



It's easy to focus on ribbon cuttings, new program launches, splashy websites and social media feeds. However, at NVTC, many of our activities are focused on our responsibility for managing public funds on behalf of our jurisdictions and interstate toll payers.

The cornerstone of our financial management and accountability efforts is our role as agent for our jurisdictions' state transit funding. Each year, NVTC receives and manages over \$200 million in state transit assistance for WMATA, VRE and five local bus systems. Scott Kalkwarf, Director of Finance and Administration, and his team work diligently with our jurisdictions to provide cash-flow forecasts, quarterly reports of actual NVTC trust funds activity, and manage and invest trust funds, safeguarding the funds' assets. In addition, NVTC receives and manages a 2.1% regional gas tax (\$35.6 million in fiscal year 2018), which is dedicated for WMATA operating and capital requirements as well as for VRE's Commuter Rail Operating and Capital (CROC) Fund.

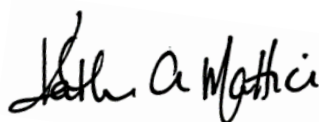
People often glance over our role with federal money, but NVTC continues to be the direct recipient of Federal Transit Administration funds, with NVTC's Brittany Sumpter managing and conducting compliance reviews for specific capital projects currently underway in the Cities of Falls Church and Alexandria.

NVTC's foray into toll-revenue funded programs, our Commuter Choice program, builds upon our strong financial management and fiscal accountability efforts. In addition to monitoring and reconciling net toll revenue receipts, our Commuter Choice program team, led by Ben Owen and Patricia Happ, reviews reimbursement requests and ensures the projects comply with legal agreement and are meeting their performance targets.

Good financial management includes sound accounting practices and the accurate recording of transactions, not to mention other back office responsibilities such as payroll processing, accounts receivable, accounts payable and disbursements. NVTC Comptroller Colethia Quarles leads the effort to make sure NVTC's disbursements are precise and timely.

Our effective management of the public's money is demonstrated year after year by the trust placed in us by our jurisdictions to manage their state and gas tax revenues, by Alexandria and Falls Church to administer their federal grants, by the Commonwealth in appointing NVTC to manage toll revenues, and, eventually, by the decades of healthy financial audits.

It may not be the shiny and new, but ensuring strong financial management and accountability to the public is a foundation of NVTC efforts. Can we cut a ribbon on that?



Executive Director

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Key Dates

| | |
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| July 11 | NVTC Monthly Meeting |
| July 11 | WMATA Board Meeting |
| July 16-17 | CTB Monthly Meeting |
| July 19 | VRE Operations Board Meeting |
| July 24 | Transportation Planning Board |
| July 25 | WMATA Board Meeting |
| Aug 1 | NVTC Program Advisory Committee Work Session |

Virginia's Paul Smedberg Elected WMATA Board Chair

The WMATA Board of Directors elected Virginia's Paul Smedberg as chairman June 27, succeeding Jack Evans whose three-and-a-half year term ended in June. Paul Smedberg previously served on the City Council of Alexandria and chaired NVTC in 2018. Paul served on the WMATA Board as an Alternate Director from 2016-2018. In 2019, Paul was chosen to represent the Commonwealth of Virginia as a WMATA Principal Director. He takes the helm of an evolving agency in the midst of a maintenance and safety transformation. Chairman Smedberg is the first Virginian to chair the WMATA Board since Cathy Hudgins in 2012.



Commonwealth Approves I-66 Commuter Choice FY2020 Program

The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) voted June 19 to allow the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission to award nearly \$20 million in toll revenues to fund 13 projects that benefit commuters in the I-66 corridor. The highly competitive application process resulted in a slate of projects that improve transit service, move more people and enhance transportation connectivity in Northern Virginia. About 87% of the funds, or \$17 million, will support four new bus routes and improve the services of five existing bus routes. Three of the approved bus route projects will continue successful services initiated during the first I-66 Commuter Choice program launched in 2017. The remaining 13 percent, or \$2.6 million, supports transit incentives, alternative travel options and program administration.



I-395/95 Commuter Choice Joint Commission Working Group

The I-395/95 Commuter Choice Joint Commission Working Group (JCWG) met June 13 to hear about the first round of projects being considered for the inaugural program. NVTC received 17 applications totaling \$31.3 million in funding from eight entities. NVTC estimates up to \$22 million in available funding for the first 20 months of the program. The JCWG, chaired by Fairfax County Supervisor Jeff McKay, is comprised of Elizabeth Bennett-Parker and Libby Garvey from NVTC and Gary Skinner, Ruth Anderson, and Frank Principi from PRTC. This body will continue to work together in advance of NVTC and PRTC joint selection of a program of projects for CTB approval in October 2019.



NVTC Welcomes Two New Staff Members

NVTC welcomes Ben Owen as the new lead program manager for the Commuter Choice Program. Ben joins us from the Federal Transit Administration where he worked extensively on the Capital Investment Grants program and administered FTA's Transit-Oriented Development Planning Grant program. Ben will work closely with Patricia Happ, Dan Goldfarb, Jae Watkins, and Brittany Sumpter on the administration of the Commuter Choice program as we launch our third round of I-66 and inaugural round of I-395/95 projects.



Matt Friedman joined NVTC in June as the Communications and Outreach Manager. Matt was a longtime journalist who most recently spent more than a decade at the Associated Press. He's always had an interest in transit and transportation issues and volunteered with Greater Greater Washington for 3 ½ years. There he served as Social Media Editor and was a member of the editorial board. Matt will lead efforts to expand the visibility of NVTC through traditional and social media and will work closely with staff to support the mission of the Commission.

NVTC Hosts Mobile Ticketing Panel At VTA Annual Conference

NVTC staff gathered experts from several organizations at this year's annual Virginia Transit Association conference to discuss mobile ticketing and share best practices, opportunities and challenges and to encourage other transit agencies to adapt and respond to the needs of their customers. The general session, "Mobile Solutions for Virginia Transit Agencies: Challenges and Opportunities" featured Allan Fye as moderator and presentations from our staff expert Patricia Happ, Bob Schneider from OmniRide, Alesia Cain from Hampton Roads Transit (HRT), and Rob Taggart from Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC). Transit agencies across the nation are implementing pilot mobile ticketing programs and innovative solutions to satisfy the increasing desire of transit riders to use their phones to pay for their transit trips. Across Virginia, several entities have launched mobile ticketing programs. Highlights from the discussion included a noticeable increase in ridership after implementing mobile payments, a focus on providing the services transit customers want and need today, and moving away from a one-size-fits-all model.



Metro To Study Blue, Orange, And Silver Lines

WMATA announced in June the launch of a [two-year study of the Blue, Orange, and Silver](#) Lines with the goal of identifying long-term options to improve reliability and better serve customers. The study will primarily focus on the bottleneck between the Rosslyn Tunnel and the Anacostia River, where all three lines share tracks. The limited capacity means that Metro cannot easily add more trains and has limited ability to work around service disruptions. The study is intended to identify infrastructure improvements and service alternatives to resolve these issues. The study will involve extensive public outreach.



NVTC Staff Focus on Development

NVTC staff came together in June for a day of staff training and development. Staff participated in ice breaking exercises, discussed workplace practices and brainstormed ways to build upon the good workplace culture that NVTC cultivates. It was a day of fun that brought the team closer together and built excitement for the future of NVTC.



NVTC Participates In Celebrate Fairfax

NVTC staff helped foster community among Northern Virginians at Fairfax's annual county fair, Celebrate Fairfax. NVTC partnered with Fairfax County DOT (FCDOT) to staff the Transportation Station at the event and answered questions about NVTC and Commuter

Choice. NVTC staff also connected with colleagues from Fairfax County, WMATA's Platform Improvement Project Team, VDOT-Mega Projects/Transform I-66 and Virginia Railway Express. NVTC staff engaged with over 200 people over the two-day event.



Bulova, Hudgins Honored by Virginia Transit Association

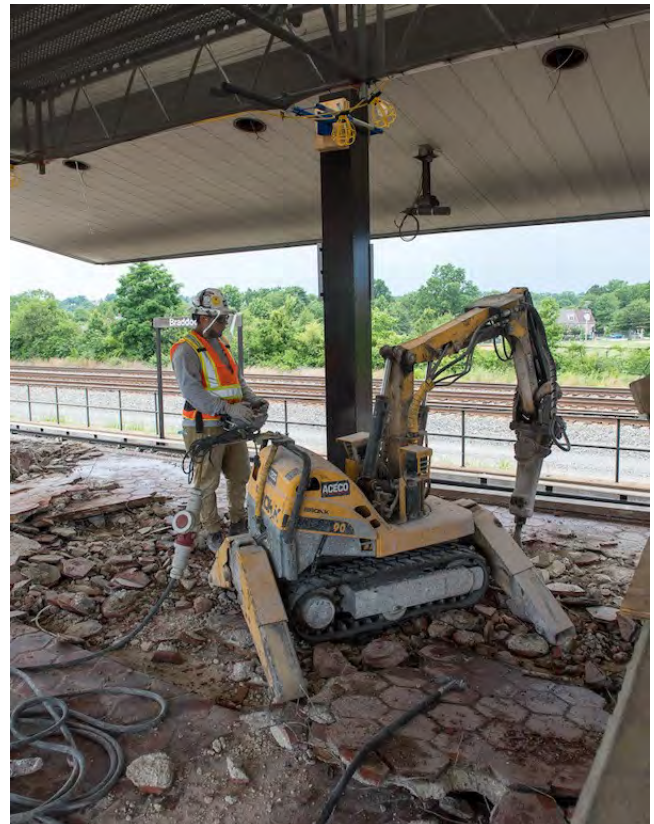
NVTC Commissioners Sharon Bulova and Cathy Hudgins were honored with the Virginia Transit Association's Distinguished Public Official Leadership Award at VTA's Annual Conference. Sharon Bulova, a lifelong champion of the Virginia Railway Express and a trusted leader on many transit agenda items, was selected by the committee for her work with both NVTC and VRE. Cathy Hudgins was recognized for her regional leadership on the WMATA Board and for championing the Silver Line Metro extension. As they were not able to attend the Portsmouth, Virginia awards ceremony, they were presented with their award at the NVTC June meeting.



Blue and Yellow Line Platform Improvement Program Underway

On Saturday, May 25, WMATA closed six Metrorail stations south of National Airport as part of its ongoing [Platform Improvement Project](#). The closure of these Metrorail stations is scheduled to continue until September 8. During the shutdown, WMATA and regional partners are providing bus shuttles and other mitigation services to help riders access the Metrorail stations that remain open. The first commuting days of the shutdown saw commuter delays, high vehicle traffic and opportunities for improvements. WMATA is actively making operational and communications adjustments, as well as working with regional partners, taking feedback from riders and using transportation data to make improvements to service and coordination for the rest of the summer shutdown. NVTC's Matt Cheng continues to be engaged in daily meetings with regional partners and WMATA to identify operation improvements and capture lessons learned.

The construction itself is underway, with WMATA crews beginning the demolition and reconstruction of the platforms. The first pouring of new concrete took place at Eisenhower Avenue platform in the second week of June with many more on the way. NVTC will continue to monitor the progress throughout the duration of the shutdown.



Metrorail



In June, WMATA announced that the automatic door-opening feature on trains would be reactivated starting July 7. The Red Line will be the first to see the feature again, with the rest of the lines coming on line later this year. The automatic door system is beneficial for safety and speed, as it ensures doors open on the correct side and reduces the amount of time between when the train stops and the doors open. More information can be found [here](#).



Arlington County



The Arlington County Board voted unanimously in June to extend the county's shared mobility device pilot program. The program, which permits dockless bikes and e-scooters, has been receiving public comment and will continue to do so through the extension. The pilot will now run at least until the end of the calendar year. More than 300,000 trips have been taken on shared mobility devices since the pilot began last October.



Fairfax County



Fairfax County is partnering with Dominion Energy on an autonomous electric shuttle pilot to learn about deploying autonomous vehicles as a part of a public transit system. The pilot is tentatively planned for the Merrifield area. The pilot is supported by a \$250,000 grant from the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), making it the first state funded autonomous shuttle demonstration project in Virginia.



DASH



Alexandria's DASH rolls out a \$50 unlimited summer pass for all Alexandria middle and high school students. This is meant to fill the gap of left by the fare free rides which are only available to students during the school year. The pass lasts until Labor Day.

HEY STUDENTS!
 High school and middle school students can ride DASH all summer for only \$50!*

Purchase your pass at DASH headquarters
 3000 Business Center Drive
 Alexandria, VA 22314

For more info call 703-746-3274
 or visit dashbus.com/fares

DASH

*Student ID must be presented at time of purchase