

Chambers of Commerce Partner on NVTC Forum



Many of the region’s Chambers of Commerce are partnering with NVTC on our [Forum on Transit and the Regional and Virginia Economy](#). On May 8th, business leaders and researchers will join us to discuss how transit is a key ingredient for the region’s economic competitiveness. Keynote invitees include Secretary Anthony Foxx and Governor Terry McAuliffe. Panels of business leaders and researchers will address what transit means to business and economic vitality. Who would you like to invite?

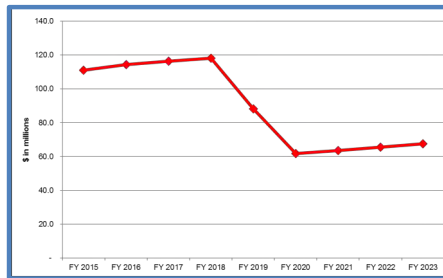
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Passage of HB1887 Anticipated

As this goes to print, the Senate is scheduled to vote on HB1887, an omnibus transportation bill that provides an additional \$40 million/year to transit systems *across the Commonwealth*. Co-patroned by Delegate Chris Jones and Delegate Tom Rust, HB1887 will provide much-needed funds for transit maintenance and repairs. Any money for expansion of fixed guideway projects will be subject to the project selection criteria mandated by HB2. Prepared by our NVTC Fellow, Zach Hanson, [our tracking chart shows the status of bill and budget amendments as February 25th](#). We will highlight key issues and outcomes at the March Commission meeting.

Virginia Transit Capital Funding: Projected Revenues



Funds split 72% operating; 25% capital & 3% special programs.

HB2 Draft Measure Released

On February 17th, Deputy Secretary of Transportation Nick Donohue, [updated the Commonwealth Transportation Board](#) on recommended draft measures for HB2 implementation. [HB2](#) provides a framework for the evaluation of new capacity transportation projects focused on six factors, including congestion relief, the most important factor for the Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads districts. In coordination with NVTA, NVTC will provide comments on the final implementation process after its release in March. The Office of the Secretary of Transportation will conduct stakeholder meetings across the Commonwealth in February and March, including a meeting on February 26th hosted by NVTA. Public comment will be open through March and April and solicited at the spring Six-Year Improvement Program meetings.

Northern Virginia
 Transportation Commission
 2300 Wilson Boulevard
 Suite 620
 Arlington, VA 22201
 703-524-3322

 Executive Director
 Kelley Coyner

WMATA News

Safety and Related Issues

WMATA is implementing [10 early-action safety items](#) to immediately address safety concerns following the L'Enfant Plaza incident on January 12th.

Acting NTSB Chairman Hart provided [urgent recommendations to WMATA, the Federal Transit Administration \(FTA\), and the American Public Transportation Association \(APTA\)](#) concerning ventilation procedures during smoke and fire events in tunnels.

An [FTA safety review](#) is upcoming, and NTSB Public Hearings related to the January 12th incident are scheduled for June 23rd and 24th.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) Board released a [statement on behalf of the COG Fire Chiefs Committee](#) outlining 10 steps taken by the regions fire departments. It also listed actions made by WMATA with respect to fire safety and emergency response.

FMO Status

The WMATA Board received an [update on the status of WMATA's Corrective Action Plan \(CAP\) items](#) to address FTA's Financial Management Oversight (FMO) report in February. To date, documentation has been submitted to FTA for 62 of the 65 CAP items. WMATA has committed to addressing the three outstanding CAP items and implementing long-term compliance monitoring.

Quick Hits — NEPP, Route 7, and Transit Innovations

Consumer testing of WMATA's **New Electronic Payments Program (NEPP)** kicked off on February 23rd. WMATA is seeking 90 days of successful testing during this pilot period. In the meantime, NVTC staff continue to coordinate with WMATA and with the regional partners to assess technical and legal requirements prior to implementation.

NVTC has started outreach efforts on the **Route 7 Alternatives Analysis** project with meetings involving community organizations, local elected officials, and jurisdictional staff. The project website and other outreach activities will launch in April.

In January, NVTC staff attended the [Transportation Research Board's 2015 Annual Meeting](#), the premier conference for transportation professionals around the world. Staff focused on transit, commuter rail, and transit-oriented development sessions and workshops. Takeaways included lessons on rail station congestion management and capacity expansion from domestic and overseas transit agencies, findings on how transit-oriented developments, mixed-use communities can encourage concentrated economic growth and transit ridership, and new research on building success for commuter rail and light rail systems, best practices and innovations in measuring system performance and accessibility, congestion relief, safety and economic development.

WMATA Virginia Ridership January 2015			
	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015	Percent Change
Metrorail			
Total	7,844,052	8,310,918	6.0%
Weekday Average	281,025	299,774	6.7%
Metrobus			
Total	1,623,351	1,575,563	-2.9%
Weekday Average	64,262	64,908	1.0%
MetroAccess			
Total	22,715	22,715	0.0%

[2nd Quarter NVTC Ridership Report](#)

Regional Planning News

TPB Study Identifies Bus Staging and Parking Sites

MWCOG/TPB is in the process of finalizing the [Regional Bus Staging, Layover, and Parking Location Study](#). The study documents existing and projected future needs for bus parking and staging for buses in Arlington County and the District, and identifies recommended sites in both jurisdictions.

MWCOG Approves Revised 2040 Employment and Population Forecasts

In February, the MWCOG Board approved the [Draft Round 8.4 Cooperative Forecasts](#). The 8.4 forecasts reflect revisions in employment, population, and household forecasts for 2040 in jurisdictions throughout the region, including the City of Alexandria, and Arlington, Fairfax, and Prince William Counties. The 8.4 forecasts will be used by TPB in the Air Quality Conformity Analysis of the 2015 CLRP and FY2015-2020 Transportation Improvement Program.

I-66 Improvements: Public Comment, Inclusion in CLRP, Cost Revisions

On February 18, the Transportation Planning Board approved both the Inside and Outside the Beltway projects for [inclusion in the Air Quality Conformity Assessment](#) for the 2015 Financially Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan and the 2015-2020 Transportation Improvement Program. The TPB will review the results of the assessment and vote on inclusion of the projects in the CLRP in the fall.

Outside the Beltway: VDOT completed several public information sessions in February. Final transit scenarios and ridership forecasts, park-and-ride demand, and a full set of potential TDM scenarios will be shared with stakeholders in March. VDOT anticipates holding a public hearing on environmental assessment in May 2015. For information on the project, check VDOT's [website on the I-66 project](#) and [VDOT's briefing of the Transportation Planning Board](#).

Inside the Beltway: The project's baseline cost has been estimated at \$350 million, and will involve conversion to dynamic tolling and HOV 3+ during peak periods in both directions, and widening to three lanes in both directions between Fairfax Drive and I-495. Other elements include enhanced bus services, Metrorail station improvements, and bike and pedestrian projects. VDOT began a toll and revenue study in February to identify funding for the multimodal improvements. VDOT plans public hearings in mid-2015, for construction in 2016 and operations by 2017.

upcoming [events]

Meetings:

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission Meetings

March 5
April 9

NVTC Management Advisory Committee

March 17
April 14

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) Meetings

March 26

Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Meetings

March 18

Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Operations Board

March 20

Transportation Planning Board

March 18
April 15

[Bridj, a new on-demand mass transit service, announced plans to serve DC.](#)

ULI Washington Offers Hands On Assistance

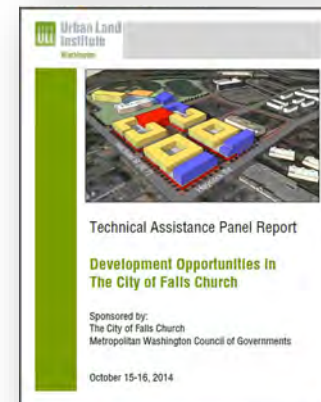
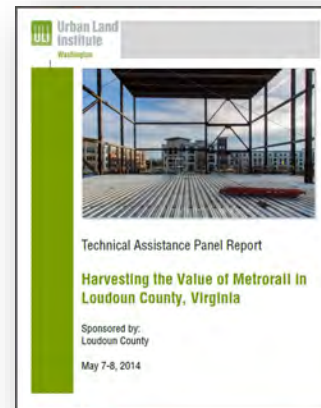
Did you know that [ULI Washington](#) provides expert, multidisciplinary advice to public agencies and non-profit organizations facing complex land use and real estate issues?

Both Loudoun County and the City of Fall Church have used [ULI Washington's Technical Assistance Panels](#) to solve land use challenges.

The [Loudoun County Department of Planning](#) sought ULI's assistance to tackle if the County's Revised General Plan provided recommendations for the County to plan land use to strike a desired and beneficial balance of prompt realization of tax revenues to support future Metrorail operations; maximizing future employment generation; achieving the desired land use pattern; and, minimizing demands on the County's transportation infrastructure.

The [City of Falls Church](#), in cooperation with the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments, recently completed a ULI TAP effort to determine how to plan for and co-locate 10 acres of commercial development alongside a new, state-of-the-art high school that is intended to serve the City over the next 50 years. The panel proposed a series of development steps that would best realize the City's vision for this new development opportunity.

ULI Washington TAP Program is continually accepting applications for this hands-on effort. Visit the [ULI Washington TAP Website](#) for more information.



SAVE THE DATE- MAY 8, 2015

Greensboro Station Conference Center
Lincoln Property Company
1710 SAIC Drive
McLean, VA 22102

For more information: nvtdc@nvtdc.org