



# NEWS

## January 2015

### I-66 Multimodal Project Expands

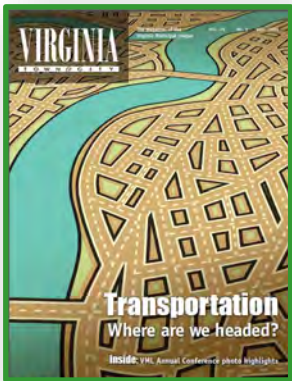
On December 12<sup>th</sup>, Secretary Aubrey Layne announced that the Commonwealth will be evaluating the extension of Express Lanes inside the Beltway along with transit improvements. VDOT and DRPT will hold public hearings on the original scope (outside the beltway) in January. This project seeks to increase the number of lanes, provide for HOT Lanes outside the beltway, and establish a rapid bus transit service. [NVTC provided staff comments](#) on the transit and transportation demand management aspects of the project. Among other things, NVTC asked VDOT how it might incorporate a midday storage option for rapid bus vehicles as part of the project.

### HB2 Implementation Moves Forward

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, Sec. Layne will host a half day workshop on options for implementing [HB2](#). HB2 provides a framework for the evaluation of new capacity transportation projects based upon six different factors. In addition to cost benefit, the factors will include congestion mitigation, economic development, accessibility, safety, and environmental quality. VTA has asked NVTC, along with Hampton Roads Transit, to represent transit in Richmond. This workshop will also be broadcast at the VDOT Northern Virginia headquarters in Fairfax, VA. Virginia officials aim to publish the proposed framework public comment in March and to finalize the it in summer. Stay tuned: NVTC’s David Koch is creating a virtual resource center with reference material as well as update on this effort.

### TPB Launches New GHG Working Group

The Transportation Planning Board considered a resolution that commits to establishing a multi-sector, multi-disciplinary working group to set targets and develop an action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The [Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee](#) approved a parallel resolution on December 15<sup>th</sup>.



*“Transit serves Virginians across the state. Transit brings new businesses, transit gets people to work and transit makes the commute on crowded roads better.”*  
*Del. Tom Rust*

#### In this issue

- I-66 Multimodal Project.....1
- HB2 Implementation .....1
- WMATA Updates .....2
- VA Budget Priorities.....3
- P-3 Reform Legislation.....3
- Federal Legislative Action .....3
- Hampton Roads Event. ....4
- Regional Bus Coordination.....4
- NEPP .....4
- Upcoming Events .....4

#### New Faces

The new Deputy Director of Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) is Cheryl Openshaw. [cheryl.openshaw@drpt.virginia.gov](mailto:cheryl.openshaw@drpt.virginia.gov) (804) 371-4056

The new Director of Northern Virginia Transit Programs for DRPT is Todd Horsley. [todd.horsley@drpt.virginia.gov](mailto:todd.horsley@drpt.virginia.gov) (703) 259-2117

Northern Virginia  
Transportation Commission  
2300 Wilson Boulevard  
Suite 620  
Arlington, VA 22201  
703-524-3322

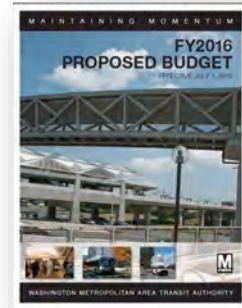
Executive Director  
Kelley Coyner

## WMATA News

### WMATA Releases Proposed FY 2016 Budget

On December 18<sup>th</sup>, WMATA's General Manager released its [Proposed FY 2016 Budget](#). The proposed operating budget for FY2016 is \$1.82 billion, an increase of less than four percent over FY 2015, and includes no fare changes. According to WMATA, the proposed Budget also transfers a limited number of bus routes to local bus operators "toward a broader 'recalibration' of the regional bus network that would allow local jurisdictions to control local bus services and enable Metro to focus on its core mission of providing regional transit services."

Metro's proposed FY2016 capital budget is \$1.31 billion, and the proposed six-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) supports \$7 billion of investment to continue system rebuilding, advancing safety and state of good repair investments, and supporting Metro 2025 improvements, including eight-car trains.



WMATA Virginia Ridership November 2014			
	Nov. 2013	Nov. 2014	Percent Change
<b>Metrorail</b>			
Total	8,732,745	9,027,336	3.4%
Weekday Average	308,391	303,191	-1.7%
<b>Metrobus</b>			
Total	1,694,519	1,592,890	-6.0%
Weekday Average	73,004	69,973	-4.2%
<b>MetroAccess</b>			
Total	24,305	24,726	1.7%

### WMATA Parking Strategy Study

WMATA is examining parking replacement alternatives, shared parking options, and garage design criteria. They are also exploring the use of Public Private Partnerships (P3) at Metrorail stations.

### Giant Food Peapod Project

WMATA is launching a six-month long pilot project to offer grocery pick-up service at attended lockers at three Metrorail stations, including Vienna/Fairfax-GMU Station. Giant Foods provided WMATA Planning, Program Development and Real Estate Committee a [briefing on the Peapod by Giant Pilot Project](#).

### Proposed Elimination of the TIFF Fund Program

WMATA Board members expressed concern with proposed elimination of the TIFF fund, as presented [at the Planning, Program Development and Real Estate Committee](#) at its December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. The TIFF was originally established to complete the Metrorail system and to finance transit-oriented projects. WMATA now proposes to close the TIFF and redirect funds to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

### Crime Statistics at Virginia Metrorail Stations (3rd Quarter 2014)

Metro Rail Station	Part I Crimes	Arrests
1. Braddock Road	12	5
2. King Street	11	1
3. Vienna	8	2
4. Franconia-Springfield	3	0
5. Rosslyn	3	1
6. Pentagon City	2	0
7. Virginia Square - GMU	2	0
8. Huntington	2	0
9. West Falls Church	1	0
10. Van Dorn Street	1	0
11. Spring Hill	1	0
12. National Airport	1	0
13. East Falls Church	1	0
14. Court House	1	0
15. Dunn Loring	1	0
16. Ballston	1	1
17. McLean	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>10</b>

### Latest WMATA Reports

#### December

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

#### January [Note: materials will be available 1/5]

[Finance & Administration Committee](#) (1/8)  
[Customer Service and Operations Committee](#) (1/8)  
[Planning, Programming Development and Real Estate Committee](#) (1/8)

## NVTC Legislative and Policy Briefing

December 4<sup>th</sup>, NVTC updated the General Assembly delegation on its policy and legislative priorities. Jeff McKay highlighted the region's transit milestones in 2014. Attendees discussed key state funding challenges, the importance of permanent authorization of a transit benefit on par with parking benefits, and the expiration in May of short terms fixes for the Highway Trust Fund and surface transportation reauthorization.

Key dates for NVTC in Richmond include:

- [VTA's Transit Day](#), January 26<sup>th</sup>
- Northern Virginia Delegation Briefing, January 26<sup>th</sup>
- NVTC February Commission Meeting, February 5<sup>th</sup> at the Speaker's Conference Room, 4:00 p.m.
- [VACo County Government Day 2015](#), February 5<sup>th</sup> at the Richmond Marriott, 11:00 a.m.

## Governor McAuliffe Highlights Budget Priorities

On Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, Governor McAuliffe released his [proposed amendments to the FY 2016 budget](#) to fill the projected revenue shortfall estimated at \$322 million. Overall, his plan is a combination of spending cuts at the state agency level, \$114.3 million from reduced tax preferences, \$9 million in higher fees on state services, additional money from the lottery and state liquor sales, and savings from Medicaid and lower school enrollment.

The Governor also proposed \$176.6 million in new spending, focusing on economic development priorities.

The Governor did not propose any new funding for transit in the budget to address the shortfalls expected by the bond cliff in 2018.

## Governor Announces P-3 Reform Legislation

At the opening of the I-95 Express Lanes, Governor McAuliffe announced that he will be seeking [P-3 reforms](#) that will increase transparency, minimize risk for taxpayers and draw clear lines of accountability. Delegate [Chris Jones, Suffolk](#), Chair of the House Appropriations will patron the bill.

## Federal Legislative Actions

The President signed [the Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations package](#) on December 16, 2014, which provides approximately \$1.1 trillion for FY 2015 for all government programs. For public transportation, this includes \$8.95 billion for formula programs, \$2.12 billion for Capital Investment Grants (New Starts/Small Starts/Core Capacity), as well as \$500 million for TIGER.

The President also passed the [Tax Increase Prevention Act](#), which provides for the retroactive extension of parity between employer-provided public transit and parking pre-tax/tax-free benefits for 2014. Although the retroactive provisions offer no immediate or practical benefit for public transit commuters or employers, their inclusion in a final bill will help in making parity permanent in the future. NVTC sent a [letter supporting transit benefit parity to the Virginia Congressional delegation in December](#).

## 2014 Regional Transit Milestones

- \* [Silver Line Ribbon Cutting](#)
- \* [New Multi Modal Transit Facility at Wiehle/Reston](#)
- \* [Rework of Local Bus Routes to Maximize Connection to Silver Line](#)
- \* VRE Stations: [Spotsylvania](#) and [Potomac Shores](#) Groundbreakings
- \* [Metroway, first Bus Rapid Transit, starts service](#)
- \* [NVTC celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and launches new programs](#)
- \* [Rt. 1 Study recommends Hybrid BRT/Metro solution](#)

## upcoming [events]

### Meetings:

#### Northern Virginia Transportation Commission Meetings

January 7  
February 5

#### NVTC Management Advisory Committee

January 20  
February 17

#### Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) Meetings

January 22

#### Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Meetings

January 15  
February 18

#### Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Operations Board

January 16  
February 20

#### Transportation Planning Board

January 21  
February 18

### Legislative Dates:

#### General Assembly Convenes

January 14

#### Virginia Municipal League

January 28 VML Day at the Capital

#### VTA Legislative Briefing and Legislative Reception

January 26

#### Northern Virginia Transportation Commission Meeting

Richmond  
February 5

### Upcoming Conferences:

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Transportation Camp

Washington, DC (GMU Founders Hall)  
January 10

#### Transportation Research Board (TRB) 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Washington, DC

## NVTC to Explore Regional Bus Coordination

At its December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, the NVTC Management Advisory Committee (MAC) identified a number of issues related to regional bus networks that could benefit from regional coordination and leadership. This discussion was in response to Commissioner direction at the December Board meeting. In January, NVTC staff and the MAC will continue this discussion and will identify specific activities that may include Commission workshops and/or technical working groups.

## Hampton Roads Hosted Forum on Transit and Economic Vitality

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, NVTC helped Hampton Road Transit coordinate a one-day event focused on the economic benefits of transit investments. Targeted to businesses, real estate developers, and local officials, HRT's event, "Achieving Regional Success: Transit and Economic Vitality," featured speakers from [The American Conservative Center for Public Transportation](#), [Transportation for America](#), the Charlotte Area Transit System (Charlotte, NC), and Hampton Road Transportation Planning Organization. HRT plans a follow-on event focusing on the importance of mobility to regional economic growth, tentatively scheduled for May.

## New Electronic Payments Program (NEPP)

WMATA plans to launch their pilot test of the NEPP system in mid-January 2015. Results of the pilot are expected in July 2015. WMATA will also be performing an independent study to identify impacts of the new electronic payment program on un/underbanked customers. WMATA continues to provide NEPP updates at the bi-weekly regional conference calls and quarterly in-person meetings. An initial meeting of the Regional NEPP Finance and Contracts Committee was held on November 19<sup>th</sup> and another meeting will be held in early January 2015. The Northern Virginia regional partners are scheduled to meet next on Monday January 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. In the meantime, NVTC is working with Accenture and WMATA to gain a better understanding of contracting options and the costs associated with implementing NEPP throughout the region.