



As dust from the General Assembly session settles, NVTC staff have rolled up their sleeves and begun unpacking the omnibus transit bill. There's a lot to sift through and evaluate. WMATA funding grabbed the headlines but this bill is chockful of provisions with implications for NVTC and transit agencies – Metro, VRE and five bus systems – that operate in Northern Virginia.

While NVTC has long been charged with the funding and stewardship of WMATA, our level of responsibility is elevated by this bill, which has yet to be signed by the Governor. It directs NVTC to obtain information from WMATA regarding its budget, independent audits, National Transit Database profile, and more. To ensure WMATA's compliance, penalties – ranging from the withholding of 20-100 percent of funding from Virginia – are established. NVTC is working with WMATA staff to determine what information currently is reported and what may need to be added. How and to what extent NVTC embraces this new role is a topic for the Commission to consider moving forward. We will need to explore how best to meet the General Assembly's expectations given existing resources.

Another set of mandates requiring changes to the allocation of state transit funding, could have repercussions in Northern Virginia. As a member of TSDAC, I have been working to ensure the fairness of any prioritization formula given transit's importance to economic development and quality of life in our region. Of particular concern is assuring that transit agencies with a history of poor maintenance not be rewarded with additional funds for bus replacement, which could imperil current levels of state transit capital investment in our region. Meanwhile, a provision pertaining to operating assistance would base state funding on service factors, effective in 2020. Just a portion of these funds are now allocated in that manner.

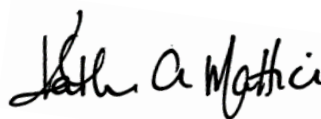
A final provision would require transit agencies with 20+ buses to develop a strategic plan every five years to assess operational efficiencies.

NVTC has connected with NVTA, VRE and CTB about another bill requiring an annual, joint public hearing, designed to allow for public comment on projects proposed by each entity in Planning District 8.

With Virginia's budget in limbo, so too are budget amendments that could affect NVTC and transit agencies. Two address tolling on I-66, funds from which are used in part to support NVTC's I-66 Commuter Choice program. The provisions direct VDOT to reevaluate and implement by this July 1 changes to the algorithm that sets toll amounts and to begin dynamic tolling on reverse commute routes following the completion of the I-66 eastbound widening project inside the Beltway.

A final amendment could change the House of Delegates' representation on NVTC by allowing the Speaker to appoint Commissioners from the public. Currently the four House seats must be filled by sitting Delegates.

The legislature's regular session has left NVTC with much work and the second special session may add to that. Staff are moving ahead, ensuring that when time comes to implement these mandates, NVTC will be ahead of the curve.



Executive Director

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



Key Dates

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Apr. 30 | CTB SYIP Public Hearing |
| May 3 | NVTC Monthly Meeting |
| May 10 | WMATA Board Meeting |
| May 10 | NVTA Monthly Meeting |
| May 15-16 | CTB Monthly Meeting |
| May 16 | TPB Monthly Meeting |
| May 18 | VRE Operations Board Meeting |
| May 24 | WMATA Board Meeting |
| May 31 | VA WMATA Board Member Forum |
| June 7 | NVTC Monthly Meeting |

NVTC Issues Two Requests for Proposals

NVTC is soliciting proposals for services pertaining to two projects – Envision Route 7 bus rapid transit (BRT) and National Transit Database (NTD) reporting. The Commission will be asked to award contracts for both projects at its June meeting.



For Envision Route 7, NVTC is looking for [a qualified firm to conduct a conceptual engineering study](#) along the length of the defined corridor. The study will help identify and allow for mitigation of possible fatal flaws or locations of concern, including issues related to right-of-way and/or structural limitations. Representatives from nine firms attended a pre-proposal conference at NVTC's offices on April 2 during which Dan Goldfarb, transit planning and programs manager, provided an overview of and responded to questions about the request for proposals. The deadline for proposals is May 4 at 2 p.m.

The NTD request for proposals seeks a qualified firm to [annually update sampling plans, complete data collection, and prepare reports](#) on behalf of some or all of NVTC's member jurisdictions and, possibly, Virginia Railway Express. Proposals are due to NVTC by 2 p.m. on May 18.

Forum Gives Elected Officials Insight into Transportation Issues

Providing clarity so that elected leaders understand the roles and responsibilities of organizations involved in transportation in Northern Virginia was the goal of forum in which NVTC recently participated. The Apr. 23 event at George Mason University's Arlington campus attracted more than 20 officials – including NVTC Commissioners Sen. Adam Ebbin, Del. Dave LaRock and Fairfax Sup. Cathy Hudgins – who heard about [collaboration and coordination of transportation planning, policy de-](#)

[velopment, and funding](#) between NVTC and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, Virginia Department of Transportation, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission, and Virginia Railway Express (VRE). Executive Director Kate Mattice spoke to NVTC's unique role in the region as the voice of transit and its governance and stewardship of Metro and VRE.



NVTC Executive Director Kate Mattice speaks to her agency's unique role as the voice of transit in Northern Virginia.



VRE CEO Doug Allen describes the railroad's plans to add capacity by running longer trains and improving and extending station platforms.



**Attend Virginia Transit Association's
2018 Transit Conference in Richmond
May 22-23**



I-66 Commuter Choice Working Group Reviews Projects for Funding

Five NVTC Commissioners — Dave Snyder, John Foust, Matt Letourneau, Jeff Greenfield and Libby Garvey — met with NVTC and jurisdictional staff in mid-April at Fairfax City Hall to review the slate of projects proposed for funding under the I-66 Commuter Choice program. The slate, developed by consultants and a group of staff from NVTC and some PRTC jurisdictions and transit agencies, are diverse in terms of geography and modality and designed to benefit toll payers in the I-66 corridor. The slate will be considered by the Commission at its May meeting. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will review the projects in May and vote on them in June.



TSDAC Continues Work on Transit Capital Prioritization Formula

In response to a General Assembly mandate, Virginia's Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee (TSDAC), of which NVTC Executive Director Kate Mattice is a member, began work [to develop a prioritization approach for state transit capital funding](#). TSDAC members reviewed illustrative scoring of the fiscal year 2018 program of state transit capital funding based upon the age and condition of the item that the funds would pay to replace. Most state funds for transit capital are used to

replace buses and build facilities. The omnibus transit funding bill, which awaits the Governor's signature, requires all state capital funding to be allocated based on some type of prioritization. Of concern to Northern Virginia transit agencies is assuring that systems not be rewarded with funds for additional buses when poor maintenance is behind the need for replacement. TSDAC is on a fast track, as a prioritization formula must be in place by December 1.

visualize2045

A LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Arlington County

Wed., May 2 | 6:30-8:30 P.M. | Arlington County Central Library Aud.

Fairfax County

Tues., May 8 | 7-9 P.M. | Providence Community Center

Loudoun County

Wed., May 16 | 7-9 P.M. | Government Center



VRE's Meet the Management Returns

Spring is synonymous with VRE's [Meet the Management](#). Armed with refreshments, managers greet riders, listening to any complaints or comments and responding to questions. Managers will discuss midday train storage, transportation benefits, the Alexandria pedestrian tunnel, station improvements, VRE mobile ticketing, and safety, among other things. Meet the Management begins Wed., May 9 at Union Station for evening trains. Other dates are May 16 (@ L'Enfant), May 23 (@Crystal City), May 30 (@ Alexandria), and June 6 (@Franconia/Springfield).



RIDE

VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE



NEW ISSUE
NOW AVAILABLE
ONLINE

NVTC Jurisdictions to Sponsor Bike to Work Day Pit Stops

On Fri., May 18, thousands of commuters from around the region will take part in Bike to Work Day, an annual event that promotes bicycling as an eco-friendly, fun and healthy way to get to work. The first 20,000 who register for the will receive a t-shirt at their selected pit stop. All NVTC member jurisdictions are hosting pit stops. There are five in the [City of Alexandria](#), nine in

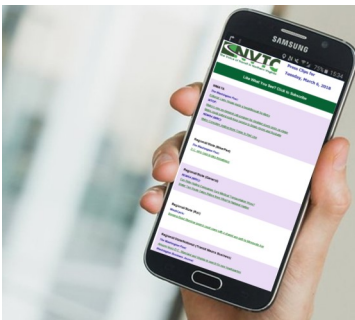
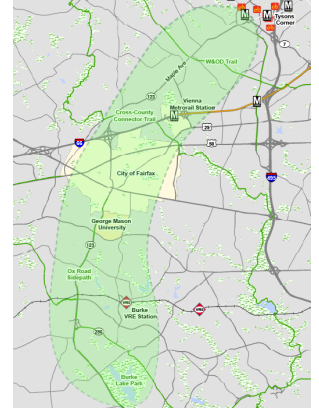
[Arlington County](#), one each in the cities of [Fairfax](#) and [Falls Church](#), 17 in [Fairfax County](#), and two in [Loudoun County](#). [Registration is free](#). Bike to Work Day was created by the League of American Bicyclists in 1956. In the metropolitan Washington region, the event has grown from a few hundred participants in 2001 to more than 18,000 last year.



Town & Gown Partnership to Explore Feasibility of Expanded Bike Share

George Mason University, the City of Fairfax, Fairfax County and the Town of Vienna will jointly evaluate the benefits, opportunities and challenges associated with bringing bikeshare to their communities. The study will explore how a bikeshare system would be used to travel within and throughout these communities as well as to connect to the metropolitan region. It also will identify what type of bike share system will be most successful and where shared bicycles and other bike share infrastructure should be located. Study staff will conduct "pop-up" events throughout the spring and summer to

talk about the bike share study. Input also is being accepted online through a [crowdsourcing map](#) that allows for suggestions about bike share station locations and a [survey](#) that inquires about level of interest in bikeshare, how it might be used, and preference as to a type of system.



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Join Virginia's WMATA Board Members for a Discussion of the Challenges & Opportunities in Getting Metro Back on Track

Forum is open to the public and accessible via Metrorail

Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 7 p.m.
Providence Community Center
3001 Vaden Drive
Fairfax, Virginia

This forum, which includes a presentation and question/answer session, is sponsored by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. Learn more about NVTC and the upcoming forum at www.novatransit.org.



Transportation Planning Board



TPB recently approved more than [\\$5 million in funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects](#) in Northern Virginia. The projects were selected in part based on how well they advance regional priorities, such as improving accessibility for communities with high concentrations of low-income and/or minority populations and people with disabilities, and for enhancing walkability to schools and transit. Among the 11 projects are \$800,000 for bike connection improvements to Vienna Metro, \$480,000 for the Fair Lakes Boulevard walkway, and \$392,000 for ADA improvements in the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor.

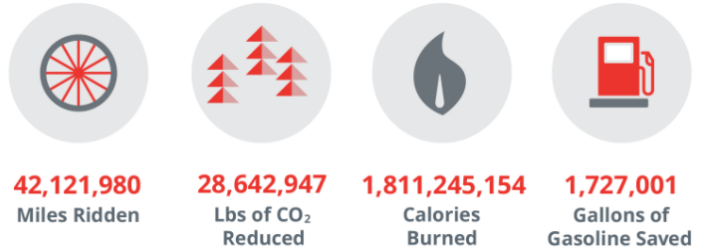


Capital Bikeshare



To celebrate its [upcoming 20 millionth ride](#), Capital Bikeshare (CaBi) is giving away five lifetime memberships and 15 additional "fun prizes" to anyone who finds a golden key that has been hidden under the seats of 20 rental bikes. The company says anyone who finds a golden key should send a direct message to Capital Bikeshare's their Twitter account (@bikeshare) to retrieve the prize. CaBi has been operating in the region since 2012. The company has more 4,300 bikes and 499 stations accessible across the region, including Arlington and Fairfax counties and the City of Alexandria.

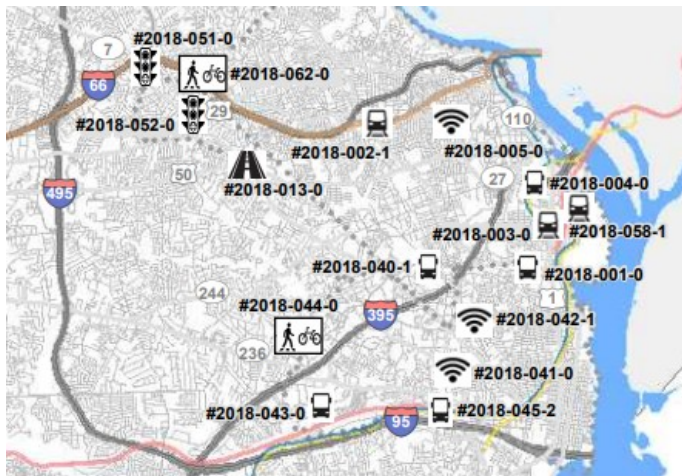
The Impact of 20 Million Rides



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority



NVTA has [released its slate of transportation projects](#) for the fiscal year 2018-2023 Six Year Program and is [accepting public comment through Sun., May 20](#). There are several ways – online or via mail or email – to share thoughts and opinions. NVTA has planned seven public outreach events, between April 29 and May 18, during which staff will solicit public comment. For additional information, [contact Sarah Camille Hipp](#).



PRTC's OmniRide



OmniRide bus operator Mohamed Elatrebi won the 2018 Virginia State Bus Rodeo in Lynchburg and will test his skills at an international competition later this spring. Elatrebi captured first place in the 40-foot bus category on March 18 by successfully maneuvering his vehicle through a timed obstacle course while demonstrating driving skills such as backing up into 90-degree turns and pulling the bus within 6 inches of the curb. He and the 13 other bus operators who competed in the 40-foot category were graded on a written test, uniform, and a pre-trip bus inspection during which they identified simulated problems with the vehicle. This was the fourth time Elatrebi competed at the state-wide rodeo. His best finish was 4th place in 2016. Elatrebi advances to the International Bus Rodeo, which will be held in May in Tampa, Florida.

