

NVTC

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission

NVTC


AGENDA ITEM #12

TO: Chairman Hudgins and NVTC Commissioners
FROM: Rick Taube and NVTC Staff
DATE: August 26, 2010
SUBJECT: Mid-Year Review of Major NVTC Projects

A PowerPoint presentation is attached that briefly summarizes accomplishments in the past six months or so. Staff will be available to respond to questions and comments.



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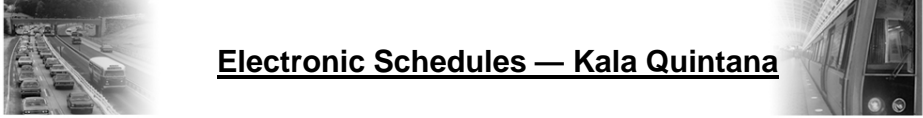
Northern Virginia Transportation Commission

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Thinking Outside the Car Since 1964

**MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT ON
NVTC'S WORK PROGRAM**

July 1, 2010



Electronic Schedules — Kala Quintana

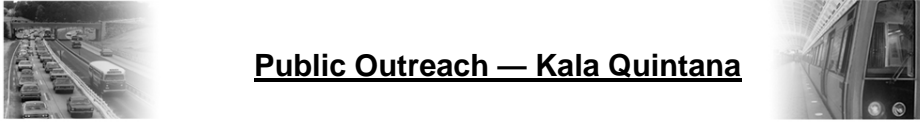
E-Schedules

- Continued to expand use of electronic schedules in Northern Virginia
- Managing contract to keep the e-schedules current with \$14,000 available for promotion.
- Monthly requests for schedule pages peaked in March with over 172,000 requests.
- Overall, the e-schedules page is consistently among the top requested pages of all the pages on CommuterPage.com with the majority of the requests for e-schedules coming directly from Google.com & WMATA.com.
- Usage has nearly doubled since FY 2008 from 2.9 million requests annually to 5.4 million requests annually in FY 2010.

E-Schedule requests by popularity:

- VRE
- LC Transit
- Fairfax Connector
- Metrobus
- DASH

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Public Outreach — Kala Quintana

Legislative

- Worked with jurisdictional legislative liaisons to advance several pieces of NVTC legislation in 2010.

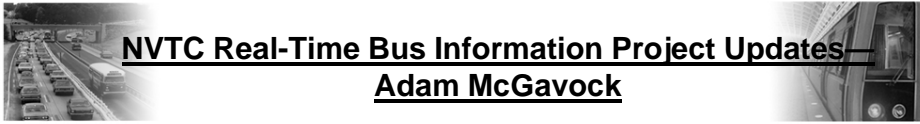
Transportation Association of Greater Springfield (TAGS)

- Appointed as the VP of Legislative Affairs and re-elected to another three year term to the Board of Directors;
- Secured grant to establish the TAGS “Riders Club,” a new grassroots effort to secure support and advocate increased transit in Greater Springfield.

“Transit Keeps Northern Virginia Working” Tour

- Working with regional partners and businesses to plan and implement the *“Transit Keeps Northern Virginia Working”* tour for legislators and key staff.
- Secured \$12,000 in private-sector sponsorships to cover costs of tour.
- Tour scheduled for June 30-July 1, 2010.

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NVTC Real-Time Bus Information Project Updates
Adam McGavock

- NVTC managing two projects to provide real-time bus information.
- MARTHA project developed a very simple system that will grow into a full-featured system as it is deployed and improved.
- MARTHA will be distributed free of charge as an open source initiative.
- Alexandria real-time bus information system is a full-featured system purchased from Strategic Mapping Incorporated.
- Both systems conceived, designed, and deployed with interoperability as a primary focus.

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MARTHA Project— Adam McGavock



- \$200,000 contract to develop software that utilizes GPS-enabled cell phones and a simple IVR system to deliver real time bus departure information to transit riders.
- In-service demonstration and testing successfully completed in November of 2008.
- MARTHA system exceeded WMATA Real-Time Bus Information performance requirements during demonstration period.
- MARTHA software, documentation, and manuals delivered to DRPT in January of 2009.
- Blacksburg Transit now hosting open source distribution of software, and developing additional features and functions.
- Software is available worldwide to anyone who wishes to use it.

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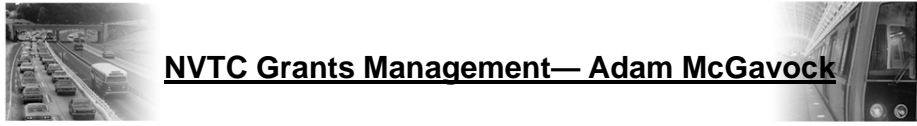


Alexandria Real-Time Bus Information Project— Adam McGavock



- \$738,000 project to develop a system for providing real-time bus information to transit patrons in the City of Alexandria
- Will provide info via SMS Text messaging, web-based maps, and at selected stops for DASH and Metrobus
- Designed to be interoperable with no proprietary data formats or interfaces
- System will be the first transit system to integrate with RITIS, with the intention of having RITIS serve as the central transit information repository for the region
- Pilot installation completed last year
- System-wide installation completed in June of 2010, rolling out additional functions in phases
- System is already transmitting data to the RITIS

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NVTC Grants Management— Adam McGavock

- NVTC managing FTA grants and matching funds for the City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, and Arlington County totaling over \$8.25 million.
- An additional \$5.36 million is expected to be awarded in September.
- No processing or management fees are charged to the projects.

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NTD Data Collection-Greg McFarland

- Increased FTA 5307 earnings by coordinating FY 2010 NTD data submissions of paratransit systems in Arlington and Alexandria.
- NTD data submissions managed and paid for by NVTC for Fairfax, Arlington, Alexandria, Loudoun County and the City of Fairfax will earn the region an additional \$7.8M in FY 2011 FTA 5307 funds.

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Vanpool NTD Project-Greg McFarland

- Researched and wrote a “Guide to Vans, Shuttles and Small Buses for Vanpools”.
- Created an annotated catalog of studies, surveys, guides, manuals and other information relating to vanpooling.
- Created a series of spreadsheets to assist with vanpool incentive program sketch planning regarding 5307 earnings, program revenues and expenses.
- Researched legal and policy issues surrounding DoD’s policy of denying transit benefits to participants of non-profit vanpools and advised regional TDM staffs accordingly.
- Created an iPhone application (app) that makes it easy to record daily vanpool passenger and mileage data and to transmit that data over the web.


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Intelligent Transportation Systems- Greg McFarland

- Prototyped a back-end database application to import data from the iPhone vanpool app and create reports for NTD data submissions.
- Built a working prototype of a low-cost (\$150) bus arrival data display that could be placed at every bus stop. This device utilizes radio paging protocols to transmit text (e.g., “Bus 51 in 12-15 minutes”) to a paging receiver connected to a small LCD screen. This is a companion accessory to NVTC’s low-cost bus AVL and bus arrival prediction system developed in 2008 (aka “Martha”).
- Checked all 800+ DASH bus stops in Alexandria for geocoding accuracy. Corrected numerous bus stop geocoding errors in DASH’s Master Scheduler database. Re-created all DASH bus routes using corrected bus stop locations. Tested corrections using DASH’s new AVL system. Provided feedback to AVL vendor regarding issues with AVL software.


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Other- Greg McFarland

- Researched and wrote “A Guide to Bicycle and Transit Connections in Northern Virginia” including policy recommendations.
- Coordinated transit passenger counts for VDOT/TPB’s annual cordon count. The latest cordon count was for the Dulles Corridor.

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Motor Vehicle Fuels Sales Tax – Scott Kalkwarf

- NVTC collections for FY 2010 equal \$35.1M, down from \$38.6M in FY 2009.
- Tax base changed from retail level at 2% to distributor level at 2.1% effective January 1st.
- NVTC actively pursued the transition, including meetings with Department of Taxation, and review and comments on administrative regulations.
- Monitor actual gas tax revenue comparing yields under retail and distributor tax bases.
- Monitor gas tax collections by maintaining detailed database of collections on taxpayer and jurisdiction level. Unusual activity provided to Department of Taxation’s gas tax auditors for follow-up.

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State Capital and Operating Assistance – Scott Kalkwarf

- NVTC applies for and receives state capital and operating assistance for local systems, VRE and Virginia's share of WMATA.
- During FY 2010 NVTC will recognize revenue of \$50 million in capital assistance and \$62 million in operating assistance, total of \$112 million.
- DRPT's FY 2011 adopted program includes \$100 million of capital and operating assistance, plus \$50 million PRIIA match.
- Manage grants at an approximate administrative cost of \$0.002 per \$1 of assistance received, which is not charged back to the jurisdictions.
- Allocate revenue and hold in trust for jurisdictions' payments of WMATA subsidies and local systems' needs, using a complex subsidy allocation model.

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Accounting and Reporting – Scott Kalkwarf

- Accounting for general and administrative activity, NVTC project activity, Trust Fund revenue and expenditures.
- Over \$150 million in total revenue for FY 2010.
- Preparation of year end financial statements and disclosures for required annual financial and single audits.
- Reporting of Trust Fund projections and activity to jurisdiction staff throughout the year.
- Continual tracking and reporting of activity and balances for over 150 capital, operating and projects grants.

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