



NVTA NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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TAKE ACTION WITH TRANSACTION 2030

*NVTA invites public to comment on 2030 transportation plan update.
Free SmarTrip Cards to first 25 attendees!*

Arlington, VA -- The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) invites the public to an open house and public hearing on **December 6, 2005** at:

George C. Marshall High School - 7731 Leesburg Pike - Falls Church, VA 22043
Open House 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm
Presentation at 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Public Hearing and Comment Period 7:30 pm

--West Falls Church Metro Station and Metrobus routes 28A & 28B--

The NVTA will present the initial results of a year-long study of the entire Northern Virginia transportation system starting with current conditions in 2005 and projecting conditions for 2030 that reflect the construction of planned improvements. The NVTA seeks public comment on the draft blueprint for how the region intends to address clogged roadways, overcrowded trains and unsafe conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Extensive efforts were made to seek public input regarding the projects that should take priority in specific corridors throughout the region. The public was also asked about their commuting habits and how they felt their priority projects should be funded.

One of the primary goals for TransAction 2030 is to develop a final list of projects to receive priority funding. This is critical due to the estimated funding shortfall of over \$15 billion, despite allocation of over \$3 billion to the Dulles rail and other projects.

##MORE##

Certain corridors emerge as clear priorities through public forums

The technical evaluation of public transit, roadways, bicycle and walking facilities is nearing completion and NVRTA needs additional input to determine whether the public still agrees with the previous input obtained or if they would prefer new strategies be employed to improve the region's transportation and commuting systems.

For example, a full fifty percent of the respondents to a telephone survey said that public transportation is their top priority; and approximately twenty-five percent chose road improvements. Eighty-five percent of the respondents stated that they were willing to pay to expand public transportation and reduce crowding on Metrorail and the Virginia Railway Express.

A ballot vote was conducted for eight major corridors in the region during a series of community fairs. Voters clearly showed that the I-66/US-29/US-50 corridor was their first priority. The Dulles/VA-7 corridor followed in second place. In the Dulles corridor, extension of Metrorail to Dulles Airport and Ashburn, Virginia (Loudoun County) was far ahead of any other choice.

Cutting edge approach used for transportation plan

One of the centerpieces of the proposed TransAction 2030 Plan is the introduction of extensive transit, bicycle, and pedestrian level of service (LOS) analyses to complement the highway LOS analysis. For the first time in Northern Virginia, the Transit LOS methodology will provide a framework for measuring transit availability and quality of service from the passenger point of view. The introduction of Multimodal LOS analyses allows the project team to evaluate the interactions between modes (bus, auto, bike, and pedestrian) to better understand the effects of investments on all users of the transportation system. This will be the first application of these methodologies in Northern Virginia and one of the first applications in the country. TransAction 2030 will be the largest application to date of the Multimodal LOS analysis, placing Northern Virginia on the cutting edge of transportation planning.

SmarTrip cards to be given away!

SmarTrip cards loaded with \$5 in fare will be given away to the first 25 attendees to sign in at the public hearing.

##MORE##

Public statement guidelines and special needs interpreters will be available

Anyone wishing to make a public statement at the Public Hearing is asked to register their name in advance by calling 1-888-710-2030, TDD (800) 828-1120. Comments will be limited to three minutes for individuals and five minutes for organizations.

Sign language interpreters will be on hand from 5pm to 10 pm for the hearing impaired. **Spanish interpreters** will also be on hand from 5pm to 10 pm.

Anyone requiring additional special accommodation is asked to call or e-mail their specific needs to info@transaction2030.com before 5pm December 5, 2005.

Quotes from Public Officials

"We urge the public to attend this important meeting. Shortly after this hearing, we will issue the long range plan that will, if funded, go a long way to solving the region's transportation problems involving transit, roads, technology and bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure. The people in this region know what they want and are willing to pay for it. It is now time for us to empower them to do so through this plan and the funds it will take to realize it"—The Honorable David F. Snyder, Chairman, NVT

##NVT##