



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

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### **THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION INVITES NORTHERN VIRGINIANS TO ATTEND PUBLIC HEARING – *PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NVTC'S 2005 WORK PLAN TO BE HEARD and NEW OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED***

**Arlington, VA** -- At its meeting starting at 8:00 pm on the evening of January 6, 2005 in its conference room in suite 720 at 4350 North Fairfax Drive in Arlington (one block west of the Ballston Metro), the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) will hear comments from members of the public on its proposed work program for 2005. NVTC's draft work program is available for review at [www.thinkoutsidethecar.org](http://www.thinkoutsidethecar.org). The Work Program includes seven goals and over 60 specific actions for 2005. NVTC's 2005 work program has been revised from the previous year's to incorporate performance measures, in keeping with NVTC's overall mission to provide transportation management value to local elected officials, jurisdictions and citizens.

Area residents are invited to comment and provide suggestions for activities and goals that NVTC should pursue. Following the public hearing, the commission will be asked to approve the 2005 work program with appropriate revisions based on the public comments received.

The Commission will also elect new officers for 2005. Alexandria Mayor, William D. Euille will step down as Chairman after one year of service. Paul W. Ferguson of the Arlington County Board, currently NVTC's Vice Chairman, has been nominated as Chairman. Gerald Connolly (Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors) is nominated as Vice-Chairman; and David F. Snyder (City of Falls Church Council) is nominated as NVTC's new Secretary/Treasurer. Commissioners will also appoint Northern Virginia's voting representatives to the WMATA Board – Dana Kauffman (Fairfax County Board of Supervisors) and Chris Zimmerman (Arlington County Board) currently serve in that capacity with Catherine Hudgins (Fairfax County Board of Supervisors) and William D. Euille (Mayor of Alexandria) as alternates.

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NVTC's mission is to improve our regional transportation system through sound strategies, identification of new funding sources, advocacy of additional funding, prioritization of allocations and the oversight of transit systems such as the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) and WMATA.

The Commission's legislative goals include:

- **Support Governor Warner's proposed \$824 million transportation initiative as a step in the right direction – but not a panacea.** The commonwealth fails to meet its 95 percent statutory target for funding net transit costs. This shortchanged NVTC by \$87 million in FY 2005 alone. NVTC supports a dedicated funding source for transportation in Northern Virginia with proceeds going to the Transportation Trust Fund. NVTC should receive a significant percent of these funds.

Other items in the commissions' legislative agenda for 2005 include:

- More state and federal funding for transit;
- Expanded tax free benefits for transit users;
- Limits on commuter rail and public transit liability;
- Constitutional prohibitions on diverting funds from Virginia's Transportation Trust Fund (TTF); and
- More local funding options.

**NVTC is the leading source of information about public transportation issues in Northern Virginia.**

NVTC is a regional agency with the mission of managing traffic congestion, restoring clean air, boosting the economy and improving the quality of life for all of Northern Virginia's citizens through effective public transit and ridesharing networks. NVTC includes the counties of Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church covering over 1,000 square miles with a population of 1.5 million. The agency manages over \$100 million of state and federal grant funds each year for public transit and serves as a forum for its board of 20 state and local elected officials to resolve issues involving public transit and ridesharing. **For copies of NVTC's complete 2005 work program and legislative agenda, and other information about NVTC, please visit [www.thinkoutsidethecar.org](http://www.thinkoutsidethecar.org) or call 703-524-3322.**

## NVTC ##