

Executive Director Report

October 2016



As I read the newly released “State of the Commute,” I was reminded of NVTC’s unique role as a champion for transit and its ability to tackle the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. With solo driving on the decline – a nearly 10 percent drop over the past 15 years – “transit and teleworking have seen the biggest gains,” notes the Transportation Planning Board in its triennial report. By serving as a forum for the discussion of transit issues, NVTC is the voice of transit in Northern Virginia.

Broader recognition of NVTC’s distinct role has resulted in opportunities for our organization to help solve regional and statewide issues and to educate businesses and residents about transit’s many benefits. The Commonwealth’s Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee, of which I am a member, is providing technical support to an appointed advisory board charged with identifying new revenue sources to replace expiring bonds and prioritizing transit capital funds. This effort is especially important to NVTC, as we are tasked with the funding and stewardship of both WMATA and Virginia Railway Express, which together provided 120 million passenger trips in Northern Virginia during FY2015.

Over the past few years, NVTC has become the go-to organization for presentations to business and civic groups. During October, I will participate in a session with WMATA GM/CEO Paul Wiedefeld at the Governor’s Transportation Conference and with WMATA Board Member and NVTC Commissioner Jim Corcoran and others at a breakfast sponsored by the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance. The Tysons Partnership has invited NVTC to bring the message of our Envision Route 7 project – bus rapid transit along Route 7 – to its upcoming open house. And, NVTC will host two events in October – a state transit update by DRPT Director Jennifer Mitchell to our Transit Means Business partners and a transit tour for members of the General Assembly.

Given the importance of transit to our economy and quality of life, it is incumbent upon NVTC to continue to speak strongly and with one voice to ensure that our bus and rail systems have the support necessary to serve the businesses and residents who call Northern Virginia home.

~ *Kate Mattice*
Acting Executive Director

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Key Dates

Oct. 7	TPB Tech Cmte Meeting
Oct. 11	TPB Monthly Meeting
Oct. 13	NVTA Monthly Meeting
Oct. 14	VTA Fall Board Meeting
Oct. 19	VRE GHX Tech Cmte Meeting
Oct. 18-19	CTB Meeting (Crystal City)
Oct. 19-21	Gov’s Transportation Conf
Oct. 21	VRE Ops Bd Monthly Meeting
Oct. 26	NOVA Alliance Trnsprt Seminar
Nov. 3	NVTC Monthly Meeting



Join PRTC for its 30th Anniversary
Community Celebration

Saturday, October 8
11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
at the PRTC Transit Center

Transform 66 October Update

As installation of tolling equipment for Transform 66 Inside the Beltway shifts into high gear, NVTC and the grantees of its Multimodal Project have defined the measures NVTC will use to determine the various components' effectiveness in meeting the goals of the [Memorandum of Agreement](#) (MOA) between NVTC and the Commonwealth. These measures have been incorporated as individual addendums into the Standard Component Agreement (SCA), which will be presented to the Commission at its October meeting. Commissioners also will consider amendments to the MOA at the meeting.



Workers install electrical conduit for the new rush-hour tolling system

NVTC-Approved Multimodal Components

- Bus Stop Consolidation and Accessibility Improvements
- Peak Period Service Expansion to ART Bus Route 55
- Peak Period Service Expansion to Metrobus Route 2A
- Loudoun County Stone Ridge Enhanced Transit
- Fairfax Connector Express Bus, Gov. Center to State Dept.
- PRTC Gainesville to Pentagon Commuter Service
- Expanded TDM Outreach to the I-66 Corridor
- Expanded Transit Access, through Capital Bikeshare
- Loudoun County Transportation Demand Management
- Multimodal Real-Time Transportation Information Screens

NVTC's Transform 66 website is updated regularly. Visit www.novatransit.org/i66multimodal to learn more.



Meanwhile, VDOT's contractor has been installing many of the 125 signs and eight overhead toll collection gantries that need to be put in place by next year. As a result, the contractor is working in as many as 12 locations at the same time. While the project includes lane, shoulder and ramp closures on I-66 and local roads, work that could affect traffic is occurring only overnight and at midday.

Scheduled for completion by fall 2017, Transform 66 Inside the Beltway is designed to deliver more reliable trips for transit riders and carpoolers, as well as a new travel choice for solo drivers.

I-95/I-395 Express Lanes Update

As part of the [I-395 Express Lanes Extension](#) project, VDOT has [posted an online survey](#) to obtain ideas and feedback on what would be the best ways to improve travel in the I-95/I-395 corridor. Improvements will support mobility, economic development, and sustainability goals for communities along the corridor. The confidential survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete.

VDOT will hold two design public hearings on the project, which will extend the I-395 express lanes for 8 miles between the Turkeycock Run interchange just north of Edsall Road and Eads Street near the Pentagon. The hearings run from 6:30-8:30 p.m., with a formal presentation at 7 p.m.

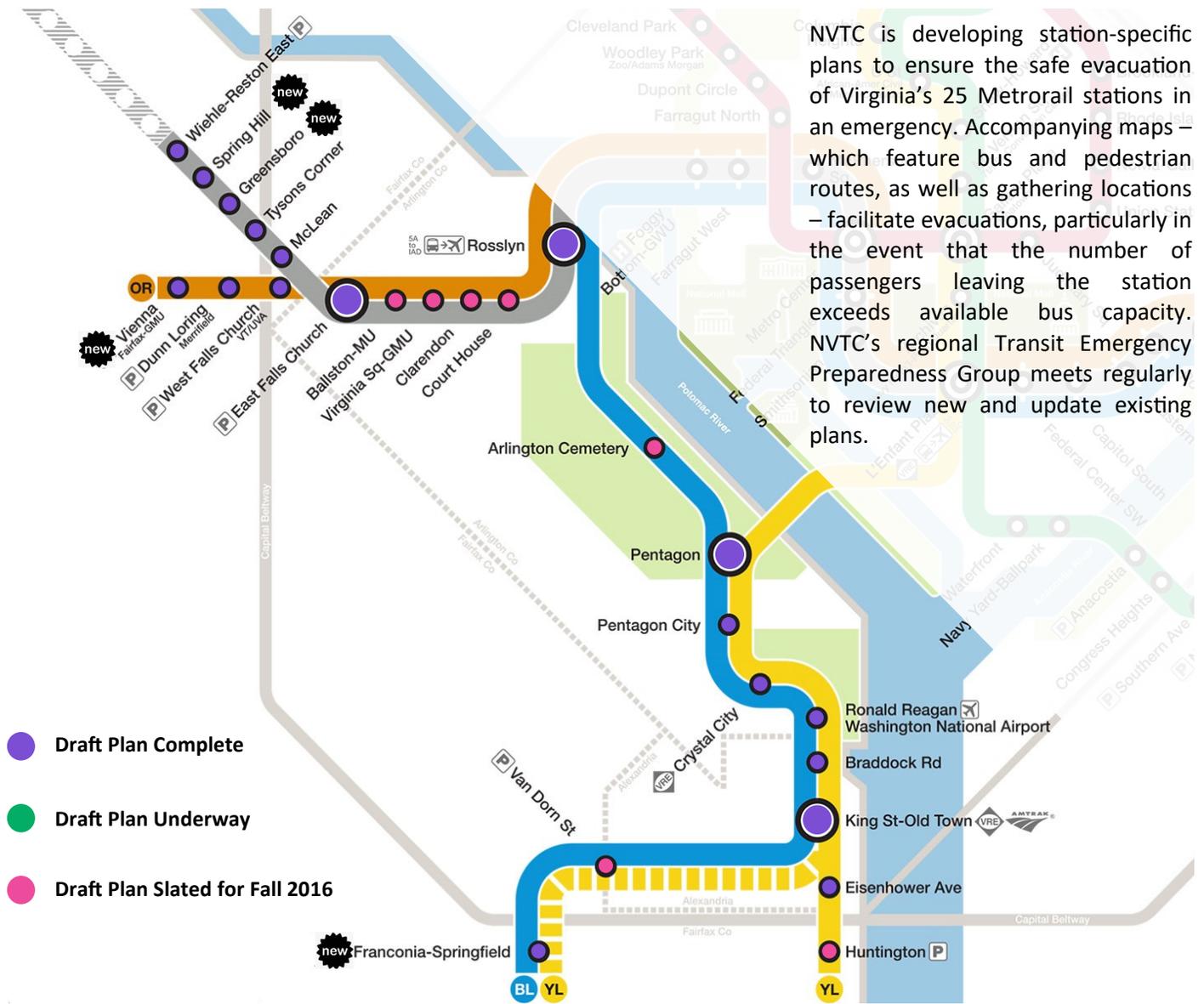
Mon., Oct. 24	Wed., Oct 26
Wakefield High School	Francis C. Hammond Middle School
1325 S. Dinwiddie St.	4646 Seminary Road
Arlington, VA 22206	Alexandria, VA 22304

VDOT's current schedule calls for construction to begin in spring 2017 and wrap up in summer 2019.



NVTC Completes 18 Emergency Plan Drafts for VA's Metrorail Stations

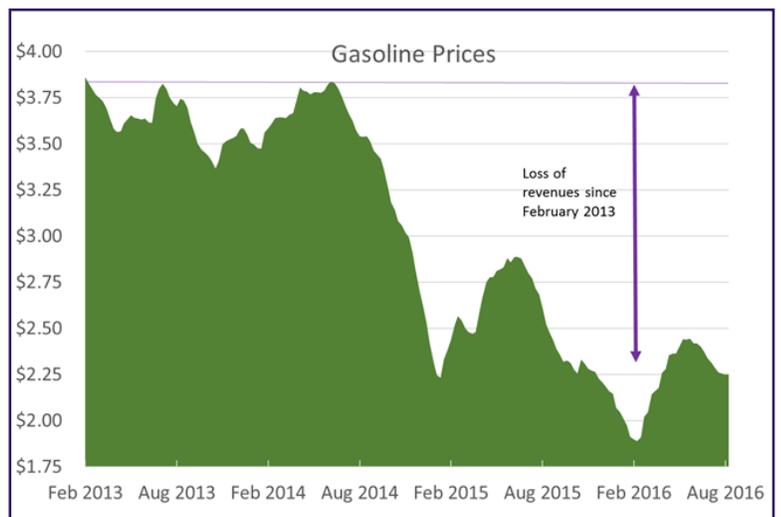
NVTC is developing station-specific plans to ensure the safe evacuation of Virginia's 25 Metrorail stations in an emergency. Accompanying maps – which feature bus and pedestrian routes, as well as gathering locations – facilitate evacuations, particularly in the event that the number of passengers leaving the station exceeds available bus capacity. NVTC's regional Transit Emergency Preparedness Group meets regularly to review new and update existing plans.



Decline in Motor Fuels Tax Revenues Persists

A comparison of regional motor fuels tax revenues in 2013, when the tax was enacted, and 2016 shows a 40 percent decline this past fiscal year. Because there is no floor on the 2.1 percent tax, revenues have fallen as gas prices plummeted. As a result, in the last year and a half alone, NVTC experienced a loss of \$23.1 million.

Fuels tax revenues allow NVTC's WMATA compact members — Arlington and Fairfax counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church — to fulfill their financial obligations to the transit agency. The tax is collected by the Commonwealth of Virginia and remitted to NVTC, where it is held in trust for NVTC member jurisdictions' restricted use.



WMATA Revises SafeTrack, NVTC Coordinates Regional Response

[Adjustments to Metro’s SafeTrack schedule](#), announced in mid-September, include a break from track repairs from Dec. 21 through the start of the new year.

A planned shutdown of a segment of the Red Line has been pushed to the end of October. Orange and Silver Line repairs originally scheduled for early November will begin after Thanksgiving and end prior to Christmas. That surge, number 11 out of 15, involves continuous single-tracking between the East Falls Church and West Falls Church Metrorail Stations.

Metro also reshuffled the order of some of its 2017 surges to reduce the impact of extreme cold on above-ground work zones. Updated SafeTrack schedule information for 2017 will be announced in December with specific start and end dates.

NVTC continues to coordinate NoVa’s SafeTrack response, holding weekly calls that allow stakeholders to gain clarity on issues and provide feedback. These calls allow local transit systems to modify service to ensure that residents have travel options as Metro works to fix track issues affecting passenger safety.

Date	Stations Affected	Lines Affected	Service Status
Oct. 29 - Nov. 22	NoMa-Gallaudet-Fort Totten	RL	Line segment shutdown
Nov. 28 - Dec. 21	East Falls Church-West Falls Church	OL SL	Single tracking at all times
Early Jan.	Braddock Road-Van Dorn St/Huntington	YL BL	Single tracking, weekend shutdowns
Late Jan. - Early Feb.	Rosslyn-Pentagon	BL	Line segment shutdown
Mar.	Braddock Road-Van Dorn St/Huntington	YL BL	Single tracking, weekend shutdowns
Late Mar.-Apr.	Greenbelt-College Park	GL	Single tracking, weekend shutdowns

Plan to Attend the Governor’s Transportation Conference

[Join Gov. Terry McAuliffe and Transportation Secretary Aubrey Layne](#) at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City, Oct. 19-21, for a transportation extravaganza. Take a deep dive into transit and roadway issues affecting the Commonwealth.

Prior to the noon kick-off of the [Governor’s Transportation Conference](#), NVTC will host a transit tour for members of the General Assembly who will be in town for a joint meeting of the House and Senate committees that deal with transportation. The tour will take place aboard an ART bus and highlight Metroway, VRE and I-395.

NVTC Acting Executive Director Kate Mattice and WMATA GM/CEO Paul Wiedefeld will headline a 4 p.m. session on Wednesday focused on Metrorail. The 45-minute session will feature brief presentations and allow ample time for questions and answers.





12TH ANNUAL

What You Need To Know About Transportation

2016

October 26, 7:30 - 9:45 am
Waterford at Fair Oaks

Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance

Speakers & Panelists:

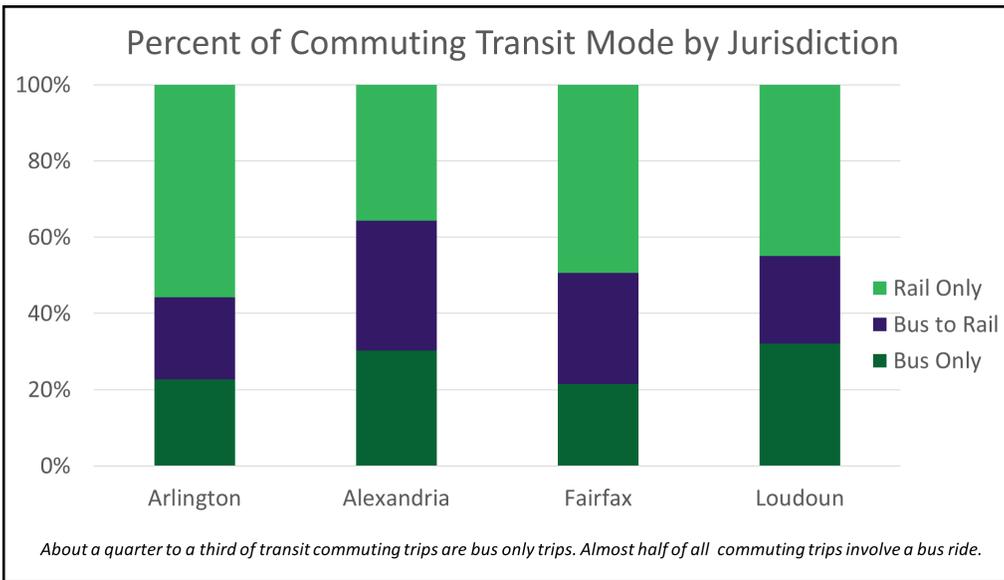
Aubrey Layne (Transportation Sec.)
Kate Mattice (NVTC)
Jim Corcoran (WMATA Board)
Doug Allen (VRE)
Marty Nohe (NVTA)
Helen Cuervo (VDOT)

[CLICK FOR DETAILS](#)

Commuters' Favored Mode of Transit Differs by Jurisdiction

Preliminary analysis of transit data in support of NVTC's Regional Bus Agenda underscores the importance of transit to Northern Virginia. It provides mobility and access to residents in and visitors to the region. The transit system provides comprehensive coverage across the region and throughout the day, but the vast majority of transit trips are taken by commuters getting to and from work.

Loudoun County has the highest percentage of transit trips that use only bus as the primary transit commuting mode. Loudoun County Transit operates morning and late-afternoon rush hour service from park-and-ride lots in Loudoun to Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station; Rosslyn; Crystal City; the Pentagon; and several locations in Washington, D.C.



Arlington County boasts the highest percentage of commuters using only Metrorail, while the City of Alexandria has the greatest percentage of commuters riding the bus to connect to Metrorail.

Nearly half of all commuting trips in the four jurisdictions involve a bus ride — with the lowest percentage (just over 40) in Arlington and the greatest percentage (just over 60) in Alexandria.

Around Town: Headlines from NVTC Jurisdictions & Partners



[Public input sought on bus loop improvements at Metro's King St-Old Town Station](#)

[DASH GM Sandy Modell to Retire](#)

[Arlington & Alexandria Among The 50 Best Bike Cities of 2016](#)

[Redfin Ranks Arlington & Alexandria Among Best Mid-Sized Cities for Public Transit](#)



[Lyft to put new regional HQ in Crystal City](#)

[Arlington County Board Paves Way for New Ballston Quarter Pedestrian Bridge](#)



[With a \\$2.45 billion federal loan, Amtrak set for upgraded trains, stations](#)



[Fairfax Co. wants trucks blocked from new I-66 lanes, citing noise, higher tolls](#)



[Supervisors talk transportation, growth and community needs at first planning retreat](#)

[Silver Line envisioned as a community corridor](#)

[A Bike-Friendlier Loudoun is in the Making](#)



[Metrorail on Track \(Sept. 2016 issue\)](#)

[MWAA moving from Reagan National to Crystal City office building](#)



[SafeTrack Surge 8 Report](#)

[Tens of Thousands of Customers Relied on Metrobus During SafeTrack Surges 3 and 4](#)

[Metrorail Usage Data to Inform Analysis of the Budget Proposal Regarding Early Closures](#)

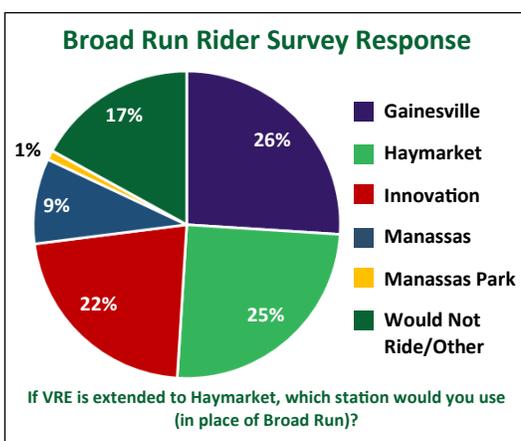
[Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure – Quantifying the Return on Investment](#)

[Metro adds 28 new digital ad displays to increase revenue](#)

Virginia Railway Express



A survey of VRE Broad Run passengers shows that 83 percent would continue to ride were the station to close as part of the [Gainesville-Haymarket extension \(GHX\)](#) proposal. The most popular alternative stations to Broad Run were Gainesville (26 percent), Haymarket (25 percent) and Innovation (22 percent). The survey also gauged Manassas Line riders' opinions on potential overcrowding, should the extension be built, pricing, and parking availability. There was a consensus among riders that VRE needs more frequent service, particularly in the evening and

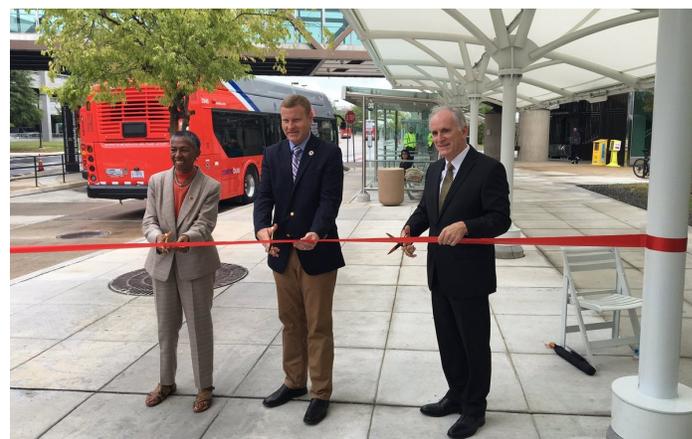


midday. Survey results will inform VRE's analysis of service options. VRE will hold a public meeting this fall. Visit the VRE website for GHX details.

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority



WMATA recently celebrated completion of bus bay improvements at Franconia-Springfield. [The \\$5.5 million project increases bus capacity by more than 40 percent](#) at the station, which is served by Metrobus, Fairfax Connector, PRTC OmniRide and other commercial bus systems. It was funded with a FTA TIGER grant secured through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Improvements include real-time bus arrival display signs and new canopies, sidewalks and crosswalks.



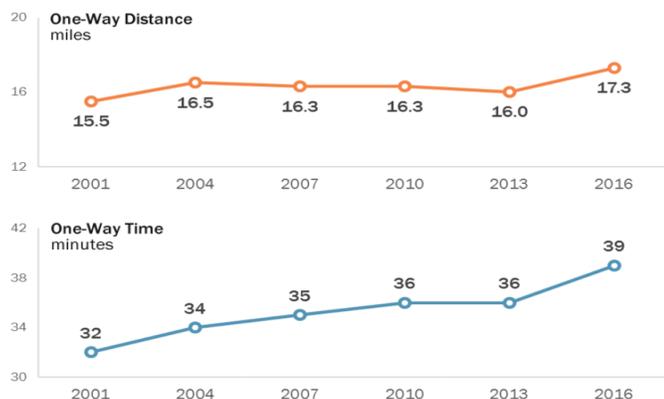
NVTC Commissioners and Fairfax County Supervisors Cathy Hudgins (left) and Jeff McKay (center) cut the ribbon on the new Franconia-Springfield Metrorail Station bus bays with WMATA GM Paul Wiedefeld (right)

Transportation Planning Board



Teleworking is up, solo driving is down, and commuters are, on average, traveling farther and longer. Those are the results of [TPB's triennial "State of the Commute,"](#) released last week. The report also includes data on commute satisfaction by mode — bicyclists and pedestrians are most content — and average one-way commute times by mode.

Average One-Way Commute Distance and Time



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority



Groundbreakings in Fairfax and Loudoun counties took center stage in September, as NVRTA kicked off the [expansion of the West Ox Bus Garage](#) and widening of and [improvements to Belmont Ridge Road](#). Nine additional garage bus bays will allow for the maintenance of 135 more Fairfax Connector buses. Improvements along Belmont Ridge Road will include mixed-use trails and sidewalks and a grade-separated crossing for the W&OD Trail.



Representatives from WMATA, NVTA, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Fairfax County DOT, and the General Assembly break ground for the West Ox Bus Garage expansion.