

# Executive Director Report

July 2016



The opportunity to explain [how WMATA is funded in Virginia](#) to the newly created [Transit Capital Project Revenue Advisory Board \(TCPBAB\)](#) in mid-June reminded me of the special relationship NVTC has with Metro. Founded to aid in the establishment of Metrorail, NVTC continues to work closely with the WMATA, especially now with [SafeTrack](#) underway. NVTC has, over the past six weeks, effectively coordinated the region's response to WMATA's aggressive track maintenance program.

By bringing together Northern Virginia transit operators; emergency managers; first responders; state highway, transit, police, and emergency management agencies; and MWAA, Northern Virginia Regional Intelligence Center, MATOC and Pentagon officials, NVTC has ensured that knowledge is widely shared and invaluable connections are made. The weekly conference calls have allowed agencies to strategize and formulate coordinated approaches to the first four surges. Our long-standing role as a forum for tackling local transportation issues uniquely positions us to coordinate this effort and ensure that Northern Virginia's residents, visitors and businesses have other transit options while Metrorail single-tracks and shuts down line segments over the next nine months.

SafeTrack is just one of several WMATA-related issues in which NVTC is having an impact. Fare collection and emergency preparedness are others. And, over the coming months, NVTC will be part of the effort to identify long-term funding solutions for WMATA.

As always, if you have any questions about these or other issues, please contact me.

*Kate Mattice, Acting Executive Director*

## Inside this Issue

<a href="#">Transform 66 Multimodal Update</a> .....	2
<a href="#">State Update</a> .....	3
<a href="#">WMATA Emergency Preparedness</a> .....	3
<a href="#">NVTC Programs &amp; Projects</a> .....	4-5
<a href="#">Upcoming SafeTrack Surges</a> .....	4
<a href="#">SafeTrack Resources</a> .....	4
<a href="#">Envision Route 7</a> .....	5
<a href="#">VTA's NOVA Award Winners</a> .....	6
<a href="#">Virginia Statewide Travel Study</a> .....	6
<a href="#">Transportation Planning Board</a> .....	6
<a href="#">Northern Virginia Transportation Authority</a> .....	6



Northern Virginia Transportation Commission  
2300 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 620  
Arlington, VA 22201  
info@nvtc.org  
[www.novatransit.org](http://www.novatransit.org)

## SafeTrack Update

After 13 days of single tracking between Ballston and East Falls Church Metrorail stations, WMATA brought the section of track 1 into a state of good repair. [During Surge 1, WMATA:](#)

- replaced 1,800+ crossties
- renewed 540+ insulators and 3,100 linear feet of spot rail
- inspected and repaired 30 power cables and 24 expansion cables

Some local transit systems added or adjusted bus service and communicated travel options through numerous channels.

[Surge 2, a 16-day shutdown between Eastern Market and Minnesota Ave/Benning Road and Arlington Cemetery and Rosslyn](#), ends July 3. On the first day of the surge, ridership was down 4.5 percent system-wide and 65 percent at stations east of Minnesota Ave/Benning Road.

NVTC continues to convene Northern Virginia stakeholders each week. The current focus is on [preparing for surges 3 and 4](#), details of which appear on page 4.

## Key Dates

- July 7 [TSDAC Meeting](#)
- July 7 [NVTC Monthly Meeting](#)
- July 14 [WMATA Board Monthly Meeting](#)
- July 14 [NVTA Monthly Meeting](#)
- July 15 [VRE Op Board Monthly Meeting](#)
- July 20 [TPB Monthly Meeting](#)
- July 28 [CTB Monthly Meeting](#)
- Sept 1 [NVTC Monthly Meeting](#)

## Transform 66 July Update

The Commonwealth Transportation Board's vote on July 28 to endorse NVTC's approved list of multimodal components will support improvements designed to move more people more efficiently through the I-66 corridor inside the Beltway.

The funding available for the first round of components is less than a quarter of the \$42.6 million in funding requests received from five jurisdictions and the Potomac

and Rappahannock Transportation Commission. Of the \$9.8 million in funding approved by NVTC in June:

- 77.7 percent (\$7.6 million) is for new or enhanced bus service;
- 12.5 percent (\$1.2 million) is to provide travel information or transit incentives to travelers; and
- 9.8 percent (\$0.96 million) is to improve access to Metrorail and bus services.

### Benefits of NVTC-Approved Components



### NVTC-Approved Multimodal Components

- [Bus Stop Consolidation and Accessibility Improvements](#)
- [Peak Period Service Expansion to ART Bus Route 55](#)
- [Peak Period Service Expansion to Metrobus Route 2A, Washington Blvd-Dunn Loring](#)
- [Loudoun County Stone Ridge Enhanced Transit](#)
- [Fairfax Connector Express Service from Government Center to State Department/Foggy Bottom](#)
- [PRTC Gainesville to Pentagon Commuter Service](#)
- [Expanded TDM Outreach to the I-66 Corridor](#)
- [Expanded Transit Access, Through Capital Bike-Share](#)
- [Loudoun County Transportation Demand Management](#)
- [Multimodal Real-Time Transportation Information Screens](#)

### Transform 66 Resources

- [DRPT June 2016 Presentation to the CTB](#)
- [FY2017 Component Scores](#)
- [FY 2017 Component Profiles](#)
- [List of FY2017 Submitted Applications](#)
- [Transform 66 Evaluation/Prioritization Process](#)
- [Transform 66 Memorandum of Agreement](#)
- [Transform 66 Inside the Beltway Fact Sheet](#)
- [2013 DRPT Transit/TDM Study for the I-66 Corridor](#)
- [VDOT I-66 Multimodal Study – Inside the Beltway](#)

NVTC's Transform 66 website is updated regularly. Visit [www.novatransit.org/i66multimodal](http://www.novatransit.org/i66multimodal) for more information.

## State Update

### Transit Capital Project Revenue Advisory Board

To inform the work of the [Transit Capital Project Revenue Advisory Board \(TCPRAB\)](#), NVTC staff developed a [PowerPoint on how WMATA is funded in Northern Virginia](#). Acting Executive Director Kate Mattice gave the presentation at the board's inaugural meeting in Richmond on June 16. The panel will, among other things, examine the impact of the expiration of transit capital bonds. To that end, TCPRAB — with technical support from the [Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee \(TSDAC\)](#) — will attempt to ascertain the true needs of transit agencies, most of which have limited their capital programs in light of the impending reduction in state revenues. Former NVTC Commissioner and General Assembly Delegate Tom Rust and NVTC Vice Chairman Jeff McKay are among the seven TCPRAB members appointed by Transportation Secretary Aubrey Layne. NVTC Acting Executive Director Kate Mattice serves as the Virginia Transit Association's representative on TSDAC.

### Commonwealth Transportation Board

NVTC's list of [Transform 66 multimodal components](#) was [reviewed](#) by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) in mid-June. The panel will vote to approve the package in July so that components will be in place by summer 2017. The CTB accepted VDOT's recommendation to award a five-year contract to [TransCore](#) to set up and operate HOT lanes on I-66 inside the Beltway. It also approved the [FY 2017-2022 Six-Year Improvement Program \(SYIP\)](#), a \$14.4 billion package containing nearly 3,200 rail, road and other transportation-related projects. The SYIP is the first to employ the HB2 process, now known as Smart Scale, signed into law more than two years ago.

## Emergency Preparedness Drill Held at Greensboro Metrorail Station



Photo by Laurel Hammig

Metro Transit Police, Fairfax County first responders and emergency personnel, and Metrorail Operations and Fairfax County DOT staff participated in a full-scale response drill on Sunday, June 26 at the Greensboro Metrorail Station, evacuating a train inside a tunnel during a simulated smoke and fire incident. Laurel Hammig, who manages NVTC's Emergency Preparedness Pro-

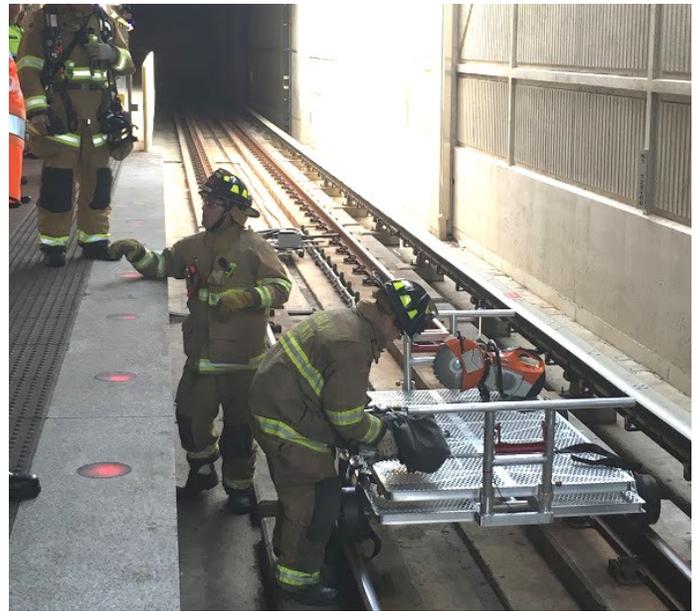


Photo by Laurel Hammig

gram, observed the drill, along with NVTC Commissioner and WMATA Board Member Catherine Hudgins, U.S. Representative Barbara Comstock, WMATA Board Member Carol Carmody, and Joe Montano from U.S. Senator Tim Kaine's office. NVTC is developing emergency plans to expedite the safe evacuation of thousands of riders from each of Virginia's 25 Metrorail stations.

# NVTC Programs & Projects

## Regional Response to SafeTrack

3

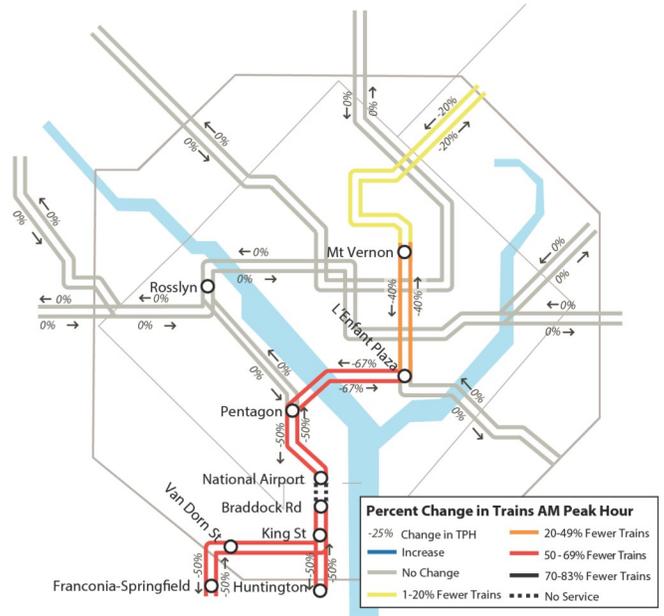
### July 5 - 11 (7 days)

STARTS 8PM JULY 5

### Line segment shutdown between National Airport & Braddock Road

#### REDUCED SERVICE AT ALL TIMES AT MANY STATIONS, PRIMARILY YL BL IN VIRGINIA

- Major impact to **50,000** weekday trips
- 50% reduction in rail service south of Pentagon
- Blue Line trains run **every 12 minutes**
- Yellow Line trains run **every 12 minutes**
- Blue/Yellow customers encouraged to consider alternate travel options & avoid traveling during rush hour if possible; expect significant crowding on Blue & Yellow line trains
- Free shuttle buses operate via Metroway between Braddock Road, Crystal City and Pentagon City
- Service between DC and Reagan National Airport available via train



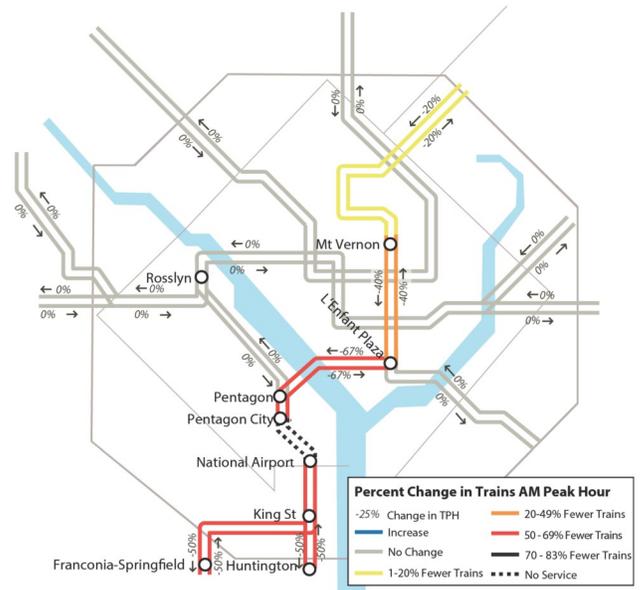
4

### July 12 - 18 (7 days)

### Line segment shutdown between National Airport & Pentagon City

#### REDUCED SERVICE AT ALL TIMES AT MANY STATIONS, PRIMARILY YL BL IN VIRGINIA

- Major impact to **86,000** weekday trips
- 50% reduction in rail service south of Pentagon
- Blue/Yellow customers encouraged to consider alternate travel options & avoid traveling during rush hour if possible; expect significant crowding on Blue & Yellow line trains
- Shuttle buses operate via Metroway between Braddock Road, Crystal City and Pentagon City
- Reagan National Airport served via shuttle bus to/from Pentagon City & Braddock Road
- Blue Line runs **every 12 minutes**
- Yellow Line runs **every 12 minutes**
- No Rush+ Yellow trains operating



## Regional Response to SafeTrack Online Resources

### NoVa SafeTrack Websites

- [City of Alexandria](#)
- [Fairfax County](#)
- [Arlington County](#)
- [City of Falls Church](#)
- [City of Fairfax](#)
- [Loudoun County](#)
- [Virginia Railway Express](#)

### Select YouTube Videos

- [Fairfax Connector Bus Service](#)
- [Virginia Railway Express](#)
- [Around Arlington: SafeTrack](#)
- [SafeTrack is Here! Rethink Your Commute](#)

## Envision Route 7



**ENVISION  
ROUTE 7**

Several dozen people attended public meetings in Fairfax County and the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church last month to learn about proposed bus rapid transit (BRT) along Route 7. Support for BRT was strong, with comments heavily focused on the

recommended alignment – an 11-mile route between Spring Hill Metrorail Station in Tysons and Mark Center in Alexandria, with a connection to the East Falls Church Metrorail Station. The Commission, which received a briefing on the preferred mode and alignment in April, will be asked to formally support the recommendations in July.

### Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)



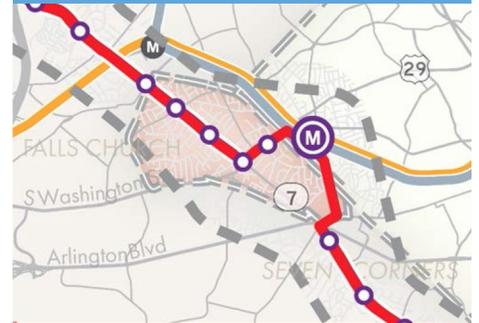
- Ridership is comparable to that of light rail
- Mode is compatible with Alexandria’s West End Transitway
- Ability to compete for federal grants is highest
- Flexibility in meeting various travel conditions along Route 7 is greatest

### Tysons to Mark Center



- Ridership estimates are comparable with other alignments
- Connection to Alexandria’s West End Transitway is seamless, contributing to a developing regional BRT network
- Access to jobs at the Mark Center and residences and businesses along Route 7 is enhanced

### Connection to East Falls Church Metrorail Station



- Ridership estimates are 38 percent higher with connection
- Connections to Downtown Falls Church and neighborhoods in Seven Corners are enhanced
- Mid-corridor connection to Metrorail’s Orange and Silver lines is established

## VTA Awards

Kelley MacKinnon of Arlington Transit (ART) and DASH's Plan Ahead...Pay It Forward Campaign were [among the recipients of 2016 awards from the Virginia Transit Association \(VTA\)](#). They were honored last month at VTA's annual conference in Fredericksburg.

### **Helen Poore Transit Professional Distinguished Service Award:**



MacKinnon, who recently retired as ART's transit operations coordinator, was instrumental in building the base infrastructure for ART and helping to manage the local bus system's explosive growth.

### **Outstanding Program Award:**



Alexandria's DASH system employed a comprehensive marketing and education campaign to alert riders that they no longer could add value to SmartTrip cards on the bus and to direct them to alternative add-value sites.

## Transit Use Up, SOV Use Down

Fewer Virginians are driving solo to their jobs and the use of transit and telework is on the rise, according to the Department of Rail and Public Transportation's recently released [Virginia Statewide Travel Study](#). The report, which compares results from 2007 and 2015, includes seven key findings:

- Virginia is becoming more multimodal
- Commuting times and distances have not changed
- Use of transit and telework have increased dramatically
- Satisfaction with commute has increased slightly
- Awareness and use of rideshare support infrastructure have increased
- Satisfaction with work commute and Virginia's transportation system drives quality of life ratings
- The vast majority of Virginians see the value of investing in the state's transportation system, including alternative transportation options

*Northern Virginia (↑26%), Hampton Roads (↑10%), and Fredericksburg (↑9%) are leading the way in increased commute satisfaction.*

## Transportation Planning Board



The TPB [Long Range Task Force](#) discussed prioritizing unfunded regionally significant multimodal projects to be analyzed for regional mobility and accessibility impact. After reviewing [characteristics of regionally significant projects](#), the task force

suggested criteria rooted in [TPB's adopted Vision, Goals, and Priorities](#). Member jurisdictions will decide which projects will be funded and advanced into the CLRP.

TPB was briefed on the new federal [Statewide and Metropolitan Planning Rule and its Transportation Performance Management Requirements](#). The rule updates federal surface transportation regulations and changes to MAP-21 and the FAST Act. State DOTs and public transportation providers must set targets to be adopted by MPOs. TPB is collaborating with agencies on Performance Based Planning and Programming processes for collecting and reporting on performance data and targets.

## Northern Virginia Transportation Authority



NVTA received comments from 29 people at a recent hearing [on its FY 2017 Program](#). Another 317 comments were submitted via the web or outreach activities. Among projects with significant support are the three Route 1 widening projects

in Fairfax County, Prince William County and the Town of Dumfries; Falls Church Bike Share; Leesburg Battlefield Parkway and Route 7 interchange; and VRE Manassas Park Station parking. NVTA's Planning and Programming Committee is slated to make project recommendations at its July 1 meeting. Final recommendations will follow the Authority's July 14 meeting. NVTA is considering bonding as an option to fund more projects.

[TransAction](#) is developing future year scenarios. The first phase of public outreach activities is coming to a close. A needs assessment is underway to define and a process is being developed to package projects. These packages will be evaluated based on the future year scenarios.