



MEDIA CONTACT : Sarah Camille Hipp
SarahCamille.Hipp@TheNoVaAuthority.org

Office: 571-355-4461
Cell: 571-225-0305

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 13, 2017

Virginia Leaders Gather to Celebrate the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority's 15th Anniversary

Northern Virginia, November 13, 2017 – On the evening of Thursday, November 9, several of Virginia's elected leaders gathered to reflect on the [Northern Virginia Transportation Authority's](http://www.nvta.org) (NVTA) 15 years of accomplishments in regional transportation planning and congestion relieving investments to the region's transportation network. The NVTA was created by the Virginia General Assembly Senate Bill 576 on July 1, 2002 to serve as Northern Virginia's transportation planning, programming and funding entity.

The night of celebration and reflection focused on Northern Virginia's transportation problems, policies and funding solutions took place at the City of Fairfax's Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center. The program was led by WTOP reporter Max Smith. Guests enjoyed several speakers, including keynote addresses from U.S. Congressman Gerry Connolly and Justice William C. Mims of the Virginia State Supreme Court.

Justice Mims reflected on the vision behind the creation of the NVTA. He commended many of the Authority's original members and supporters who helped establish the Authority, including the NVTA's first Chairmen.

"The NVTA has been a region-wide effort," said Justice Mims. "It is a success story with many individuals who deserve credit for making the Authority what it is today."

Congressman Connolly applauded the Authority on the impact of the transportation investments it has delivered. With enthusiasm, the Congressman remarked on how the Authority's accomplishments are evidence of politicians putting aside their party's obligations and parochialism to work together for the greater good of Northern Virginians.

"NVTA managed as a region to agree on a list of projects and prioritize them," noted Congressman Connolly. "That meant everyone had to give something. People had to overcome parochialism. People had to understand the greater good and they did. That happened and it continues to happen at NVTA. It is unsung work."

NVTA Chairman Marty Nohe noted the Authority's many accomplishments would not be possible without tremendous regional collaboration and coordination with its member jurisdictions and transit agencies, members of the General Assembly and stakeholders alike who have worked tirelessly to allow the NVTA to grow over the past 15 years.

"I want to thank everyone who was there in 2007, going through all the hard work of standing up the organization and standing up transportation plans," said Chairman Nohe. "The good work we are doing today would not be possible if it were not for each of you."

The evening included many acknowledgments of key leaders who had an important role in establishing the organization and advocating for its growth over the past 15 years. These acknowledgments included previous NVTA Chairmen Kenneth Klinge and Chris Zimmerman, and the two longest standing Authority members: City of Manassas Mayor Hal Parrish and City of Falls Church Council Member David Snyder.

ADDITIONAL QUOTES:

Virginia State Delegate Dave Albo:

"When your constituents call and say, "You better do something about the roads because I can't get home to coach my kid's soccer team, and I expect you to get it done." You get it done, said Delegate Albo. "That's what the proudest thing about HB 2313 was. It wasn't a politician thing. It was a constituent thing."

Former Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton:

"[The passage of HB 2313] was a team effort," said Connaughton. "This was something that was not Republican or Democrat. HB 2313 would have never gone through the General Assembly without almost unanimous support."

Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall:

"My hope is that for the next 15 years, NVTA's transportation investments will continue to grow and we will impact not only the Northern Virginia region but the whole state," said Chair Randall. "So, thank you to all who have supported the NVTA."

PHOTOS: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5ir48trd6b7fg56/AABdnDfpKndCkBR9D06ghErRa?dl=0>

The NVTA was created by the General Assembly on July 1, 2002, to offer a common voice for Northern Virginia on transportation issues confronting the region. The Authority is made up of nine jurisdictions including: the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William; as well as the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park. The Authority is responsible for

updating Northern Virginia's long-range transportation plan, TransAction, and since 2014 manages approximately \$340 million annually in public funds for transportation projects designed to provide congestion relief throughout Northern Virginia. For more information visit www.thenovaauthority.org.

###