



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **NVRC and Other Northern Virginia Elected Officials Approve “Five Principles” to Guide Transportation Funding Legislation**

Northern Virginia elected officials held a press conference Feb. 1 at the General Assembly in Richmond to officially announce the adopted “five principles” to guide the region and legislators during the 2007 General Assembly Session. All agree that a permanent dedicated source of funding for transportation is needed now to meet the commonwealth’s future economic competitive needs.

Northern Virginia elected officials **Barbara A. Favola**, Chairman of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC), **Gerald E. Connolly**, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, **David F. Snyder**, Chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTDC) and member of the Falls Church City Council; **Chris Zimmerman**, Chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) and Arlington County Board Member; and Arlington County Board Member and **William D. Euille**, Mayor of Alexandria and other officials delivered a bi-partisan regional statement that outlined the urgent need for at least \$50 million from an ongoing revenue stream for Metro and significant increases in transportation funding for all modes from stable, reliable and permanent sources.

Other important elements of the five principles include a recognition that transportation is a state responsibility; opposition to a devolution of secondary roads to counties; lack of support for additional consultation with the General Assembly on NVTA projects already prioritized with General Assembly input and adopted unanimously by all nine local governments; and concern that changes to existing land use authority of local governments must include the ability to deny development on the basis of inadequate public facilities.

For more information contact the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission by going to [www.thinkoutsidethecar.org](http://www.thinkoutsidethecar.org) or the Northern Virginia Regional Commission at [www.novaregion.org](http://www.novaregion.org).

## **Statement of Principles Regarding the Proposed Transportation Plan in the General Assembly**

The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) appreciate the efforts made during the General Assembly session to provide a permanent dedicated source of funding for transportation in order to meet the Commonwealth's future economic competitive needs. We believe that this is a step toward a workable solution. At their meetings on February 1, 2007, consistent with the adopted TransAction 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan the NVTA, NVTC and NVRC will affirm their support for the following principles that will guide them in assessing transportation legislation in the General Assembly:

1. The legislation must provide significant increases in transportation funding for all modes from a stable, reliable, and permanent source(s).
2. Transportation is a state responsibility, and therefore, enactment of new Northern Virginia transportation revenue sources must include a substantial state financial commitment. Any regional/local funding effort should include a broad array of options for choosing among a number of revenue sources.
3. NVTA, NVTC, and NVRC oppose the devolution of the secondary road systems to counties as proposed. Such action shifts funding responsibilities from the state to the local tax base and home owners associations and will lead to a disparity in the level of road maintenance around the Commonwealth.
4. NVTA, NVTC and NVRC do not support language that requires the local government and NVTA to consult with General Assembly members when selecting projects to be funded with new Northern Virginia revenues. There are General Assembly members on NVTA, and the TransAction 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan, adopted unanimously by all nine local governments in the region, already prioritizes Northern Virginia investments.
5. Any change in the existing land use authority of local governments should also be based on a deliberative, consultative process and must include the ability to deny development on the basis of inadequate public facilities.

Further, NVTA, NVTC and NVRC respectfully call on the General Assembly to:

- A. Provide a fair share of funding for Northern Virginia in the statewide package.
- B. Limit the use of General Fund dollars, so as to protect current and future funding for core state obligations, such as K-12, higher education, public safety and human services.
- C. Allocate bond funds to all modes, including transit capital, based on the Transportation Trust Fund formula.
- D. Continue to match federal interstate and primary road earmarks with state funds, not shift this responsibility to Northern Virginia regional funds.
- E. Provide an on-going revenue stream of at least \$50 million in capital funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) with no sunset, and no federal match requirement. This will provide flexibility beyond matching federal funds, and will ensure that WMATA's on-going capital needs will be funded.