



NVTC'S 2011 GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND WORK PROGRAM

--DRAFT: November 9, 2010--



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2011 NVTC Meeting Schedule

[Meetings start at 8:00 P.M.]

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AGENDA</u>
January	6	Elect officers. Select WMATA and VRE Board members, VTA representatives and NVTC Legislative Committee members. Conduct a public hearing and approve 2011 goals, schedule and work program. Approve FY 2012 VRE budget. Approve NVTC FY 2012 budget.
February	3*	Review progress on state and federal legislative agenda. Approve NVTC and VRE state grant applications.
March	3	Review progress on state and federal legislative agenda.
April	7	Review progress on WMATA budget for FY 2012. Review completed 2011 General Assembly session.
May	5	Approve comments on WMATA FY 2012 budget.
June	2	Focus on regional transit performance.
July	7	Review mid-year progress on NVTC work program. Approve DRPT contracts for NVTC and VRE FY 2012 grants.
August		No Meeting.
September	1	Forward preliminary NVTC FY 2013 budget to local jurisdictions.
October	6	Review quarterly progress on NVTC's work program. Approve CTB pre-allocation testimony.
November	3	Approve FY 2011 NVTC and VRE audits.
December	1	Select NVTC Nominating Committee for 2012 officers. Approve legislative agenda for 2012. Review progress on 2011 work program and release draft 2012 work program for public review and comment.

*February meeting with NVTA in the General Assembly building in Richmond starting at 5:30 p.m.

NVTC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2011 MEETING SCHEDULE

[All meetings 7:30 - 8:00 P.M. prior to NVTC meetings in the small conference room.]

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
January	6	Legislative items.
February	3	No meeting.
March	3	Review General Assembly session.
April	7	Review quarterly progress on work program.
May	5	Review NVTC policies on topical transit issues.
June	2	Examine VRE performance.
July	7	Mid-year review of progress on workplan. Meet with auditors to preview FY 2011 audit.
August		No meeting.
September	1	Preliminary NVTC FY 2013 budget. Executive director performance review.
October	6	Review quarterly progress on work program.
November	3	FY 2011 NVTC and VRE audits.
December	1	Select NVTC Nominating Committee for 2012 officers. Consider 2012 legislative agenda. Review progress on 2011 work program and preview 2012 work program.

NVTC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2011 MEETING SCHEDULE

[All meetings begin at NVTC at 1:30 P.M. on the third Tuesday of each month. At each meeting the agenda and suggested material for the upcoming NVTC board meeting are reviewed.]

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
January	18	FY 2012 state grant application; NVTC administrative budget for FY 2012; NVTC legislative agenda.
February	15	Progress on legislative agenda.
March	15	Review of legislative accomplishments; WMATA FY 2012 budget issues.
April	19	To be determined.
May	17	To be determined.
June	14	Mid-year progress review on NVTC work program; authorize funding of scope of work for NTD data collection; authorize funding of scope of work for e-schedules maintenance and promotion.
July		No meeting.
August	16	NVTC preliminary administrative budget for FY 2013.
September	20	Review draft CTB pre-allocation testimony.
October	18	NVTC audit for FY 2011.
November	15	Draft NVTC legislative agenda for 2012; first draft 2012 NVTC work program.
December	20	Proposed 2012 work program; VRE and NVTC budgets for FY 2013.

NVTC MISSION STATEMENT

To serve the public by providing a forum for elected officials to achieve an effective regional transportation network. Focusing primarily on transit, NVTC will develop strategies, identify funding sources, advocate for additional funding, prioritize allocations, oversee transit systems such as VRE and WMATA, measure and report transit performance and pursue new transit programs. NVTC will work to improve mobility, reduce traffic congestion, protect the environment and stimulate the regional economy by increasing transit and ridesharing use.

GOALS AND ACTIONS FOR 2010

1. DEVELOP POLICY AND ADVOCATE FAVORABLE LEGISLATION

Goal: Devise and implement legislative strategies based on sound policy analysis to increase transit ridership, obtain adequate funding, and coordinate priorities with members and other agencies.

Actions:

1. With the support of local staff, identify transit issues that require policy decisions and assemble data and perform policy analyses to facilitate those decisions (e.g. fare integration, development of new technology, service expansion, customer safety and system security). Work with local legislative liaisons to develop strategies for improved transit funding and to educate General Assembly members about Northern Virginia's transit needs.
2. Adopt a state and federal legislative agenda and work with local jurisdictions, Virginia Transit Association (VTA) and other groups, as appropriate, to implement the agenda and the supporting NVTC policies. Work with delegations in Richmond and in Washington D.C. as needed to promote NVTC's approved agendas. Emphasize a greater role for transit in authorizing the next six years of federal funding programs. Conduct NVTC's February meeting on Local Government Day at the General Assembly in Richmond, jointly with the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. Obtain reduced rate for on-line legislative monitoring service and share access with member jurisdictions. Provide legislative alerts to commissioners and local staff during the session. Focus on transit funding.
3. Participate on the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) legislative and commuter rail committees to define and implement a federal legislative strategy as part of a broad, nationwide pro-transit coalition. Provide special assistance to areas contemplating new commuter rail service.
4. Participate on VTA's executive, legislative and ad hoc committees to help define and implement an effective state legislative strategy for the transit industry and strengthen VTA as an organization and keep it responsive to Northern Virginia's concerns. Co-chair VTA events, chair VTA's Legislative Committee, encourage NVTC board members to serve as VTA officers and assist transit systems in special legislative promotions with NVTC's public outreach and web-design expertise.
5. Prepare written testimony and appear at the CTB's annual pre-allocation hearings on public transit funding priorities and at the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) and other hearings as appropriate. Advocate NVTC's policies including balanced transportation and stable and reliable funding.

2. SEEK AND ADVOCATE FUNDING

Goal: Identify and implement cooperative strategies with member governments to gain additional transit revenues and work to obtain adequate, dedicated, stable and reliable financial support from the federal government and the commonwealth and the private sector.

Actions:

1. Identify and seek to implement stable, reliable, permanent and dedicated funding sources for operating and capital expenses for WMATA, VRE and local transit systems. Help coordinate regional efforts and prepare analysis tools, brochures and editorials to promote such funding. Safeguard the current sources of transit funding available to NVTC's local governments.
2. Produce financial projections and analyze alternative funding mechanisms to bridge the growing gap between transit operating and capital needs versus available financial resources. Actively participate in regional and statewide efforts to define public transit needs and identify funding sources, such as corridor studies, TPB's vision plan and constrained financial plan update, VTrans 2035 and Northern Virginia's TransAction 2040 transportation plan update. Analyze funding proposals produced by those studies and identify policy issues for consideration by the commission. Maintain up to date PowerPoint presentations on "The Case for Increased Funding of Public Transportation in Northern Virginia," "How Public Transportation is Organized in Northern Virginia," and the "VRE Chronology" to help educate elected officials, the media and the public.
3. Organize improved information sharing between local governments and the Virginia Department of Taxation and more effective auditing to facilitate efficient collection of NVTC's 2.1 percent motor fuels tax and increased knowledge of taxpayer responsibility on the part of motor fuels distributors. Employ database and spreadsheet models to identify unanticipated discrepancies for particular tax payers and jurisdictions. Monitor the required reconciliation of motor fuels tax collections by jurisdiction. Brief NVTC's MAC group regularly on processes, issues, and solutions.
4. Serve as the central point of contact for Northern Virginia transit system financial information. Identify and obtain funding for new transit projects that are recommended by NVTC's jurisdictions.

3. COORDINATE TRANSIT SERVICE

Goal: Work with all public and private transit providers to coordinate all transit service within Northern Virginia, with emphasis on understandable fares, convenient schedules, proper information, good customer service, efficient performance and access by disabled persons. Help to clarify roles of respective agencies and governments to avoid overlaps or gaps in jurisdiction. Work to improve the safe and orderly movement of people and goods, primarily by encouraging greater use of integrated public transit and ridesharing systems. Involve the public in identifying problems and solutions. Use NVTC's Management Advisory Committee as a forum to work out cooperative solutions and keep local governments fully informed. Emphasize better bicycle and pedestrian access to transit facilities and services.

Actions:

1. Work with local governments to coordinate collection and dissemination of performance data for FTA's National Transit Database reports. Collect performance data and maintain a shared database that uses NTD and other sources. Encourage transit systems to use the data to improve efficiency. Publish the data on NVTC's website. Help Northern Virginia's transit systems comply with DRPT's performance data requirements. Ensure that the data are consistent, timely and accurate.
2. Manage consultants to continue NTD data collection for all of Northern Virginia's transit systems and oversee collective funding of this work that brings at least \$6 million annually of federal revenues to this region.
3. Assist WMATA and Northern Virginia's transit systems in utilizing SmarTrip fareboxes and implementing efficient regional fare collection databases and parts inventories. Work with NVTC's transit systems to continue to debug Nextfare 5 software and implement SmarTrip passes and Autoload. Serve on WMATA selection committees to identify potential bank card-based fare collection systems.
4. Continue an ongoing project to provide free electronic transit schedules to persons using personal digital assistants and pocket computers. Ensure that transit schedules are kept current, work to expand to the entire metropolitan region and report regularly on performance. Develop an annual operational and promotional budget for funding by the local jurisdictions and manage the agreed upon marketing campaign, including interior bus and bus shelter display ads and website promotions.

5. Support regional pedestrian safety initiatives and encourage bicycle and pedestrian use. Publicize and seek to expand "bike on rail and bus" opportunities. Encourage all agencies to incorporate bike and pedestrian access at major transit centers and transfer locations. Assist VDOT in ensuring that the recommendations from its Northern Virginia Regional Bikeway and Trail Network study that focus on connections to transit are implemented. Support initiatives of such groups as the National Center for Bicycling and Walking and its Walkable Communities Workshops.
6. Serve on regional task forces examining options for improved transit, such as WMATA's Regional Mobility Panel and the Pike Transit initiative.
7. Help transit systems implement coordinated transit services to reduce the traffic impacts of the new BRAC installations due to open in 2011.

4. **MANAGE GRANTS, CONTRACTS AND TRUST FUNDS**

Goal: Facilitate the fair and equitable allocation of costs among governments, persons using transportation services and facilities and others who benefit. Manage grants fairly and effectively, according to state and federal laws and NVTC's policies. Invest trust fund assets prudently to maximize returns consistent with safety.

Actions:

1. Use NVTC's subsidy allocation model to incorporate the most recent WMATA and local budget information on transit costs, revenues and subsidies. Using NVTC's adopted allocation formula, determine each local government's share of NVTC assistance. Use their percentages to apportion shares of local contributions to NVTC's administrative budget. Maintain detailed spreadsheets to calculate NVTC's formula. Provide early estimates each year to assist local governments in budget planning.
2. Prepare and submit NVTC and VRE state grant applications (approximately \$250 million) due on February 1, 2011, using DRPT's automated OLGA system.
3. Manage state grants to prepare proper billings and obtain timely reimbursements. Participate with VRE and NVTC jurisdictions in quarterly project status review meetings. Work with grantor agencies and grantees to achieve the maximum feasible flexibility in using the funds in order to meet expiration deadlines with no loss of funds.
4. Manage jurisdiction trust funds (average over \$100 million). Prepare timely and accurate quarterly cash flow forecasts of transit assistance sources and uses for NVTC's local jurisdictions (average about \$150 million annually). Assist local jurisdictions in spending promptly the proceeds of state bond issues.
5. Prepare financial reports for NVTC's annual audit. Manage a multi-year audit services contract. Accomplish an unqualified auditors' opinion and provide to the appropriate regulatory agencies. Anticipate concerns of outside auditors and work to alleviate in advance any such concerns. Develop and implement appropriate responses to any concerns of auditors contained in management letters.
6. Respond to DRPT's new audit initiatives and grant policies and work with NVTC's jurisdictions to fine-tune the new procedures, if necessary, so they work to the advantage of all parties. Encourage DRPT to provide timely opportunities to comment on Master Agreement amendments and other policy changes.

8. Maintain up-to-date compilations of state and federal grant regulations. Ensure staff is adequately trained in grant and project management and alerted to any changes in regulations. Maintain current procurement documents to facilitate prompt release of authorized requests for proposals and invitations for bids. Obtain agreements with sub-recipients to ensure compliance. Submit annual certifications and maintain access to TEAM to ensure continued eligibility for FTA grants.
9. Manage federal funds on behalf of Alexandria for demonstrations of new bus technologies. Procure consulting assistance and manage projects for the city, including a real-time bus arrival information system. Work to integrate this system with WMATA's regional database and/or the Regionally Integrated Transportation Information System (RITIS). Currently NVTC is managing \$737,000 of projects for the city.
10. As requested, work with Alexandria and Arlington to apply for federal funds for BRT service improvements in the Crystal City/Potomac Yard corridor, for subsequent citywide transit improvements in Alexandria, and for access improvements in Rosslyn. Work with Fairfax County to obtain federal grant funding for Metrobuses. Work with Falls Church to obtain federal grants for an intermodal transit center and if asked, a transit study of Route 7. **Currently NVTC has obtained and is billing federal grants for about \$11 million of jurisdictional projects and expects to execute another \$1.3 million in the first half of 2011. ***
11. **Manage NVTA's grants for the regional transportation plan update (TransAction 2040) with an anticipated contract value of \$500,000.**
12. If asked by participating jurisdictions, serve as project manager for regional streetcar/light rail projects and assist jurisdictions in considering new and expanded projects (e.g. Route 7 transit alternatives with federal earmarks, Pike Transit Initiative).
13. Provide accounting services to NVTA without charge and manage any required NVTA audits. Also maintain financial records, obtain any needed insurance and notify regulatory agencies.

*Items in bold are new for 2011.

5. PROVIDE OVERSIGHT FOR WMATA AND VRE

Goal: Exercise leadership on issues pertaining to oversight of the WMATA and VRE systems, particularly budget and finance, to reduce costs and control the growth of local subsidies and fares while improving service quality. Effectively manage ongoing transit services for which NVTC is responsible and develop efficient management structures that facilitate regional cooperation and support.

Actions:

1. In January, appoint Virginia's two principal and two alternate members of the WMATA Board of Directors. Provide staff support to WMATA Board members. As needed, facilitate caucuses of Virginia's Board members and their staffs to develop consensus positions prior to committee and board meetings. Keep NVTC commissioners informed of pending WMATA Board decisions of regional significance. Invite WMATA'S General Manager periodically to brief the entire NVTC Board on important issues.
2. Monitor the development of WMATA's budget. Provide recommendations to local jurisdictions and the WMATA Board, as appropriate. Co-sponsor public forums with WMATA.
3. Participate actively on WMATA's Jurisdictional Coordinating Committee.
4. **Facilitate discussion with DRPT on WMATA governance, funding and safety.**
5. **Assist Loudoun County as it transitions to full participation in WMATA upon completion of the Dulles Rail project.**
6. As co-owner of VRE (with assets of \$333.3 million, outstanding debt issued by NVTC of \$29.5 million and annual operating/capital budgets of over \$60 million) appoint NVTC's principal and alternate members of the VRE Operations Board, maintain close communications with PRTC and VRE staff, coordinate presentation of action items to the VRE Board and commissions, and monitor ongoing operations for consistency with the Master Agreement and approved budgets, customer service quality and NVTC jurisdictions' interests.
7. Support the VRE team as it negotiates with DRPT, CSXT, Norfolk Southern, Amtrak and Keolis to agree on multi-year access and operations contracts and to clarify and accomplish rail service priorities in the Richmond-Washington, DC corridor.
8. Support annual VRE customer service surveys each spring and ridership surveys each October, by providing zip code verification and on-board volunteers.

6. COORDINATE REGIONAL EFFORTS

Goal: Support coordinated regional efforts to improve air quality, conserve energy, boost the economy, respond to emergencies and integrate land use and transportation. Pursue new transit opportunities and actively support telework.

Actions:

1. Help direct a cooperative regional consulting study to design a new Vanpool Incentive Program to increase vanpooling and qualify the region for significantly increased federal transit formula assistance. Work to obtain funding to implement the program when the design is approved.
2. Work to establish NVTC as the chief advocate of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) investments for transit, by conducting low-cost demonstrations, evaluating the results, and more actively encouraging all of NVTC's transit providers to adopt similar (interoperable) technologies. Examples include: web-based automated bus stop information signs; on-board bus stop enunciators; passenger counters; automated maintenance devices; variable pricing of roads and parking; parking capacity electronic message signs; and alternative fuel technologies. Promote joint procurements for uniformity and cost saving and develop effective contract language to encourage non-proprietary technology. Help educate board members and the public. Work with VTA and ITSVA to provide forums for transit technology professionals, serve on the board of directors of ITSVA, and **work to broaden RITIS to include real-time transit performance data from all of NVTC's transit systems. Develop a "virtual machine" for buses to consolidate several separate on-board computer systems and save money.**
3. Develop information from research on Metropolitan Washington and other regions to help NVTA, WMATA and other transit organizations define lower-cost strategies for meeting congestion challenges in the short term using such mechanisms as exclusive transit lanes, bus rapid transit, priority lanes, queue jumping, jitneys, route-deviation transit, vanpools and real-time information devices. Publicize the results and work to achieve public acceptance. Work with the local jurisdictions to initiate appropriate demonstrations of these mechanisms.
4. Participate on technical committees assisting in planning, preliminary engineering and environmental analysis for transit in the Dulles Corridor and other locations such as the Capital Beltway and I-95/395 as requested by WMATA, VDOT, DRPT and/or local jurisdictions.

5. From various published forecasts, plans and corridor studies, assemble mode split and other data to provide a convenient source of comprehensive transit market performance data. Use the data to encourage efficient transit management, expanded transit ridership and greater public awareness. Use statistically significant traffic counts by MWCOG/TPB of persons traveling in Northern Virginia's major corridors. Make this information available in user-friendly formats on NVTC's website.
6. Actively promote telework initiatives and encourage the commonwealth to take the lead with its own employees and the private sector.
7. Examine public-private HOT lane proposals for the Beltway, I-95 and elsewhere and work to ensure adequate transit access and the use of toll revenues to help support transit operations. Actively participate on DRPT Transit Advisory Committees to articulate transit concerns and resolve any issues. Take the lead in assertively presenting a coordinated transit plan that protects the interests of transit systems and their customers.
8. Assist Transportation Management Associations and Transportation Demand Management agencies (ridesharing, telework). Serve on boards of directors and competitive selection panels as requested.
9. **Coordinate security measures impacting Northern Virginia's transit providers, including monitoring the Pentagon's progress in implementing its security plans.**
10. **Assist WMATA in negotiating a new Memorandum of Understanding for transit access with the Pentagon, by identifying important issues for all the transit systems using that facility and helping to explain concerns to Pentagon staff.**
11. **Examine opportunities to cooperate with Governor McDonnell's "Going Green with Virginia Transportation" initiative, including recognition of NVTC's new offices in the LEED certified Navy League Building.**

7. DELIVER PUBLIC INFORMATION, MARKETING AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

Goal: Reach out to transit customers and the general public, listen to customer concerns and implement improvements to boost regional transit ridership.

Actions:

1. Serve as the central point of contact for the news media, interest groups and the general public for transit issues in Northern Virginia, making referrals to other transit agencies and local governments when appropriate. Initiate contacts with media representatives via calls and visits. Provide NVTC's reports, analyses and policies with easy to understand explanations of their content and significance. Help transit systems and elected officials prepare to respond effectively to media and other public inquiries during emergencies and at other times by sponsoring seminars on best practices. Establish media opportunities for NVTC board members to promote NVTC's mission.
2. Assist NVTA's public outreach mission, actively maintain NVTA's "virtual office" and website, and lead public outreach for NVTA's regional transportation plan update (TransAction 2040).
3. Provide the following resources to the public, primarily on NVTC's website, utilizing enhanced graphics:
 - a. Maintain and improve NVTC's website, to focus on informing the public about opportunities to be involved in regional transit and ridesharing planning;
 - b. Distribute NVTC's brochure, reports and agendas to encourage more public involvement, again emphasizing easy-to-use web-based applications;
 - c. Publish electronically an annual NVTC Handbook to provide a detailed description of the commission's history, mission and accomplishments, including the commission's workprogram, policies and by-laws;
 - d. Link to other regional transit databases to provide information about regional transit services to better inform the public;
 - e. Maintain a transit system performance database;
 - f. Monitor NVTC and NVTA website performance with monthly and quarterly compilations of user statistics.
4. Survey WMATA, VRE and local jurisdictions to compile innovative marketing activities, host coordination meetings, facilitate transit topics for the Marketing and Outreach Specialists Consortium and the Northern Virginia Public Information Officers and report at least annually to the commission and jurisdictions. Assist APTA in local marketing and public information activities. Help plan VTA conferences.

5. Continue technical support for transit stores and Transportation Management Associations (e.g., serve on Boards of Directors and consultant selection committees). Assist with logo design, marketing, consultant selection, performance evaluation, fare collection, web design and customer service issues. Compile and post on NVTC's website a list of transit stores and TMA's in the region.
6. Look for opportunities to partner in order to stage events and promotions that will emphasize the effectiveness of transit and ridesharing and the need for additional transit funding (e.g. Greater Washington Board of Trade, Google.) Reach out to "electronic hitchhiking" firms (e.g. NuRide) and car-sharing organizations (e.g. Zip Car) for joint promotion opportunities.
7. Implement NVTC's federal Title VI program with active outreach to immigrants, simplified messages and NVTC/NVTA website accommodations.
8. Coordinate meetings with visiting delegations of transit system board members and other elected officials to describe this region's success with transit coordination, transit-oriented development and innovative transit finance.