



In my travels throughout the Commonwealth this month – from Marion to Richmond to Tysons – I have been warmed by the energy and engagement of those in the public transportation sector. The dedication and determination of agency, jurisdictional and association staff and support of our elected and appointed officials, reminds me of how fortunate we are to be working in a state that understands the value of transit to our economy and quality of life.

As the transit industry embraces a new level of transparency and accountability, my work with the Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee (TSDAC) has taken on added importance. The requirements and methodologies that TSDAC ultimately recommends will govern the allocation of capital and operating funds, as well as strategic and transit planning. I have been working closely with Northern Virginia’s transit agencies to ensure that any new state mandates or processes meet both the spirit and intent of recently passed legislation without being onerous or unfair.

My presentation to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) earlier this month on projects the Commission approved for funding through the I-66 Commuter Choice program was well received. The CTB will vote to endorse the projects on June 20.

The recent Virginia Transit Association (VTA) conference in Richmond was the most well-attended in the organization’s history. That success was due in part to the leadership of NVTC Commissioner Dave Snyder, who has served as VTA president these past two years. His dedication to public transportation in the Commonwealth is to be lauded. He, as immediate past president, and I will continue to serve on the VTA board.

Several of our transit agencies were recognized at the VTA awards luncheon. DASH's "Stuff the Bus" campaign won for Outstanding Community Program. Loudoun County Transit's "Next Stop Silver Line" took an honorable mention in the Outstanding Public Transportation Marketing category. Top honors in that category went to WMATA's Back2Good campaign. Steve Yaffe, a former transit services manager in Arlington, received the Helen Poore Transit Professional Distinguished Service Award. For their work on transit funding legislation, Senator George Barker, Senator Richard Saslaw and Delegate Richard C. “Rip” Sullivan were honored with VTA's Distinguished Legislative Leadership Award.

I am proud of the outstanding work being done by public transportation professionals in Northern Virginia and appreciative of the support provided by our elected and appointed officials. It makes my work and that of NVTC staff all the more important.



Executive Director

Inside this Issue

VTA Conference Highlights	2
CTB to Vote on I-66 Projects	3
CTB to Consider Policies on Withholding of Funds for WMATA	3
Prospect for Full Federal Funding of WMATA under PRIIA Seems Bright	3
WMATA Issues New Back2Good Report	4
Metro Seeks Accessibility Advisory Committee Members	4
NVTC Out in the Community	5
Manassas Railway Festival	5
WMATA Metrobus Staff Take Top Honors ..	6
VRE Meet the Management Wraps Up	6
DASHing Words in Motion	6
Art on the ART Bus	6



Northern Virginia Transportation Commission
2300 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 620
Arlington, VA 22201
www.novatransit.org



Key Dates

June 5	I-66 Inside the Beltway Eastbound Widening Meeting
June 7	NVTC Monthly Meeting
June 14	WMATA Board Meeting
June 14	NVTA Monthly Meeting
June 19-20	CTB Monthly Meeting
June 15	VRE Operations Board Meeting
June 20	TPB Monthly Meeting
June 28	WMATA Board Meeting
July 5	NVTC Monthly Meeting

Virginia Transit Association Annual Conference Highlights



VTA Executive Director Lisa Guthrie presents Dave Snyder, VTA's outgoing president with a plaque of appreciation at the pre-conference board meeting.



Lisa Guthrie presents Steve Yaffe, former ART transit services manager, with the Helen Poore Transit Professional Distinguished Service Award.



A team from DASH accepts the award for Outstanding Community Program for its "Stuff the Bus" campaign.



A team from WMATA accepts the award for Outstanding Public Transportation Marketing for "Back2Good."



Loudoun County Transit's Steven Angulo accepts an honorable mention for Outstanding Public Transportation Marketing for "Next Stop Silver Line."



NVTC's Patricia Happ, right, shares the success of projects funded through the I-66 Commuter Choice program as part of a panel discussion.

CTB to Vote in June on NVTC-Approved I-66 Projects

NVTC Executive Director Kate Mattice [shared the 15 projects, approved for funding by the Commission](#) earlier this month, with members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) at their May 15 meeting in Marion. The projects, which seek just over \$12 million in funding, will move an additional 2,000 people through the I-66 corridor during rush hour and save about 120,000 hours of travel delays each year. Among these projects are several that will improve emergency response to keep traffic in the corridor moving and others that will get more people from their homes to transit by improving access to stations and park-and-ride lots and by increasing parking. The CTB will vote to endorse the projects at its [June 20 meeting](#) in Richmond.



CTB to Consider Policies on Withholding of Funds for WMATA

The Commonwealth Transportation Board received [a briefing from Deputy Transportation Secretary Nick Donohue](#) in mid-May on the implications of recently passed legislation pertaining to Metro. He noted that the CTB will be asked to adopt policies to implement provisions of the bill that are related to the withholding of funds. This is an area where we are working closely with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation and the Transportation Secretary's staff. These policies will be drafted over the summer. It is anticipated that NVTC will consider a similar resolution in the fall.

Moving Forward

- **Secretary's Office and DPRT will coordinate with Maryland and the District regarding reforms**
- **Draft policies will be developed by DRPT and provided to the Board at its July meeting**
- **Based on feedback final policies will be provided to the Board for action at its September meeting**

9

Office of the SECRETARY of TRANSPORTATION

Prospect for Full Federal Funding of WMATA under PRIIA Seems Bright

The House Appropriations Committee on May 15 released its [FY 2019 Transportation Housing and Urban Development \(THUD\) appropriations bill](#) that, in addition to fully funding the Federal Transit and Federal Highway programs at FAST Act levels, also included a full \$150 million in funding for WMATA under the 2008 Passenger Rail Improvement and Investment Act. It was [marked up in subcommittee](#) the next day.

The following week, the chief executives of Virginia, Maryland and the District sent [a letter to the chairmen and ranking members](#) of the House and Senate Appropria-

tions Committee urging their support of full funding for WMATA under PRIIA. The letter spells out WMATA's progress in safety, maintenance and finances.

Prior to sending the letter, Gov. Ralph Northam signed the transit bills, as amended by the General Assembly in mid-April. Included are \$154 million in annual dedicated funding for Metro and a number of reforms that expand NVTC's oversight. The legislation creates a WMATA Capital Fund and a Commuter Rail Operating and Capital (C-ROC) fund, from which VRE will receive \$15 million annually from revenues generated by the gas tax floor.

WMATA Issues New Back2Good Report

BACK2GOOD

Update Published: May 24, 2018



SERVICE RELIABILITY

- **Rail customer satisfaction on the rise:** With Metrorail on-time performance now at 88%, customer satisfaction reached 76% in the third quarter of this fiscal year, compared with 69% last year.
- **Old, unreliable railcars are off the track:** 85% of 5000-series taken out of service, and all 1000- and 4000-series railcars are gone.
- **Better railcars = better service:** Railcar offloads down 60 percent compared to two years ago.
- **Metrobus on-time performance at 79 percent:** Best third quarter since reporting began in 2010.
- **MetroAccess on-time performance at 92 percent.**



RUSH HOUR PROMISE

- **Since the start of Rush Hour Promise, more than 140,000 credits have been delivered to customers for trips that were delayed 15 minutes or more.**
- **Register your SmarTrip card at wmata.com to be eligible for the Rush Hour Promise.**

For more information visit wmata.com/back2good



SAFETY

- **Completed power cable safety upgrade:** Installed protective sealing sleeves on all 9,454 power cable connectors in the Metrorail system as part of effort to reduce fire and smoke incidents.
- **Reduced debris-related fires by nearly 20 percent** due to improved track bed cleaning.
- **Improving worker safety:** Red signal overruns cut in half compared to last year.



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- **Historic dedicated funding approved for Metro:** Legislation signed into law in VA, MD and DC, providing Metro with an additional \$500 million in capital funding per year.
- **\$1.2 billion investment in safety and reliability:** On track to spend 95% of capital budget in FY18.



PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

- **Metro's first preventive track maintenance program underway:** By taking advantage of longer overnight work periods, crews accomplished 34 percent more work compared to two years ago.

Metro Seeks Advisors on Issues Affecting Seniors and Disabled

Metro's Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) is looking for new members to advise Metro's Board of Directors on transportation issues affecting senior citizens and people with disabilities. [Applications are being accepted through June 4.](#) The 20-member committee advises Metro through monthly committee and subcommittee meetings on Metrobus, Metrorail and MetroAccess.

Metro is seeking one member from Alexandria and one at-large member from Virginia (Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax City/County, or Falls Church) to serve on the AAC. The committee consists of six members each from Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia; and two at-large members.



NVTC Out in the Community

NVTC regularly participates in panels and event throughout Northern Virginia. On June 8-10, staff will man an I-66 Commuter Choice table in the Transportation Station tent, hosted by Fairfax Connector, at [Celebrate Fairfax](#).

NVTC's Andrew D'huyvetter was one of four panelists on the evening of May 16 at the Young Democrats of Arlington #Back2Good Metro Panel, where he shared a variety of information, including Metro ridership and funding. He was joined by NVTC Commissioner and Metro Board Member Christian Dorsey and Virginia Senator Barbara Favola.

Despite the wet weather on May 18, thousands of commuters headed to work via bicycle, including NVTC's Patricia Happ. Bike to Work Day 2018, administered by Commuter Connections and Washington Area Bicyclist Association, featured 100 pit stops in D.C., MD, and VA.



SATURDAY
JUNE 2, 2018
10:00am - 3:00pm

ON SALE
MAY 2ND
\$5.00
TICKETS
AT THE
TRAIN STATION

SPONSORS

www.visitmanassas.org

MANASSAS
RAILWAY FESTIVAL

TRAIN TIMES

- 10:00 a.m.
- 11:00 a.m.
- 12:00 p.m.
- 1:00 p.m.

Board the Scenic Excursion Train at the Manassas Train Depot and enjoy a leisurely ride to Clifton and back

With special guest meet-and-greet for train riders!

WMATA



Top honors for maintenance team and bus operator at the 2018 [International Bus Road-eo](#) went to WMATA. The Grand Champions took the top spot with the best combined score of any transit agency. The roдео, which took place May 4-8 in Tampa, Florida, is a competition of driving skills and maintenance disciplines.



Virginia Railway Express



Virginia Railway Express (VRE) will wrap up its 2018 [Meet the Management](#) series at the Franconia/Springfield station on June 6. Armed with refreshments, managers will greet riders, listening to any complaints or comments and responding to questions. Managers will discuss midday train storage, transportation benefits, station improvements, VRE mobile ticketing, and safety, among other things. VRE held similar events in May at D.C.'s Union Station and its L'Enfant, Crystal City, and Alexandria stations.



Alexandria Transit Company (DASH)



[“DASHing Words in Motion”](#) is a poetry contest sponsored by the Alexandria Transit Company (DASH) and the City of Alexandria Office of the Arts. The competition is open to writers and poets who are at least 16 years old and live, work or study in Alexandria. [Seven poems were selected](#) from 40 submissions and were published inside DASH buses and trolleys.



JUST TODAY

Just today,
remove earbuds,
ignore newsfeeds.
Just this ride,
listen to the street sounds,
see riders around you,
watch what passes by.
Commitment -
not required.

Just today.
Just this ride.

- Robin Holzhauer

Arlington Transit



Now in its eighth year, [“Art on the ART Bus”](#) is a mobile gallery on Arlington County’s buses. This dynamic connection between public transit and original art makes the commute as exciting as the destination, cultivating a vibrant arts experience for transit in Arlington County. The bus rotates throughout the different routes available to ART bus passengers. There are currently two ART buses with exhibits installed. One features a parade of playfully costumed dogs. The other shows the words of ART bus drivers transformed into art.

