
Statement of Chris Zimmerman
Chairman,
Northern Virginia Transportation Commission

To the Commonwealth Transportation Board's
Financial Planning and Programming Hearing
▪ April 15, 2002 ▪



1



**What is the role
of the
Northern Virginia
Transportation
Commission?**

2

NVTC
Northern Virginia Transportation Commission

- Forum for elected officials to achieve an effective and coordinated regional transit and ridesharing network.
- Serves six local jurisdictions covering 1,000 square miles with a population of 1.5 million.
- Appoints Virginia's members of the WMATA Board.



3

NVTC
Northern Virginia Transportation Commission

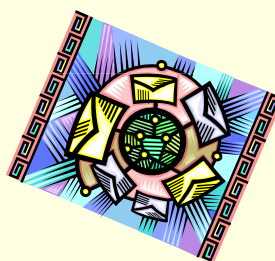
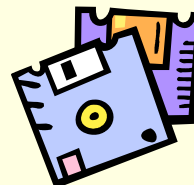


- Co-owner of VRE.
- Obtains and allocates \$100 million annually of transit funds among its members.
- Sponsors transit demonstration projects to relieve congestion and improve air quality. ⁴

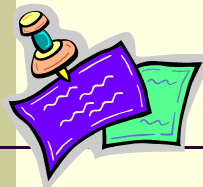
NVTC

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission

- Compiles performance data to facilitate transit management.
- Communicates with the public to promote regional projects and improve awareness of transit's benefits.



5



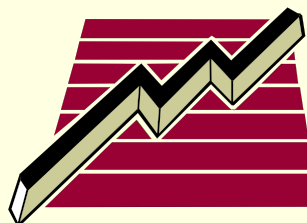
What is NVTC's Message?

- Transit is very successful in our region.
- This success is imposing steep costs on our local governments and transit riders.
- Our local governments bear a disproportionate and growing burden to fight congestion with effective transit investments.
- CTB should recognize the commonwealth's responsibility and increase its investments in our region's transit systems.

6

Transit's effectiveness is growing rapidly

- 273,000 weekday transit trips in Northern Virginia, as shown in detail on the next chart.
- Without transit, 15 more freeway lanes needed here at \$100 million per lane per mile.
- VDOT reports that VRE saves about a third of travel time for a typical trip in the I-95 corridor (and ridesharing saves a half) compared to single-occupant autos.



7

Northern Virginia's FY 2001 Average Weekday Transit Ridership

System	Weekday Riders
Metrorail	147,375
Metrobus	73,206
Fairfax Connector	22,537
Virginia Railway Express	10,556
Alexandria DASH	9,172
City of Fairfax CUE	3,423
PRTC OmniRide	3,234
PRTC OmniLink	1,849
Loudon Express (LEX)	730
Arlington ART	588
Loudon County Transportation Association	450
Total	273,120

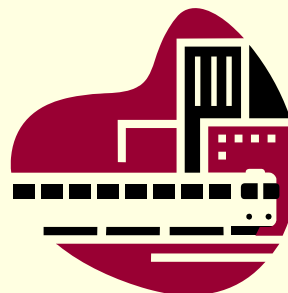
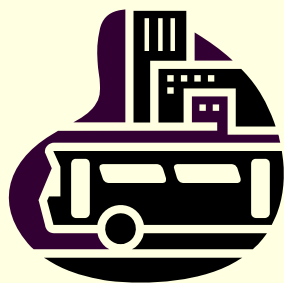
8

What are the documented public transit needs in Northern Virginia?



WMATA region-wide for the next 20 years in order to double ridership:

- Existing infrastructure rehabilitation and replacement: \$9.8 billion
- System access including core capacity upgrades: \$4.5 billion
- System expansion (includes Dulles Corridor, I-66, etc.): \$25 billion
 - Operating cost implications and subsidy allocations among jurisdictions not yet decided.



VRE to maintain existing service satisfaction and meet projected growth:



- Increase capital funding to \$29 - \$46 million/year
(from \$13-\$15 million per year)
- Up to \$1 billion needed for capital and operations over 10 years to accommodate ridership growth.

11

Several local bus systems have their own growing needs:

- Fairfax County Connector
- Alexandria DASH
- City of Fairfax CUE
- Arlington ART
- Loudoun Express
- PRTC OmniRide and OmniLink



12

NVTC's local jurisdictions bear a disproportionate and growing burden of transit subsidies

- VDRPT reports that NVTC's local jurisdictions pay 50% more per capita than the average of the rest of Virginia.
- NVTC's \$126 per capita is four times greater than any other transit system.
- NVTC provides 72% of local funds provided for transportation statewide.

13

NVTC's local jurisdictions bear a disproportionate and growing burden of transit subsidies

- Because of the costly and congested commuting environment here, NVTC generates 80% of statewide transit expenses.
- NVTC receives only 65% of Virginia's total state transit aid.



14



NVTC's unfunded state aid eligibility

- For FY 2000, NVTC was short changed by over \$11 million for eligible fuels, tires, maintenance and administration costs of WMATA and our local bus systems.
 - The difference between state aid provided and NVTC's eligibility based on state statutes.
- By FY 2002, this amount grew to a \$37.2 million shortfall
 - Plus another \$1.3 million for VRE

15



NVTC's unfunded state aid eligibility

- Overall, for capital and operations for FY 2002, NVTC should have been allocated \$62.9 million more from the state than it was.
 - Plus another \$6 million for VRE
- An NVTC study determined that the rate of return on the state investments in Metrorail is over 19 percent annually measured in tax revenues from increased economic activity.
- Despite enormous transit needs in Northern Virginia, and a significant pay off from transit investments, the stunning state funding gap cannot be filled by local governments.

16

What is NVTC asking from CTB?




17




- 1) Recognition by CTB that NVTC's local jurisdictions are being short-changed by the commonwealth, resulting in a growing local burden and a failure to invest sufficiently in public transit in the region of the commonwealth in which transit is proven the most effective.
- 2) NVTC supports the testimony of TCC, WMATA, and the commission's jurisdictions, for balanced state funding including all of our region's transit systems.




18




- 4) We also seek a revised process with emphasis on multimodal systems, in which the commission and jurisdictions are allowed to review and comment on your proposed plan after today's hearing in sufficient time for CTB to seriously consider those local comments before adopting the final plan.
- 5) Understanding of the critical role of transit in mitigating congestion and improving air quality.
- 6) Support for VDRPT programs and for proposed discretionary transit projects.




19





- 7. Funding for VTA 2000 transit projects that are ready to go.
- 8. \$800,000 for bus fare buydowns within NVTC's jurisdictions from a source other than our own district's funds, since this money was promised to the region as annual compensation for earlier state actions regarding HOV on I-66.

20



**Questions
& Answers**

21



For more information contact NVTC at:

Tel. 703/ 524-3322

Or visit our website at:

www.cns.state.va.us/nvtc

22



Thank You!