



In February, I was struck by the value of regional collaboration and top-notch technical knowledge in improving travel choices for Virginians.

Here's what stood out:

- DRPT grant applications based on \$893 million in eligible costs for WMATA, VRE and local systems.
- February's standing-room-only, joint meeting with PRTC on regional bus; VRE; WMATA safety, service and reliability; and budget and financial management issues.
- Collaboration with the jurisdictions in Planning District 8 to launch a 40-year multimodal program for the I-66 corridor.
- Emergency planning for transit at the Pentagon, assessment of quarterly ridership data, and a financial plan for new transit service on a 14.5-mile stretch of Route 7.
- Two reports - [\*Business Making the Case for Transit\*](#) and [\*Next Steps on BRT to Serve the region\*](#) (coming soon).

With these activities and more, we will help make the ride better for more than a million commuters in the region and businesses from Spotsylvania to Loudoun.

**Kelley Coyner**  
Executive Director

## In this issue

<a href="#">GA in Brief</a> .....	1
<a href="#">I-66 Multimodal Project Update</a> ....	2
<a href="#">NVTC Programs and Projects</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Transportation Planning Board</a> .....	5
<a href="#">Commonwealth Transportation Board</a> .....	5
<a href="#">TransAction</a> .....	5
<a href="#">VRE: Gainesville to Haymarket</a> .....	6
<a href="#">NVTC/PRTC Joint Meeting</a> .....	6
<a href="#">New NVTC Staff</a> .....	6
<a href="#">Mark Your Calendar</a> .....	6

## General Assembly in Brief

### Transit Funding

On Fri., Feb. 26, the House Finance Committee will hear [SB742, which includes a floor on the regional gas tax](#). Meanwhile, [HB1359, which directs a study of the transit capital funding shortfall](#), reported from the Senate Transportation Committee.

### NVTC Governance and Membership

[HB181, to add a Loudoun Commissioner](#), and [HB731, to compensate NVTC's non-elected WMATA Board Members](#), passed both chambers. [HB724, to amend NVTC voting procedures](#), was passed by until next week and [HB725, to change qualifications for NVTC Commissioners](#), was passed by indefinitely.

Budget reports and other relevant bills are [provided on our tracking chart](#).



NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
2300 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 620

Arlington, VA 22201

703-524-3322

[info@nvtc.org](mailto:info@nvtc.org)

[www.novatransit.org](http://www.novatransit.org)

## Transform 66 Multimodal Project

### March Update

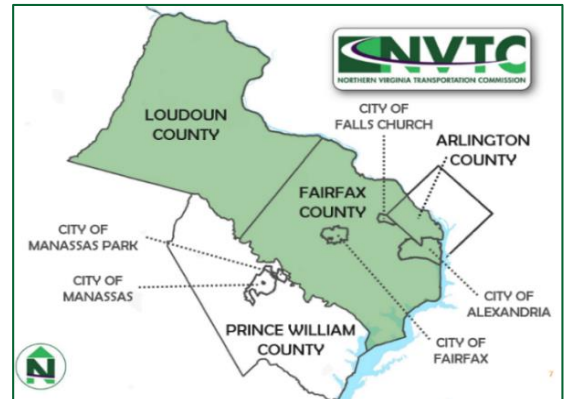
Governor McAuliffe announced a compromise that allows the Commonwealth to move forward with widening I-66 and maintains the multimodal component of Transform 66. NVTC will use toll revenues to increase transit service benefitting the users of I-66 Inside the Beltway and enhance carpool and other TDM strategies throughout the corridor.

The Commonwealth plans to start the environmental reviews and design work necessary to widen this spring. Construction of an additional eastbound lane is expected to start in 2018 and open to traffic in late 2019. VDOT reports that the construction will not take any homes or businesses and will be completely within the existing right of way. Widening will be funded with un-programmed funds, the result of increased revenues from the recently enacted federal FAST Act and an updated state revenue forecast. Toll revenues will not be used to fund the widening.

The Commission will take action on the Call for Components and related matters on March 3.

Read: [VDOT's Inside the Beltway Fact Sheet](#)  
[Governor's I-66 Press Release](#)

## Jurisdictions Eligible for Funding



### Transform 66 Design Public Hearings

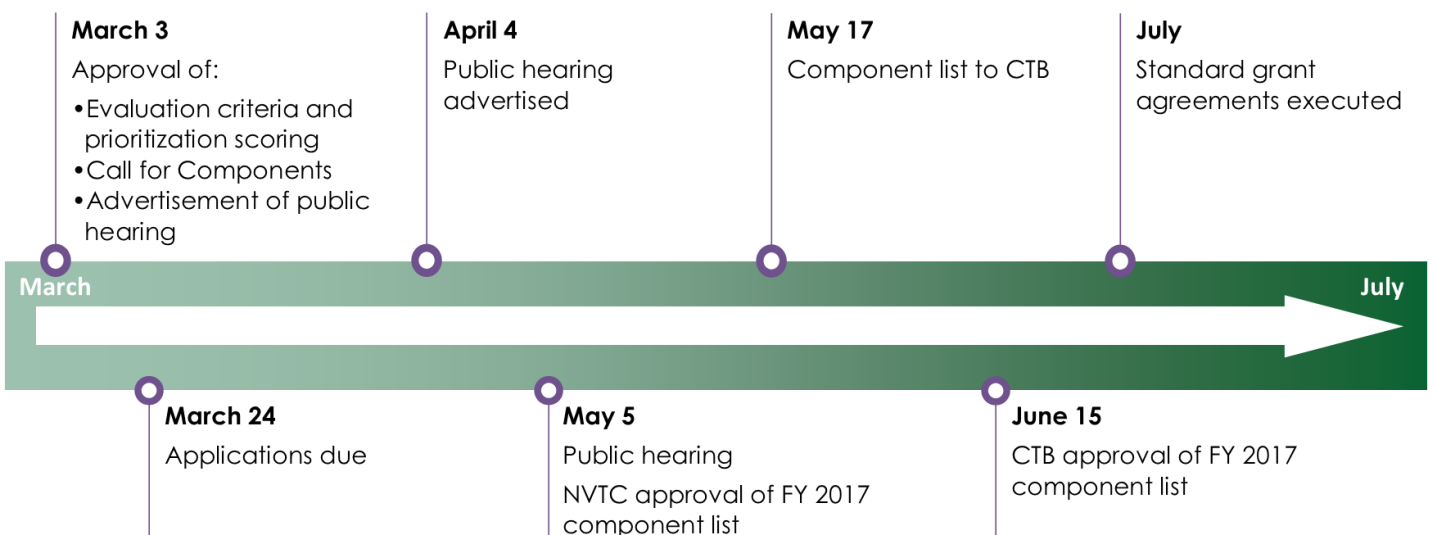
(Hosted by VDOT)

Monday, March 7, 2016  
[Washington-Lee High School](#)

Tuesday, March 8, 2016  
[Eagle Ridge Middle School](#)

Wednesday, March 9, 2016  
[VDOT Northern Virginia District](#)

## Transform 66 Multimodal Project Timeline



## NVTC Programs and Projects Update

### Envision Route 7



In April, NVTC Commissioners will be briefed on the recommended preferred alternative for Envision Route 7. The public will have an opportunity to review the recommended mode and alignment as well as the funding strategy at meetings tentatively scheduled for the week of April 11. The NVTC team is finalizing its analysis and funding strategy for the 14-mile stretch of Route 7 between Alexandria and Tysons. High quality transit on this historic thoroughfare will serve about 9,000 new riders.

Over the coming weeks, NVTC will further engage stakeholders through its [Envision Route 7 website](#) and social media and brief elected officials, transportation groups and staff in the affected jurisdictions. NVTC will also brief the [Northern Virginia Transportation Authority](#).

### Transit Means Business



At its meeting in Richmond, NVTC released [Business Making the Case for Transit](#), which provides an overview of the Transit Means Business program and its statewide importance. The report shares research into how transit supports economic competitiveness in Virginia, and tells the stories of businesses that value transit. Specifically, the document includes:

- Roundtable Report on Transit Means Business Forum
- Case Profiles
- Study: Transit & the NoVa Economy
- Study: Transit & Job Access in Northern Virginia

### Financial / Grants Management

On Feb. 1, NVTC submitted grant applications to DRPT for operating and capital assistance based on \$893 million in eligible costs. The grants – which would help fund WMATA, VRE and local systems – are essential to the successful operation and expansion of our transit systems. Here are key stats for FY 2016. We expect FY 2017 to be similar:

- \$226M in total assistance
- 40 percent of the total is for capital funding for buses, railcars, fare boxes, hybrid bus batteries and bus shelters; the rest is for operating expenses
- \$23M capital and \$20M operating assistance for NoVa bus systems
- \$14M capital, to match federal grants, and \$9M operating assistance for VRE
- \$61M capital and \$99M operating assistance for WMATA

### Emergency Preparedness

#### Station Plans

NVTC continues to develop station-specific plans. Eight stations have been reviewed to date. The Transit Emergency Preparedness Group continued work on Pentagon Station plan in February and March.

NVTC's Fellows are mapping bus, bridge and pedestrian routes and gathering locations for each of the 25 stations in Virginia. These are key tools for planning and for a response. We aim to make these available electronically when they are complete.

#### Exercises and Training

WMATA and the City of Alexandria will conduct a full-scale emergency response drill on March 13 outside the Eisenhower Avenue Metrorail

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Station. The boots on the ground exercise will allow regional first responders to provide emergency response training and familiarization. Participation in such exercises integrates NVTC transit emergency preparedness plans into regional emergency planning efforts.

NVTC's Kate Mattice and Laurel Hammig have attended tabletop exercises to test station-based emergency response plans for facilities in Alexandria and Fairfax.

### Commission Work Session

NVTC, along with representatives from the emergency management community, will report on regional transit emergency preparedness at the April meeting. We will review progress made to date and preview activities designed to fully integrate the planning activities in emergency preparedness programs in NoVa and the National Capital Region.

## Regional Bus Gap Analysis

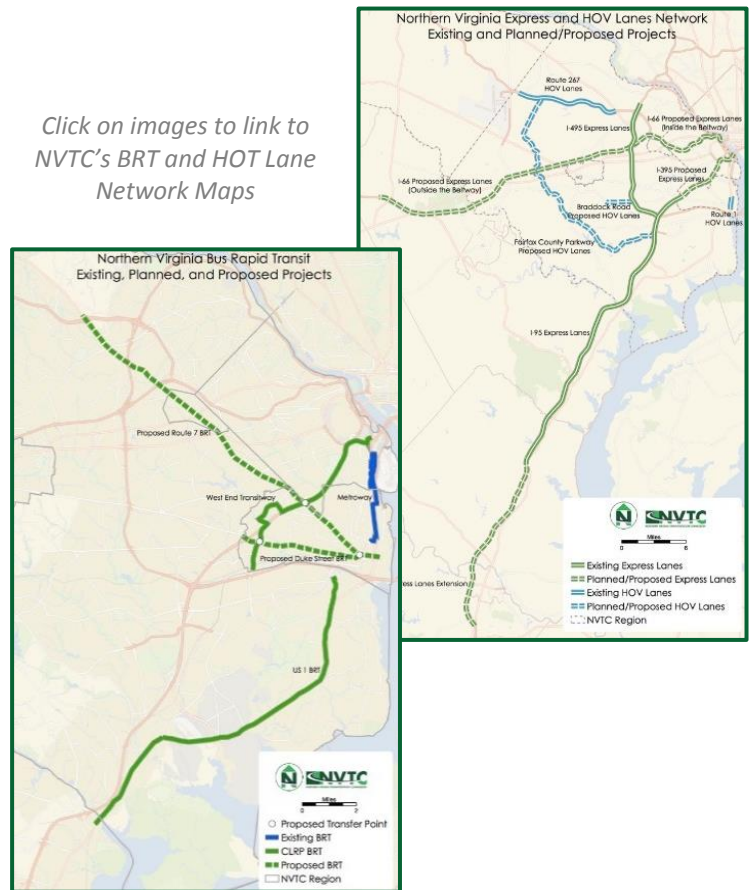
To better understand how bus transit is serving the region and to assess future opportunities for high capacity bus service, NVTC is conducting a series of geospatial-based analyses. Last fall, [NVTC mapped job accessibility in the region](#), showing the number of jobs within a 45-minute commute by transit as well as regionally defined activity centers. New NVTC maps will help the region visualize opportunities for Bus Rapid Transit. These maps highlight the [current, planned and proposed Bus Rapid Transit networks in Northern Virginia](#) and identify the [current, planned, and proposed managed lane \(HOT\) facilities](#) where there are opportunities for expanded commuter and express bus services.

## Next Generation Fare Payment

Following the February 12 receipt of cost estimates, NVTC met first with its regional partners and then with WMATA and Accenture to evaluate the cost estimates and proposed implementation schedule. WMATA has accepted two elements of the NEPP pilot - Metrobus and Metrorail. Full acceptance of all elements of the pilot is a prerequisite for WMATA to proceed with the project. NVTC continues to detail concerns regarding the cost effectiveness and regional implementation of the project.

Concurrently, NVTC is exploring possibilities for an interim solution to address the immediate need for functional fare boxes. WMATA is looking to pilot an interim solution and is researching the implications of that pilot on the quantities and costs that were quoted to the regional partners last fall.

Click on images to link to NVTC's BRT and HOT Lane Network Maps





## Transportation Planning Board

In February, the [Transportation Planning Board](#) reviewed additions to the [Constrained Long Range Plan](#), including the Transform 66 Multimodal Project and the I-395 HOT lanes extension from Duke Street to Eads Street. Virginia TPB board members voiced strong support for using dedicated revenues from the extension of the HOT lanes on I-395 to fund transit and TDM projects in the corridor. Maryland submitted changes to HOV policies on I-270 and US 50.

Project submissions for the [Transportation Land Use Connection](#) (TLC) program are due April 1. The program funds small studies or projects between \$30,000 and \$60,000, such as Loudoun County's 2015 station access project. [A recent evaluation documents TLC program benefits](#) and recommends that the Board increase funding for it.

## Commonwealth Transportation Board

The Commonwealth Transportation Board met February 17 and heard presentations on:

[FY2016 Transportation Alternatives Program applications](#)

[Issuance of Series 2016 Capital Projects Revenue Bonds](#)

[I-395 Express Lanes extension](#)

[State of Good Repair Prioritization Process](#)

[HB2 projects and scores](#)

The CTB affirmed the Commonwealth's support of the [Virginia Beach Light Rail](#) project and encouraged the Virginia Beach City Council to authorize vehicle purchases and execute a MOU by April 30. If these actions are not taken, the CTB may reconsider its \$155 million commitment.

## TransAction

NVTC staff's collaboration on [TransAction](#) will ensure that the long-range plan includes a regional transit investment strategy. Slated for completion in 2017, the plan will contain a needs assessment, now underway. The assessment involves both a review of all jurisdictional plans and public engagement.

[View the new TransAction video](#)



## Upcoming TransAction Meetings

**Thursday, March 17, 2016, 5pm**  
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors  
[1 Harrison St. S.E., Leesburg](#)

**Monday, March 21 at 7:30pm**  
Falls Church City Council  
[300 Park Ave., Falls Church](#)

**Monday, March 28 at 7:30pm**  
Leesburg Town Council  
[25 West Market St., Leesburg](#)

**Tuesday, April 5 at 7pm**  
Herndon Town Council  
[765 Lynn Street, Herndon](#)

## VRE: Gainesville to Haymarket

As part of VRE's plans to [extend its Manassas Line 11 miles through Gainesville to VA Route 15 near Haymarket](#), Norfolk Southern, which owns the existing tracks and right of way, is undertaking a ground survey along the rail line. Survey work will continue through July 31.



VRE's next community meeting on the extension is Apr. 27 at [Gainesville Middle School, 8001 Limestone Drive, Gainesville](#).

## NVTC Welcomes New Staff

**Jen Deci** comes to NVTC from the United States Senate Banking Committee where her portfolio included the public transportation title of the FAST Act. She joins NVTC as a policy analyst.



**Patricia Happ** joins NVTC as a Transit Projects and Policy Manager. As an engineer and planner, Patricia will lead research and planning projects and serve as NVTC's coordinator of VRE matters.



## NVTC & PRTC Meet in Richmond

The Speaker's Conference Room was filled to capacity with NVTC and PRTC Commissioners, legislators and other state officials interested in the details of the I-66 compromise and updates on transit services and programs. The joint NVTC/PRTC meeting on February 11 featured the release of NVTC's [Business Making the Case for Transit](#) and the screening of [a video featuring testimonials in support of PRTC bus service](#). Presentations included:

### Regional Bus

Frank Principi, PRTC Chair

### VRE

Gary Skinner, VRE Operations Board Chair

### WMATA

Jim Corcoran, WMATA Board Member

### DRPT

Jennifer Mitchell, DRPT Director

### I-66

Nick Donohue, Dep. Sec. of Transportation

## Mark Your Calendar

- Mar. 3 [NVTC Monthly Meeting](#)
- Mar. 7-9 [I-66 Toll Design Public Hearings](#)
- Mar. 10 [NVTA Monthly Meeting](#)
- Mar. 13-15 [APTA Legislative Conference \(DC\)](#)
- Mar. 15-16 [CTB Meeting](#)
- Mar. 16 [Transportation Planning Board](#)
- Mar. 18 [VRE Operations Board](#)
- Mar. 24 [I-66 Component Applications Due](#)
- Apr. 7 [NVTC Monthly Meeting](#)
- Apr. 26 [GMU 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual P3 Forum](#)
- Apr. 27 [VRE GHX Community Meeting](#)
- May 24-25 [VTA Annual Conference](#)

[Link to NVTC's Annual Calendar](#)