



NVTC's accomplishments this past year are many and our 2018 Year in Review, to be released in early January, tells our story through both words and images. It also serves as a launching pad for what is shaping up to be another exciting year for NVTC and transit in Northern Virginia. As we look to 2019, there is no shortage of programs and projects that will allow staff and Commissioners to make their mark and ensure that constituents have access to safe and reliable public transportation.

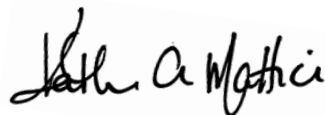
Once NVTC and PRTC adopt a Memorandum of Agreement between the two commissions, work will begin in earnest on the I-95/I-395 Annual Transit Payment Program. NVTC will administer the program, which will provide a minimum of \$15 million annually to fund transit and related improvements in the interstate corridor. The program will be marketed under NVTC's Commuter Choice brand and modeled on the successful I-66 Commuter Choice program.

Applications for the third round of funding through I-66 Commuter Choice are due January 16. We anticipate requests to support a wide variety of projects that will ultimately benefit I-66 toll payers. Staff will be working with the Commission's new Program Advisory Committee as they move through the recently updated evaluation process.

We will continue to implement the General Assembly's requirements tied to dedicated funding for WMATA. Once state money is deposited into the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Capital Fund in early 2019, NVTC will be required to obtain certain reports and documents, including budgets and audits, and certify their receipt to the state's comptroller. Come November 1, NVTC will issue its second annual Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA.

While the 2019 General Assembly session is short, we anticipate working closely with the Northern Virginia delegation, providing support and information as requested. A NVTC-hosted transit tour for members of House and Senate transportation and finance committees is being planned for the spring.

In the meantime, work continues on a host of other programs, including Regional Fare Collection and Envision Route 7. Our research and analysis team remains busy reviewing transit's performance in the region and supporting transit agencies. Our communications team is looking to partner with jurisdictions on a marketing campaign focused on increasing transit ridership. And, unless 2019 is an exception, NVTC will most likely find additional ways to add value to the region. Stay tuned as there will be plenty more to come.



Executive Director

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Key Dates

Jan 3	NVTC Monthly Meeting
Jan 10	WMATA Board Meeting
Jan 10	NVTA Monthly Meeting
Jan 15-16	CTB Monthly Meeting
Jan 16	NVTC WMATA Committee
Jan 16	TPB Monthly Meeting
Jan 18	VRE Operations Board Meeting
Jan 24	WMATA Board Meeting
Feb 7	NVTC Monthly Meeting in Richmond

Annual Legislative Briefing Focuses on Transit's Relationship to Business

The importance of transit in Northern Virginia was underscored by remarks from JBG Smith CEO Matt Kelly, the keynote speaker at a joint legislative briefing hosted by NVTC and PRTC/OmniRide. Kelly noted that transit access and quality bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure was, in large part, what attracted Amazon to Northern Virginia. He fielded questions from the audience on what the presence of Amazon's second headquarters will mean for future transit funding and housing affordability. [NVTC provided a handout illustrating how transit serves National Landing.](#)

NVTC Executive Director Kate Mattice moderated a regional transit panel that explored the potential impact of dedicated funding to their agencies. When she asked transit agency leaders what topped their legislative wish

list, WMATA CEO and General Manager Paul Wiedefeld said it would be Congress' renewal of \$150 million a year in federal funding, which will soon expire; VRE CEO Doug Allen said it would be a new Long Bridge over the Potomac; and OmniRide Executive Director Bob Schneider said it would be increased capital funding at both the state and federal levels. That financial support, panelists agreed, should come from new rather than existing funding sources.

The December 10 event – attended by nearly 120 state and local elected officials, transit agency and jurisdictional staff, and representatives from the business community and advocacy groups – allowed [NVTC, PRTC/OmniRide and VRE to share their 2019 legislative agendas](#) before the General Assembly convenes in January.



From left to right: NVTC Executive Director Kate Mattice, NVTC Chairman Paul Smedberg, PRTC Chair Ruth Anderson, WMATA CEO and General Manager Paul Wiedefeld, JBG Smith CEO Matt Kelly, VRE CEO Doug Allen and PRTC/OmniRide Executive Director Bob Schneider



JBG Smith CEO Matt Kelly kicked off the legislative briefing with remarks on the importance of transportation infrastructure in securing Amazon HQ2 for Northern Virginia and the opportunities for innovation in project implementation



From left to right: WMATA CEO and General Manager Paul Wiedefeld, CEO Doug Allen, PRTC/OmniRide Executive Director Bob Schneider and NVTC Executive Director Kate Mattice



The annual legislative briefing hosted by NVTC and PRTC/OmniRide attracted nearly 120 people.

NVTC Hosts Mobile Ticketing Industry Day

Representatives from local jurisdictions, DRPT and WMATA learned about current market trends and explored potential features that may be applicable for a regional fare collection mobile ticketing system during NVTC's Transit Mobile Ticketing Industry Day. Seven mobile ticketing vendors presented options for providing mobile ticketing service to transit customers and systems within the context of the challenges that face the

Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. region. Vendors shared how their platforms could work across multiple systems and how the technology could be implemented on a large, multiagency scale. Participants ranged from young start-ups such as Hopthru, Passport Labs, and Token Transit, to industry giants like INIT, Bytemark, Moovel, and Masabi. The December 5 event included insightful questions and lively discussions.



NVTC Brochure Illustrates How Transit Serves National Landing



Commonwealth Appoints New WMATA Board Member



NVTC Chairman Paul Smedberg has been named [Virginia's representative on the WMATA Board of Directors](#).

In announcing the appointment, Virginia Transportation Secretary Shannon Valentine said, "Paul's experience, leadership, keen insights, and integrity make him uniquely qualified to step into this position."

riders and cut down on unwanted notifications. A separate improvement will allow Metro customers to see which parking lots and garages have open spaces before leaving home. Metro launched a new feature on the parking page at [wmata.com](#) that provides real-time parking availability.

Smedberg has served as an alternate director on the WMATA board since 2016. "Paul's prior experience as an alternate director on the WMATA board will serve the Commonwealth well," said Jennifer Mitchell, Director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation. "As chair of the NVTC, he also helped implement many of the reforms included in this year's dedicated funding legislation."

Smedberg replaces Jim Corcoran on the WMATA board effective January 1, 2019.

WMATA Improves MetroAlerts and Offers Real-time Parking Availability

Improvements to [WMATA's MetroAlerts](#) will make it easier for customers to get information when and where they want it. The new features allow Metrorail and Metrobus riders to customize the alerts they receive by day and time and allow multiple email addresses or phone numbers on one account. These new features are designed to increase the value of information sent to

WMATA to Extend and Improve Rush Hour Fare Credit Program

Metro's [Rush Hour Promise program will be extended through June 2019](#). The program also will be enhanced to include unscheduled delays of 10 minutes or more, rather than the current 15. Beginning January 1, Metrorail or Metrobus customers using a registered SmarTrip® card who experience a rush-hour delay of 10 minutes or more will receive a credit for future travel.

The service guarantee, launched in January, has credited back \$1 million for more than 277,000 trips with delays greater than 15 minutes. This represents 0.3 percent of all rush hour trips during that period, 50 percent lower than original projections. Customer research suggests the Rush Hour Promise has restored confidence in reliability, a key measure to attract new riders and encour-

age existing riders to continue using Metro. Over the past 10 months, 93 percent of customers who received Rush Hour Promise credits returned, reversing past trends when unreliable service drove customers away.

Metro will consider whether to extend the program beyond June as part of the FY2020 budget.



NVTC to Publish 2018 Year in Review



The past year has been transformative for both transit and NVTC. Building Momentum, NVTC's 2018 year in review, documents the many ways in which the Commission has added value this past year through

its fiscal management, stewardship, programs and policies, and research and data analysis. The publication will be available beginning January 3.

WMATA Receives \$20 Million to Reconstruct Station Platforms

WMATA’s platform reconstruction project will receive \$20 million from a [BUILD grant by the U.S. Department of Transportation](#) (DOT). WMATA’s project was one of 91 nationwide to be funded by grants totaling \$1.5 billion. The WMATA repairs focus on eliminating vulnerabilities present in the existing platforms, like deteriorated concrete and uneven surfaces. This project is the first

phase in a broad effort by WMATA to stabilize and improve the foundations of many of the Metro platforms. The project is designed to improve safety and increase regional mobility and access to jobs and essential services. As a result of these repairs, Blue and Yellow Line stations south of Reagan National Airport will be closed from Memorial Day until Labor Day .

BUILD Grants

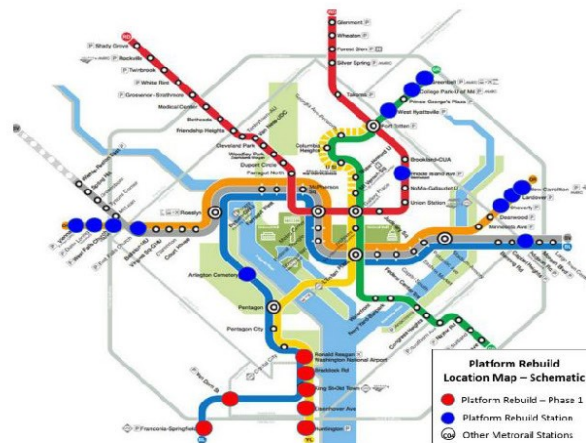
Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Transportation Discretionary Grants Program

Urban

PROJECT NAME:	Metrorail Station Platform Reconstruction Project
APPLICANT/SPONSOR:	Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
BUILD GRANT AWARD:	\$20,000,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST:	\$185,596,150
PROJECT LOCATION:	Washington, District of Columbia and Northern Virginia

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project will reconstruct platforms and other station elements at seven outdoor Metrorail stations. The scope of the project includes demolishing and rebuilding passenger platforms, correcting height variances to align with railcar floors, and improving and enhancing transit facilities. The project is the first phase of a larger effort to make similar improvements at twenty outdoor Metrorail stations.



Governor Recommends Increased Funding for Infrastructure Bank

Virginia [Governor Ralph Northam’s budget](#) calls for a \$75 million investment in the state’s Transportation Infrastructure Bank. The bank, [established in 2011](#), makes loans and grants to localities to finance transportation projects. “It remains critical that we can move goods and people around the Commonwealth. When our roads

become congested, it impacts the quality of life for our citizens and the movement of commerce for our businesses,” he said. “This will provide seed money for big projects, like improvements to I-81, that need a down payment to get rolling.” The General Assembly must approve a budget when it convenes in January.

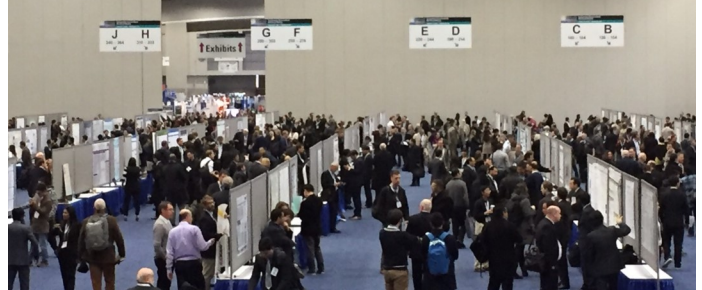
NVTC to Present Rail Study at Transportation Research Board Meeting

NVTC will present findings of its study during a poster session at the prestigious [Transportation Research Board \(TRB\) Annual Meeting in January](#). Staff, along with NVTC Commissioner Christian Dorsey and nationally recognized transit planning expert Frank Spielberg, submitted a paper to the TRB detailing the unique methodology and findings of a study exploring the revenues received by the Commonwealth due to the presence of Metrorail and Virginia Railway Express.

The information packed program – January 13-17, 2019 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, in Washington, D.C. – is expected to attract more than 13,000 transportation professionals from around the world. The program will feature more than 5,000 presentations in nearly 800 sessions and workshops, addressing topics of interest to policy makers, adminis-

trators, practitioners, researchers, and representatives of government, industry, and academic institutions.

NVTC will present its paper – Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Clause; Tax Revenues Resulting from the Investment in High Capacity Transit – in a poster session on January 15 from 8-9 a.m. in the Convention Center’s Hall A. The poster board location code is B327.



DRPT Opens Grant Application Window

[Grants to support public transit service, commuter and passenger rail projects, and transportation demand management programs](#) are available through Virginia’s Department of Rail and Public Transportation. Grant applications, which must be submitted online, are due by 5 p.m. on February 1. Application guidance is available at olga.drpt.virginia.gov.

This application period marks the first year the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) will implement the new project-based prioritization process for the statewide transit capital program known as MERIT and

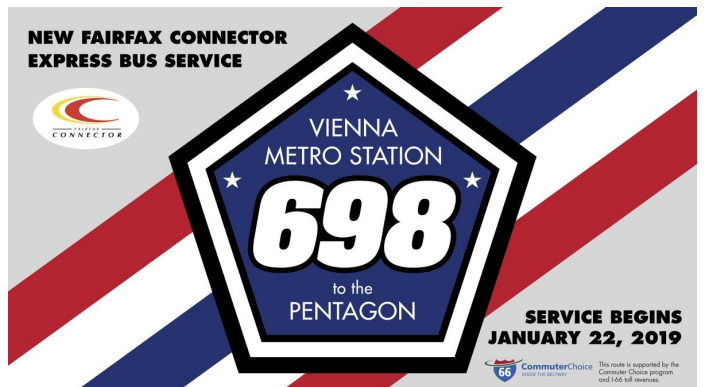
adopted by the 2018 General Assembly. It will also feature a revised allocation process for statewide transit operating funding based entirely upon service delivery factors.

Once the application period closes, DRPT will evaluate all submissions and submit to the CTB in April a list of recommended project funding for the Draft FY 2020-2025 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). A series of nine statewide public hearings will then be held before the CTB considers the final adoption of the FY 2020-2025 SYIP next June.



New Bus Service Funded by I-66 Commuter Choice to Begin Soon

Fairfax Connector will launch [express bus service between the Vienna Metrorail station and the Pentagon](#) on January 22. Funded through NVTC’s I-66 Commuter Choice program, route 698 will make 10 trips during both the morning and evening rush hours. This is the second of 15 projects [funded through the fiscal year 2018 program](#) to become operational. I-66 Commuter Choice is providing over \$3.4 million to support the new bus service.



NVTC Executive Director Honored for Collaborative Leadership

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) Executive Director Kate Mattice was recognized December 12 by the [Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments \(COG\) for her outstanding leadership](#). She accepted the prestigious Ronald F. Kirby Award for Collaborative Leadership at COG’s annual membership meeting. The award recognizes a non-elected government executive who works collaboratively with elected officials, stakeholders, and their communities to shape a better region. COG noted that “under Mattice’s leadership, NVTC’s collaboration with COG and regional partners was instrumental in the Metro dedicated funding effort.” She is the sixth non-elected leader and first woman to be recognized with this award.

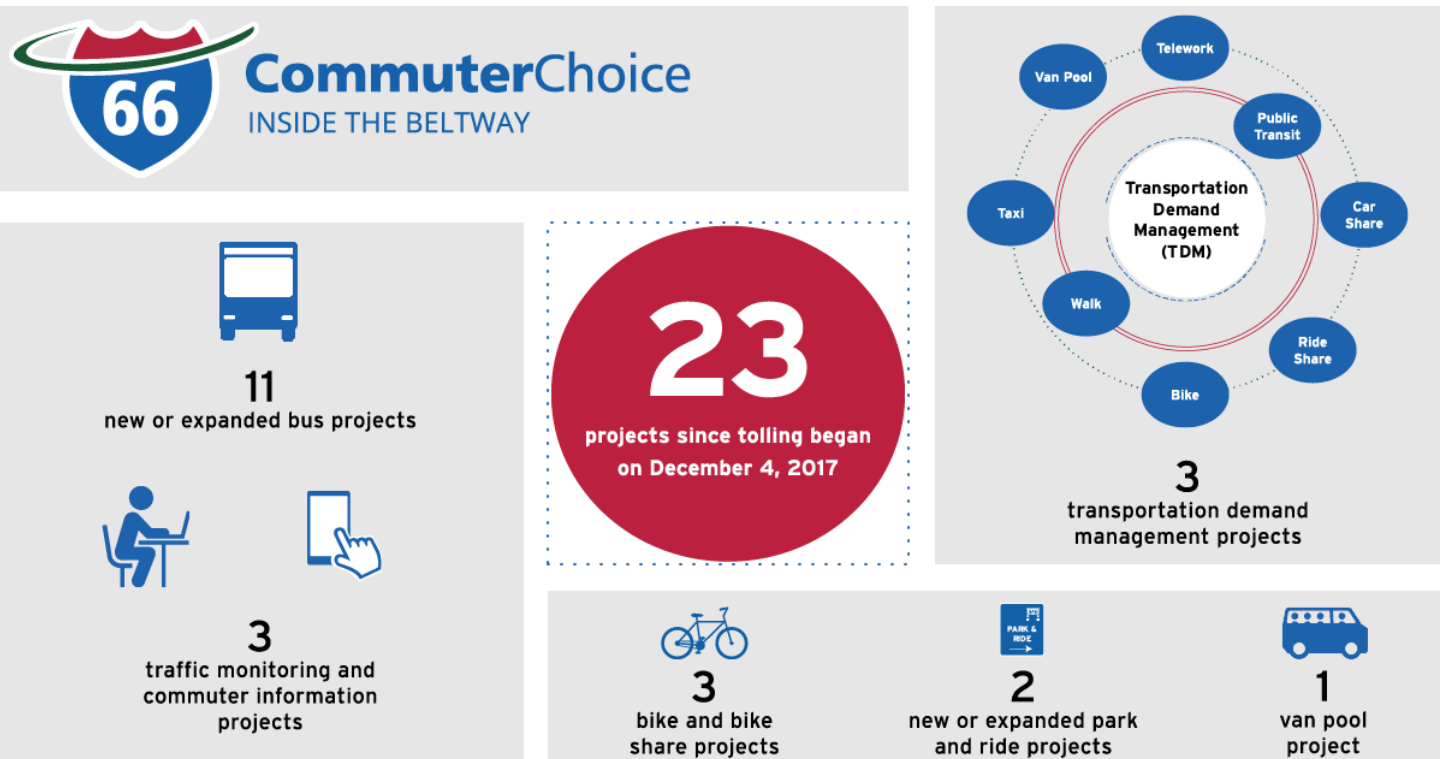
COG Chairman Matt Letourneau, who serves as NVTC vice chairman, presented the award. “I’ve seen firsthand how effective Kate has been in navigating complex WMATA governance and funding issues. She has quickly become a respected voice throughout the entire region as a subject matter expert, consensus builder, and hard worker for our shared goals,” he said. “She is a driving force to bring together Northern Virginia jurisdictions, the Commonwealth of Virginia, WMATA, and other transportation agencies to ensure that transit needs are met.”

Kate Mattice has served as NVTC executive director since November 2016, coordinating transit investments across Northern Virginia. She joined NVTC in 2014 as its director of transit programs and policy, leading the organization’s data analysis, regional coordination, corridor planning, and legislative efforts. Before coming to NVTC, Mattice spent 13 years at the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). During her last three years at FTA, she served as deputy associate administrator for budget and policy and as deputy chief financial officer.



COG Chairman Matt Letourneau (left) and Executive Director Chuck Bean (right) present the Ronald F. Kirby Award to NVTC Executive Director Kate Mattice (center)

I-66 Commuter Choice Reflects on First Full Year of Tolling



WMATA



Metro has [extended the proposal deadline](#) for vendors looking to operate phase 2 of the Silver Line. Interest has been high, with a preproposal conference and tour attracting 70 individuals from two dozen companies in the United States, Canada, France, Spain, Italy and Japan, and another 115 people virtually. To accommodate the interest, the deadline has been extended from January to March. Metro's general manager has noted that competitive contracting can hold down pension cost growth, while providing quality service for customers.



City of Alexandria



The City of Alexandria is [looking for feedback](#) on how Metrorail's Blue Line shutdown in summer 2019 will affect residents. WMATA is closing stations south of Reagan National Airport from Memorial Day to Labor Day to repair station platforms. NVTC is working with WMATA, jurisdictions and transit agencies on a mitigation plan.



District Department of Transportation



The District Department of Transportation has chosen its [preferred design for a new Long Bridge](#) over the Potomac River. The existing bridge, which has just two rail tracks, creates a bottleneck for Virginia Railway Express, Amtrak and freight rail trains going from Northern Virginia into Washington, D.C. The selected option will retain the existing bridge and add another two-track bridge and a separate bicycle and pedestrian bridge. If federal approval comes in 2020 as expected, construction could be complete by 2025.



Virginia Railway Express



NVTC's Dan Goldfarb rode the popular VRE Santa Train in December, spreading good cheer as an elf. VRE's Santa Trains give children and parents a chance to meet Mr. and Mrs. Claus and learn about rail safety.

