

Executive Director Report

June 2016



NVTC is not a static organization. We continue to evolve in order to meet the transportation needs of residents, visitors and businesses in Northern Virginia. NVTC's most recent appointees – Virginia Senator Adam Ebbin and Delegate David Albo – join a cadre of elected and appointed officials that is dedicated to ensuring that our organization fulfills its mission: to bring the region together to plan, coordinate, and secure funding for transit systems that are financially sustainable and high performing.

Many activities and events during the last month attest to the commitment of staff and Commissioners in realizing this mission. Coordination of local response to WMATA's SafeTrack plan, analysis of funding applications for the Transform 66 Multimodal Project, and evaluation of transit options on Route 7 are among the many tasks NVTC has undertaken to ensure plentiful transit options in the region.

The road ahead contains many opportunities for NVTC to make a significant difference in the lives of those who live and work in Northern Virginia. Current circumstances put us in a unique position to affect change – to move more people more reliably and cost-effectively throughout the region – and provide improved quality of life in NVTC's jurisdictions.

Kate Mattice
Director of Programs & Policy

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VTA Conference Highlights Need for Transit Advocates



NVTC's Immediate Past Chairman, David Snyder, was elected President of the [Virginia Transit Association](#) at its 2016 conference in Fredericksburg, May 24-25. Snyder also moderated a session on transit and cybersecurity.

At the plenary session, LA Metro CEO Phil Washington pointed to the need for elected officials to muster the political courage to serve as champions for transportation infrastructure. A second plenary speaker — John Martin, president and CEO of the Southeastern Institute for Research — provided data showing that both transit use and telecommuting are up in the Commonwealth. The number of SOV commuters dropped from 81.6 percent in 2007 to 76.6 percent in 2015, while the percentage of those taking transit rose from 5.1 to 6.8. Daily telecommuters comprised 8.3 percent of Virginia's workforce, up from 4.5 percent in 2007.

Key Dates

June 6, 8, 14	Envision Route 7 Public Meetings
June 9	NVTA Public Hearing
June 13	MWCOG/Board of Trade Metrorail Forum
June 13-14	CTB Meeting
June 15	TPB Monthly Meeting
June 16	Transit Capital Project Revenue Advisory Board
June 28	Joint Commission on Transportation Accountability Meeting
July 7	TSDAC Meeting
July 7	NVTC Monthly Meeting

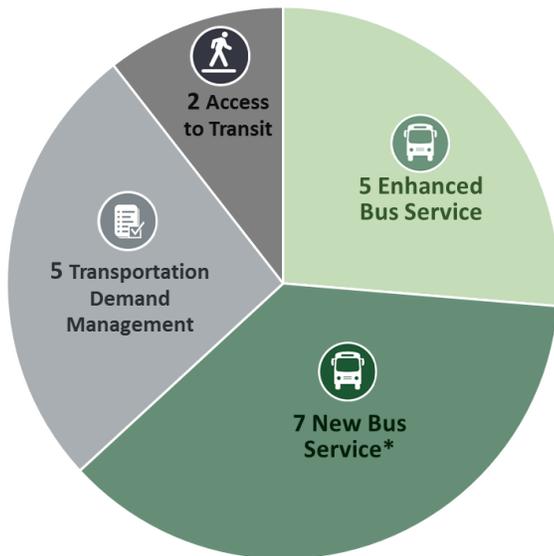
Transform 66 June Update

The Commonwealth Transportation Board appears poised to provide an additional \$5 million to fund the initial group of components submitted under the Transform 66 Multimodal Project. NVTC is awaiting formal acknowledgement of the increase, which would allow the Commission to fund additional components when it meets on June 2.

NVTC received comments from 28 individuals prior to the close of the six-week public comment period on May 23. A total of eight people testified at the two public hearings. Only

a handful of the comments, which ranged from the general to the specific, spoke directly to one or more of the 19 components submitted to the Commission for FY2017 funding. Support was expressed for ART 55, Fairfax Connector, Loudoun County Transit and PRTC bus service, and Loudoun County TDM. Other comments focused on extending Metrorail to Manassas, Gainesville or Haymarket; formalizing and accommodating slugging; enforcing HOV restrictions; supporting efforts to reduce air pollution and noise; and reducing or eliminating fares for transit.

FY2017 Component Applications



*Includes one combination new bus service/park-and-ride component

Transform 66 Resources

[FY2017 Component Scores](#)

[FY 2017 Component Profiles](#)

[List of FY2017 Submitted Applications](#)

[Transform 66 Evaluation/Prioritization Process](#)

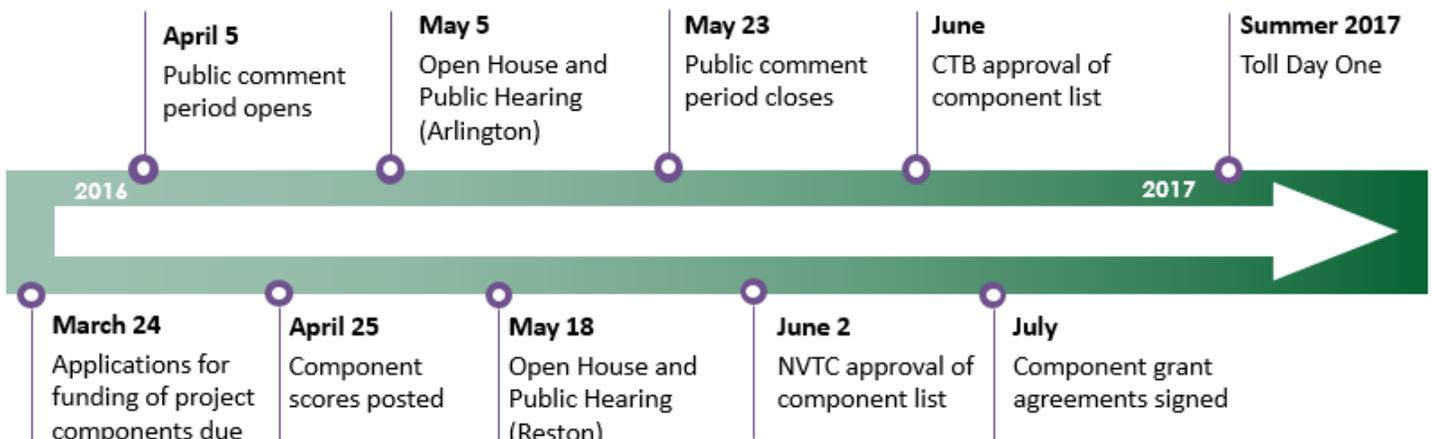
[Transform 66 Memorandum of Agreement](#)

[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 for more information.



State Update

Draft Metro Safety Commission Bill Released

Virginia, Maryland and D.C. have [agreed on language to create a Metro Safety Commission](#) to allow local safety enforcement of Metro. The D.C. Council and state general assemblies must pass identical bills to establish the commission. Legislation will be introduced in Virginia in 2017.

TCPRAB to Meet in June

The newly created [Transit Capital Project Revenue Advisory Board \(TCPRAB\)](#) meets [June 16](#) to examine the impact of the expiration of transit capital bonds. Former NVTC Commissioner and General Assembly Delegate Tom Rust and NVTC Vice Chairman Jeff McKay are among the seven members appointed by Transportation Secretary Aubrey Layne.

Commonwealth Transportation Board

NVTC Testifies on NOVA Transit Needs

Ensuring a strong transit network requires a continued partnership between the state and the region, said NVTC Chairman Jay Fisetle. [Testifying at the CTB's May 2 hearing](#), Fisetle highlighted the past year's transit milestones and NVTC's ongoing regional projects.

Draft SYIP Includes \$188M for NVTC Jurisdictions

The CTB released the [draft FY2017 Six-Year Improvement Program \(SYIP\)](#), allocating \$442 million in state transit operating, capital, TDM and special-project assistance. The SYIP includes \$188 million in capital and operating assistance, which NVTC applied for on behalf of its member jurisdictions to subsidize WMATA and local systems and fund VRE rail car purchases and track lease payments. The SYIP includes the state's \$50 million annual commitment to match a third of the federal PRIIA funding for WMATA.

CTB Considers Additional Multimodal Funding

Todd Horsley, DRPT's Director of Northern Virginia Transit Programs, provided the CTB with an overview of the [Transform 66 Multimodal Project](#). CTB Members appeared supportive of providing an additional \$5 million for this first round of multimodal components.

HB2 Round Two

[Lessons learned during the first year of HB2](#), a process for evaluating and investing in transportation projects, was the subject of Deputy Transportation Secretary Nick Donohue's May CTB presentation. Donohue reviewed applicants' concerns, as well as proposed changes to policy/process, measures and scoring. [The application period for FY2018 funding under HB2 opens August 1](#).

Federal Update

Appropriations Update

The full Senate passed its transportation-related appropriations bill and the House Appropriations Committee is expected to consider its version of the bill in the coming weeks with possible floor action sometime in June. Both appropriations bills fund General Fund transit programs near the levels authorized by the FAST Act and Mass Transit Account formula programs at FAST Act levels. The \$150 million authorized by PRIIA for WMATA is included in both chambers' bills. TIGER is funded at \$450 million in the House bill and \$525 million in the Senate bill.

Hearing Highlights WMATA Improvements

During a House Subcommittee hearing on May 24, [FTA Acting Administrator Carolyn Flowers testified to improvements by WMATA](#):

- Since 2012, all WMATA rail traffic controllers have completed annual certifications.
- Metro's SafeTrack plan gives priority to track locations where urgent repairs are required.
- WMATA has addressed fire and life safety equipment problems in tunnels.
- The last of nearly 2,000 employees with expired right-of-way work protection cards will be soon be retrained and certified.

NVTC Programs & Projects

Regional Response to SafeTrack

The Orange and Silver lines between Ballston and East Falls Church will be the first track segment to undergo maintenance work under WMATA's SafeTrack plan. Thirteen days of continuous, single tracking will begin June 4. NVTC, in cooperation with DRPT, is coordinating the Northern Virginia transit operators' response to the SafeTrack plan, identifying mitigation strategies to reduce the inconvenience of

service disruptions to commuters and travelers in Northern Virginia. SafeTrack includes 15 safety surges, two thirds of which are in Virginia. Three of the NOVA surges involve a shutdown of an entire line segment, while seven allow for single tracking. Metro revised the schedule for its yearlong track rehab plan last week after the FTA said the original plan did not give priority to critical safety-related repairs.

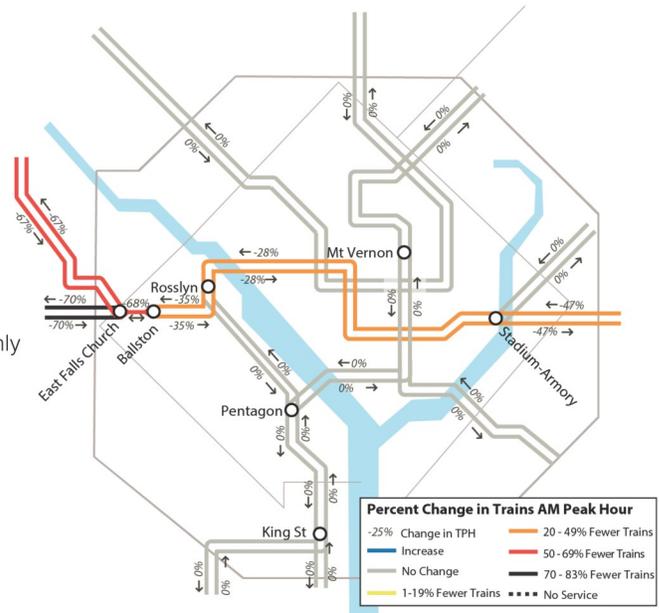
1 June 4 - 16 (13 days)



Continuous single tracking between East Falls Church & Ballston

REDUCED SERVICE AT MOST OR SV STATIONS (SEVERELY REDUCED WEST OF BALLSTON)

- Major impact to **73,000** weekday trips
- Orange Line runs **every 18 minutes** to/from stations Vienna - Ballston
- Additional Orange Line trains run between Ballston - New Carrollton only
- Silver Line trains run **every 18 minutes** at all times
- Orange and Silver line customers encouraged to consider alternate travel options & avoid traveling during rush hour if possible; expect rush hour trains to be very crowded
- Orange/Silver customers in Virginia may consider using Ballston for more frequent service
- Additional Metrobus trips on selected regular-route services



NOTE: INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE. VISIT WMATA.COM/SAFETRACK FOR UPDATES.

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Fare Collection

Although WMATA is no longer pursuing the New Electronic Payment Program, NVTC continues to work with the transit agency and our regional partners to ensure we maintain an operational, cost-effective fare collection system that meets our partners' needs.

WMATA has formed two fare collection subcommittees. One will explore off-board loading options for BRT systems, the DC Streetcar and the Purple Line, while the other

will focus on bus fare boxes. The subcommittees will make recommendations to the broader group of regional partners, ensuring a collaborative and inclusive process.

WMATA issued a RFP to pilot a fare box upgrade known as the DCU3. This will extend the life of the existing fare boxes by replacing obsolete technical components with those that

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will be available for at least 10 years. DCU3 can operate in a mixed fleet of upgraded and existing fare boxes and support additional component upgrades, such as bill and coin handlers and customer display. The new DCU3s will be tested on at least 20 buses at one WMATA bus garage facility over six weeks. Several partner agencies have expressed interest in participating in the pilot. WMATA is willing to pursue that possibility if the partners pay for their DCU3 kits.

If the pilot is successful, WMATA, in coordination with the regional partners, will negotiate a contract through which all the partners can buy

fare boxes, extending the lifecycle of SmarTrip for a decade or longer.



Envision Route 7



NVTC will hit the road beginning June 6 to share the preferred mode and alignment

for transit on Route 7 with the public and garner feedback. As the Commission learned in April, staff is proposing [bus rapid transit along this busy thoroughfare between the Spring Hill Metrorail Station in Tysons and Mark Center in Alexandria, with a connection at the East Falls Church Metrorail Station.](#) After gauging public response, staff will report back to the Commission, which will vote on the recommendations. Please join

NVTC at one or more of our upcoming meetings, each of which is from 7-9 p.m.

Monday, June 6

[The Apartments at Mark Center's Pavilion](#)
5708 Merton Court, Alexandria

Wednesday, June 8

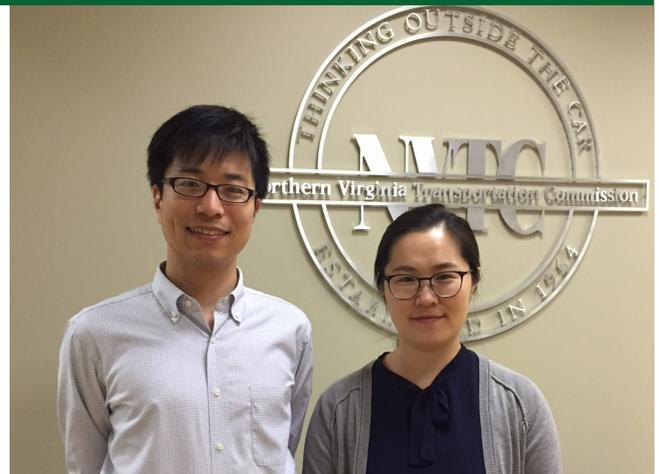
[Glen Forest Elementary School](#)
5829 Glen Forest Drive, Falls Church

Tuesday, June 14

[Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School](#)
7130 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church

NVTC Fellows Contribute to Organization's Success

From mapping to data analysis, NVTC's Fellows — Nobuhiko Daito (left) and Jeong Yun Kwuen "JK" (right) — provided much-needed support for a variety of programs and projects, including the Regional Bus Agenda, Transform 66 Multimodal, and emergency planning. Daito recently received his Ph.D. from George Mason University; JK, who just completed her NVTC fellowship, is in the process of wrapping up her doctoral dissertation.



Transportation Planning Board

[Eight technical assistance projects will receive funding in FY2017 from the Transportation Planning Board under its Land Use Connections Program.](#) Three are in Planning District 8, which includes NVTC and PRTC.

VRE will receive \$50,000 to evaluate mixed-use and multimodal connectivity around its proposed Gainesville and Innovation stations in Prince William County. Other awards include \$50,000 for a West Falls Church transportation study and \$30,000 for streetscape design standards for Mathis Avenue in Manassas.

The technical assistance program, which solicits applications annually between February 1 and April 1, provides focused consultancy for projects addressing regional priorities and local planning issues in the Washington, D.C. region.

On June 13, MWCOG and the Greater Washington Board of Trade will hold [a symposium to learn from other rail systems and discuss the future of Metrorail in the region.](#)

Virginia Railway Express



[A new, third track between Hamilton, near Fredericksburg, and Crossroads in Spotsylvania County went into service on May 17.](#) This track will increase capacity and fluidity, and provide operational flexibility

on the rail line that hosts VRE and Amtrak passenger trains and CSX Transportation's (CSXT) freight trains. Project financing came from federal, state and local governments, as well as CSXT.



NVTC Is May's Commuter Champion

Arlington Transportation Partners (ATP) named [NVTC its May Commuter Benefit Champion](#) for expanding employee transportation benefits to include Capital Bikeshare. ATP commended NVTC for its efforts to build upon "an already robust package. Going above and beyond, NVTC serves as a great example in Arlington County of an employer who is continually seeking to improve employee satisfaction."



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority



NVTA has accepted the analysis of 25 projects submitted last fall and will hold a public hearing June 9 on its draft FY2019 program. It will recommend project funding and determine if bonding will

go forward to fund additional projects on the list.

[FY2017 Candidate Project List](#)

[FY2017 Program Project Selection Process](#)

[FY2017 Program Presentation Form](#)

[FY2017 Public Engagement Process](#)

The Transaction 2040 Update team is compiling projects for analysis and [continuing public outreach](#). The project team is working on establishing the measures of effectiveness for both the needs assessment and the future year analysis. Once the needs assessment is complete, packages of projects will be developed around planning themes for each of the study corridors.