



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
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Washington Metropolitan Area marks Code Red Day #11!

The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission is working to alleviate bad air quality through free bus rides for area residents.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) has issued a bad air alert for tomorrow, Wednesday, August 14th. Ozone levels are predicted to be extremely high and air quality very poor.

In a region-wide effort to encourage citizens to drive less during the summer and help the region stay within federal clean air standards, **bus service providers in Northern Virginia will suspend fare collection tomorrow and any other days declared by MWCOC to be Code Red.** Funding for this free fare project is provided through a federal transportation grant obtained by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) for the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTTC).

Programs like this one encourage Northern Virginian's to "think outside the car" on Code Red days and to help them understand that their daily commuting choices affect the health and wellness of their neighbors.

For more air quality information, next day forecasts, tips on improving air quality, and links to other air quality sites, contact Clean Air Partners at www.cleanairpartners.net or (202) 962-3299. Specific route information can be obtained by calling these transportation providers:

Alexandria DASH	(703) 370-DASH (3274)
Arlington Transit (ART)	(703) 228-RIDE (7433)
Fairfax City CUE	(703) 385-7859

##MORE##

Fairfax Connector	(703) 339-7200
Loudoun Commuter Bus	(703) 771-5665/Metro (703) 478-8433
Metrobus	(202) 637-7000
OmniRide/OmniLink	(703) 730-OMNI (6664)

Make the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) your first call for information, interviews, and quotes from local elected officials and experts about public transportation issues in Northern Virginia.

For the most up-to-date information call Kala Quintana, NVTC's Director of Public Outreach, at 703/ 524-3322 or by cell 703/597-4970.

##NVTC##