit and TDM scenarios for the corridor. The next meeting of the Stakeholder Advisory Group (STAG) will be held in early December.



upcoming [events]

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission Meetings

January 7
February 5

NVTC Management Advisory Committee

December 16
January 20
February 17

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) Meetings

December 11
January 8

Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Meetings

January 15
February 18

Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Operations Board

December 19
January 16
February 20

Transportation Planning Board

December 17

Virginia Municipal League

January 28 VML Day at the Capital

Virginia Association of Counties Meeting

February 5

Legislative Dates:

General Assembly Convenes

January 14

VTA Legislative Briefing and Legislative Reception

January 26

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission Meeting Richmond

February 5

Upcoming Conferences:

8th University Transportation Center Spotlight Conference on the Role of Transportation in Economic Competitiveness (sponsored by TRB)

Washington, DC
December 10-11

4th Annual Transportation Camp Washington, DC (GMU Founders Hall)

January 10

Transportation Research Board (TRB) 94th Annual Meeting

Washington, DC
January 11-15