

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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Transit Innovation

September 4, 2014  
NVTC's 50th Anniversary  
Open House

[For more on our plans...](#)

## A CLOSER LOOK AT RIDERSHIP TRENDS

“A Closer Look at Ridership Trends” is a compilation of local and regional providers' observations about the trends underlying ridership data reported in the FY 2013 Annual Transit Performance Update. The discussion reflects anecdotal and contextual information rather than detailed analysis of the statistics or additional survey information.

## NVTC FINANCIAL ITEMS

### CTB Approves Six Year Improvement Program

The Commonwealth Transportation Board approved the Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP) that includes \$204.8 million in state assistance for NVTC jurisdictions' local and WMATA capital and operating needs and an additional \$9M for Metro 2025 and another \$50M as a match to PRIIA. In FY 2015, DRPT will contract directly with WMATA for the Metro 2025 funding and the PRIIA match, with NVTC for the state assistance for WMATA capital and operating subsidies, and directly with the NVTC jurisdictions for the capital and operating needs of the local systems. The approved SYIP reflects NVTC's proposed method of reporting WMATA ridership which provides a more complete count of all trips attributable to Virginia riders, resulting in an increase in the amount of operating assistance for NVTC. Other changes from the draft include the addition of funding for the purchase of land for Arlington County's ART House, as well as funding to support the region's technical assistance partnership for the New Electronic Payments Program.

For your reference:

[Summary Schedules: NVTC's State Assistance](#)

[VDOT/DRPT Presentation on SYIP](#)

[Final Approved SYIP](#)

### **Project Agreements Forwarded to Jurisdictions**

During the last week in June, DRPT released the FY2015 local system capital and operating assistance agreements to NVTC. NVTC sent them on to NVTC jurisdictions for their review and execution. With this greatly accelerated timing, NVTC jurisdictions will be able to complete the review and approval process as early as July. DRPT will require each NVTC jurisdiction to execute a letter confirming NVTC status as the agent for performing grant administrative activities such as applying for financial assistance, executing agreements, requesting reimbursements, and receiving grant revenue.

### **NVTC FY 2014 Closeout**

While the accounting records are not yet closed for the fiscal year, NVTC expects it will experience a positive budget variance for the general and administrative activities. As is the budgeting practice, the positive variance will be used as a source of revenue in future budgets, with the exception of two lines included in the FY14 revised budget. The first is \$10,000 budgeted expenditures for communications and conference expenses. These were noted in a footnote to the FY2015 budget and are related to the “working” celebration of NVTC’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The second is a line \$50,000 for research and analytic support allocated for analysis related to the economic benefits of transit investment. This work is on track for Forum on Economic Benefits of Transportation and in support of Making the Business Case for Transit. These approved expenditure lines will be utilized in FY15.

### **May 2014 Financial Report**

### **VRE MANAGEMENT AUDIT ON TRACK FOR FALL COMPLETION**

The VRE Management Audit to evaluate VRE management, organization, and internal controls is well underway and the Parson Brinckerhoff team is on track to complete its work by October. The consulting team reviewed all previous audits and completed the majority of interviews including those with the Chief Executive Officers of NVTC and VRE, Joint Audit Committee Members, VRE Board Members, PRTC Board Members, NVTC Commissioners and VRE staff. Based on these, the team completed deliverable, Phase I Initial Findings Report. The team is now assessing VRE’s core management capacities directly. In the coming weeks the team will synthesize interviews, conduct peer review and best practices research, and distill key findings. The Report of Joint Audit Chair John Cook provides more detail.

### **NVTC LAUNCHES NEPP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT**

NVTC’s technical consultants have started work and will hold a kick-off meeting with the regional partners on Monday July 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. This will serve as the first regularly scheduled monthly meeting. In the month of July the technical consultants will continue to hold meetings with each of the regional entities on each agency’s needs and plans for the adoption and integration of NEPP. The technical team will assemble needs profiles that will serve as the basis for working with Accenture’s Regional Coordination team. Accenture Regional Team will meet with Virginia’s regional partners in August.

Jillian Linnell serves as the NVTC program manager for this project. At the June 12 Customer Service and Operations Committee meeting, WMATA provided an update to the Board on the status of the New Electronics Payment Program (NEPP). Below are some notable dates:

| DATE                              | WMATA NEPP ROLLOUT MILESTONES  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>January – June 2015</b>        | <b>WMATA Pilot Phase</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes over 2,000 riders at 10 Metrorail stations throughout the system, including Pentagon City, Eisenhower Avenue, Ballston, and Pentagon stations in Virginia</li> <li>• WMATA to finalize the selection of Metrobus routes for the pilot phase soon</li> </ul>                             |
| <b>December 2017 through 2020</b> | <b>Target Deployment Date of NEPP (Metrorail and Metrobus)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dependent on the timing of regional partner deployment and rollout at retail locations throughout the region</li> <li>• Accenture seeking earlier deployment date of NEPP for WMATA; may change deployment dates for Virginia regional partners</li> </ul> |

### POSSIBLE NEW REGIONAL MOBILITY MANAGEMENT OFFICE

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, NVTC hosted an initial discussion with regional stakeholders about applying for a mobility management grant to assist in the development of a regional Mobility Management Office. This office would match resources to rides, work with transportation providers, jurisdictions, businesses, and both faith-based and community-based organizations including non-profits to increase transportation resources and coordinate existing resources to boost the number of rides that can be provided to seniors, younger adults with disabilities, and low-income residents seeking transport to employment, shopping, and medical appointments. NVTC is working with jurisdictional staff as they develop an application and to determine whether NVTC should be the applicant. COG/TPB will issue a grant solicitation in August with applications due in October. If local jurisdictions proceed with the application and recommend that NVTC apply for and administer the grant, the Commission will be asked at its September to authorize the Executive Director to submit an application. [FTA’s Fact Sheet on Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities provides additional background on this program.](#)

### RT. 7 ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS PHASE II KICK-OFF JULY 25

On July 25, NVTC will host a kick-off meeting for Phase II of the Rt. 7 Alternatives Analysis when the regional Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will discuss a draft revised scope of work for Phase II. NVTA approved the standard project agreement subject to passage of the Commonwealth biennial budget which occurred on June 25. The Alternatives Analysis will yield a preferred option of high capacity, high quality transit in the Rt. 7 corridor with an alignment geared to enhancing connectivity to other existing and planned transit service.

## UPDATE ON REGIONAL PLANNING ACTIVITIES

An updated [NVTC Current Studies List](#) is attached.

## MOVING FORWARD ON “MAKING THE BUSINESS CASE FOR TRANSIT”

As a follow up on the VTA Panel we organized on “Making the Business Case for Transit,” NVTC distributed a [web page](#) that included the panelist presentations material and invited attendees and jurisdictional staff to identify how transit investments have benefited communities across Virginia. NVTC plans to build on this panel by preparing a white paper based on the session that be used for additional discussions of these topics by jurisdictions and transit systems throughout the Commonwealth. NVTC is also working with transit systems to develop case studies of transit as economic development tool and is moving forward with research on the economic and business benefits of investment in transit. In addition to a Forum on Economic Benefits of Transit to be held later this year, NVTC plans to participate in the following:

[American Planning Association VA Annual Conference, Session Focusing on Transit and Rail Service, July 21-23](#)

[Virginia Municipal League Annual Conference, October 5-7, 2014](#)

[Virginia Association of Counties Annual Meeting, November 9-11, 2014](#)

### GOVERNOR'S TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE

Join transportation leaders from around the Commonwealth and the U.S. for a discussion of current issues and the solutions necessary to drive Virginia's economy forward.

**Governor's Transportation Conference**

November 12-14, 2014 - Roanoke, Virginia

For more information: <http://www.vatransconf.org>