

Spread the Word: Transit Means Business Forum May 8

Explore our new webpage for the NVTC’s Forum: [Transit Means Business!](#) on May 8th, at the Greensboro Conference Center. The website features the preliminary agenda and easy ways you can spread the word with ready-to-use newsletter text and a flyer. The region’s business groups and research institutions are partnering with us to highlight what transit means to business and economic competitiveness in our region and in the Commonwealth.



New Home: www.NoVAtransit.org

We went live with a new website and a new url: www.NoVAtransit.org. You can still find information about the Commission and its activities. Plus you will find NoVa transit news, maps, information on VRE and WMATA as well as how to get where you need to go on any of the systems in the region. We are featuring ready access to ridership data and key issues for the region. Let us know what you would like to see and stay tuned as we use this to achieve our vision of providing high quality transit that serve Virginia’s riders and businesses.



Comment on HB2 Framework & VTRANS Vision

NVTC is working with member jurisdictions and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority to assess and provide comments on a the “HB2 Draft Process and Measure” and the recently released “VTRANS Vision for a New Virginia” multimodal long range plan. On March 18th Deputy Secretary of Transportation Nick Donohue, [presented the Commonwealth Transportation Board with an overview of the complete HB2 process](#). A [draft of the HB2 Implementation Policy Guide](#) was released to the public the same day. [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.

Comprehensive information about HB2 is available at www.virginiahb2.org.

In this issue

- Transit Means Business! 1
- NVTC New Website 1
- HB2 & VTRANS..... 1
- WMATA Updates 2
- Route 7 Outreach 2
- I-66 Developments 3
- Upcoming Events..... 3
- NVTC Website Links..... 4
- ULI Technical Assistance..... 4

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WMATA News

Safety and Emergency Planning

March 26th NVTC's Kate Mattice participated in an emergency planning workshop with WMATA and emergency management offices across the region. This resulted in several action steps recommended by NVTC Fellow Andrew Lauland designed to update the surface transit component of WMATA's core emergency plan and station plans.

As noted in last month's report:

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

NTSB Recommendations: 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. NTSB Public Hearings related to the January 12th incident are scheduled for June 23rd and 24th.

FTA Safety Review: An [FTA safety review](#) is upcoming, and 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 region's fire departments.

WMATA Virginia Ridership February 2015			
	Feb. 2014	Feb. 2015	Percent Change
MetroRail			
Total	7,215,604	7,526,830	4.3%
Weekday Average	289,132	306,738	6.1%
Metrobus			
Total	1,526,866	1,439,479	-5.7%
Weekday Average	72,539	67,352	-7.2%
MetroAccess			
Total	22,927	22,384	-2.4%

2nd Quarter NVTC Ridership Report

WMATA Receives [Approval to Conduct a Public Hearing for the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Project](#)

Metro has unveiled some [new safety preparedness videos](#), and the Safety & Security landing page will get a new look next week.

WMATA Briefs Board on [Preliminary Results of MetroAccess Long-Term Sustainability Study](#)

The [first 7000-series train](#) will serve the Blue Line, starting on April 14. It will be an eight-car train.



Route 7 Outreach

On March 22nd Chairman Dave Snyder participated in a panel discussion with the Falls Church League of Women Voters. He was joined by Supervisor Penny Gross. Route 7 Project Manager Claire Randall and Executive Director Kelley Coyner participated as well.

In early April, NVTC will launch the project website and other outreach activities designed to inform communities and business in the corridor about the study and how they can contribute.

Note: We put together a presentation-to-go including a large map of the corridor. Let us know if you would like it.

Secretary Layne Agrees to NVTC Role in I-66 Efforts

Secretary Aubrey Layne accepted the recommendations of Arlington County, Fairfax County and the City of Falls Church to designate NVTC as the regional partner to help implement the multimodal components of the I-66 Inside the Beltway project. The project will involve conversion to dynamic tolling and HOV 3+ during peak periods in both directions, enhanced bus services, Metrorail station improvements, and bike and pedestrian projects. NVTC, in cooperation with local jurisdictions will plan multimodal improvements, select multimodal improvements for funding, consistent with applicable law and terms of the agreement, coordinate with applicable local governments to ensure the efficiency of the projects, and report to the Commonwealth on the use of funds to help improve person throughput in the corridor.

VDOT plans to complete a toll and revenue study in May to identify the anticipated level funding available for the multimodal improvements. VDOT plans public hearings in mid-2015, for construction to begin in 2016, and operations by 2017.

TPB Actions: 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.

Outside the Beltway: VDOT has planned public hearings on the environmental assessment for May and June 2015, and has held ongoing briefings with a wide range of stakeholder groups.

Information about I-66 projects both inside and outside the Beltway is available at www.transform66.org.

upcoming [events]

Events:

Stand Up for Transportation Day
April 9

NVTC Forum: Transit Means Business
May 8

VTA Annual Conference
May 20-21

Workshops/Hearings:

Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) - tentative dates
Hampton Roads Workshop April 14-15
SYIP Public Hearing April 28
Northern Virginia Workshop May 19-20

Legislative Activities:

General Assembly Veto Session
April 15

Meetings:

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission Meetings
April 9
May 8

NVTC Management Advisory Committee
April 14
May 19

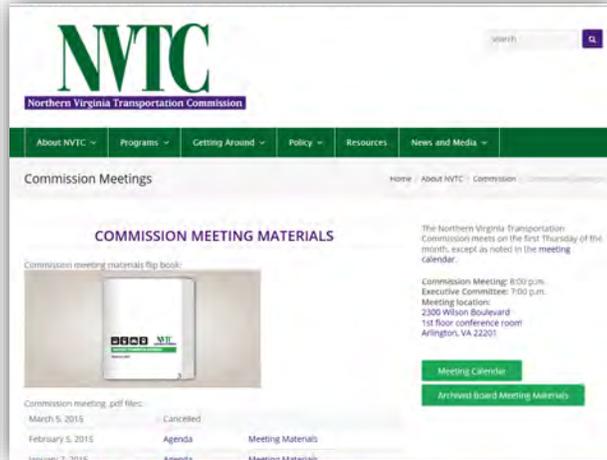
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) Meetings
April 23
May 28

Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Operations Board
April 17
May 15

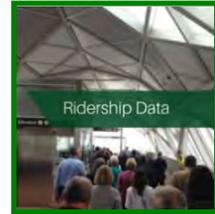
Transportation Planning Board (TPB)
April 15
May 20

NVTC online has a new look and a new address: www.NoVATransit.org

Click on the images to link directly to key features of the site!



Commuter Benefits



Ridership Data



Key Transit Issues

ULI Washington Offers Hands On Assistance

Did you know that [ULI Washington](http://www.uli-washington.com) 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 Falls Church have used [ULI Washington's Technical Assistance Panels](http://www.uli-washington.com) to solve land use challenges.

The [Loudoun County Department of Planning](http://www.loudoun.gov) 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](http://www.fallschurchva.gov), 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](http://www.uli-washington.com) for more information.

