



MEDIA RELEASE

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Contact: Kala Quintana
703/ 524-3322 ext 104
kala@nvtdc.org

THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION WELCOMES NEW COMMISSIONERS; ELECTS NEW OFFICERS & BOARD REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2004

Arlington, VA -- At its meeting on the evening of January 8, 2004, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) elected new officers for 2004. William D. Euille, Mayor of the city of Alexandria was unanimously elected as NVTC's new Chairman. Paul W. Ferguson (Vice-Chairman of the Arlington County Board) was elected as Vice-Chairman; and Gerry Connolly (Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors) was elected as NVTC's new Secretary/Treasurer.

Mr. Euille and the newly elected officers will spearhead NVTC's call for the General Assembly to make some significant transit funding improvements changes in the current legislative session, including:

- **Statewide Motor Fuels User Fee Increase.** The commonwealth fails to meet its 95 percent statutory target for funding net transit costs. This shortchanged NVTC by \$83 million in FY 2004 alone. NVTC supports a 10-cent increase with ALL proceeds going to the Transportation Trust Fund to yield almost \$70 million annually for transit. NVTC should receive 60 percent of these funds. NVTC also favors indexing of the rate and altering the allocation proportions for the new revenue to provide a greater share for transit.
- **Increase in Regional Motor Fuels User Fees.** Since the new revenues from a statewide motor fuels user fees would fall short of closing the commonwealth's funding gap for transit, NVTC favors an increase of its two percent motor fuels tax to four percent, yielding an additional \$20 million annually.

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Other items in the commissions' legislative agenda for 2004 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 Chairman Euille looks forward to taking on this leadership role, "I am delighted to be serving as NVTC's new chairperson. NVTC has a history of dedicated service to Northern Virginia that I applaud. I will work closely with my fellow commissioners and the member jurisdictions to provide a network of smart transportation solutions to Northern Virginia's traffic congestion."

NVTC Vice-Chairman Ferguson heartily agreed with Mr. Euille's sentiments, "I look forward to working with Mayor Euille and continuing to serve NVTC in its mission to improve the quality of life for all Northern Virginians through the effective management of our transportation resources."

Mr. Connolly, NVTC's new Secretary-Treasurer told his fellow commissioners, "I am honored to be a part of a team of officers so dedicated to finding solutions to the area's traffic congestion through transit, ridesharing, bicycle and pedestrian improvements and telecommuting. Although our commission is limited by funding constraints, we will continue to be an advocate for Northern Virginia residents and commuters seeking better transportation options."

NVTC also elected the following members to represent NVTC on the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority:

Principles: Dana Kauffman and Christopher Zimmerman

Alternates: David F. Snyder, Richard K. Taube and Mary Margaret Whipple

NVTC selected these members to represent NVTC on the Virginia Railway Express Operations Board.

Principles: Sharon Bulova, Dana Kaufman (Treasurer), Elaine McConnell (Vice Chairman)

Alternate: Chris Zimmerman

The Commission also welcomed new commissioners to NVTC. The Hon. Catherine Hudgins of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Mick Staton of Loudoun County were sworn in before the start of the meeting.

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Mr. William D. Euille was elected as NVTC's new Chairman. William Euille has served on the Alexandria City Council since 1994 and was re-elected in 1997 and 2000. In 2003, he was elected to a three-year term as mayor. He co-chairs the Alexandria Welfare Reform Committee (Alexandria Works!), the Call to Community initiative on racial and ethnic diversity, the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Task Force, and the "PTO" Task Force. He serves on the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership Inc., Board of Directors and City Council's Human Service Committee. He is also a member of the Alexandria Economic Opportunities Commission, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, and the Pension Study Committee. He represents Alexandria on the WMATA Board of Directors and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. Mr. Euille is President/CEO of Wm. D. Euille & Associates, Inc., an Alexandria construction services firm. He joined NVTC in July, 2000.

Mr. Paul Ferguson was elected as NVTC's Vice-Chairman. He joined NVTC as a commissioner in January, 1997. Mr. Ferguson has served on the Arlington County Board since 1996 and served as its chairman in 1999 and 2003. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Association of Counties, Virginia Municipal League's Policy and Transportation Steering Committees and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Air Quality Committee. Mr. Ferguson and his wife, Karen and his two sons are residents of Fairlington. Mr. Ferguson is a Graduate of George Mason Law School, James Madison University and Wakefield High School in Arlington.

Mr. Gerry Connolly was elected as NVTC's Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Connolly joined NVTC in January, 1999. He served two terms as the Providence District Supervisor on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and was elected to a four-year term as Board Chairman, beginning in January, 2004. He is also a member of the boards of the Virginia Association of Counties, the Washington Council of Governments (where he served as Chairman in 2001), the Fairfax City /County Inter-jurisdictional Committee, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. Mr. Connolly is a public affairs consultant specializing in strategic advice to domestic and international corporate clients.

Ms. Catherine Hudgins was elected to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 1999 and joined NVTC in January, 2004. She is a member of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Board of Directors, the Transportation Planning Board, Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Virginia Association of Counties Board of Directors, and also serves as an alternate member of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Governor Warner appointed her to the state Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board. Supervisor Hudgins has a bachelor's degree in mathematics education for the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and a master's degree of public administration from George Mason University.

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Mr. Mick Staton was elected to the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors in November, 2003. He is the chairman of the Board of Supervisors' Transportation Committee and also serves as a member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, Dulles Area Transportation Authority, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Air Quality Committee and the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board. Mr. Staton earned a bachelors degree in political science from West Virginia University, where he also earned a masters degree in public administration. He is Vice President of Capitol Link, a government relations firm specializing in representing cities, counties and other local government entities in Washington, DC.

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 19 state and local elected officials to resolve issues involving public transit and ridesharing. **Copies of NVTC's complete 2004 legislative agenda, and other information about NVTC, are available at www.thinkoutsidethecar.org or call 703-524-3322.**

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