

# **Correspondence Section**



**Northern Virginia Transportation Authority**  
*The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia*

February 2, 2016

The Honorable David Tarter  
City of Falls Church  
300 Park Avenue, Suite 303 East  
Falls Church, VA 22046

Dear Mayor Tarter:

I am writing to advise you of the potential loss of the City's HB2313 local revenue for FY 2016. Prior to distributing the annual 30% revenue to member jurisdictions, HB2313 obligates the Authority to conduct an annual certification process. Unless this certification is completed by March 1<sup>st</sup>, the FY2016 30% will be forfeited. The forfeited funds, estimated to be \$810,000 will be permanently transferred to the Authority's Regional Revenue Fund for assignment to regional transportation projects.

The technical due date for the certification was August 1, 2015. However, the March 1<sup>st</sup> date has the significant implication. The certification must be received, verified and accepted by the Authority staff by March 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid forfeiture.

It is the strong desire of the Authority to see all member jurisdictions in compliance with HB2313 and receiving their 30% funds. The Authority staff, specifically Michael Longhi, Chief Financial Officer, continues to be available to the City to assist in the completion of the certification. Mr. Longhi's cell phone is (571)355-3512.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Nohe".

Martin E. Nohe  
Chairman

CC: The Honorable David F. Snyder  
Wyatt Shields, City Manager  
Richard La Condre, Director of Finance  
Paul Stoddard, Principal Planner  
Monica Backmon, NVTA Executive Director  
Michael Longhi, NVTA Chief Financial Officer



**Northern Virginia Transportation Authority**  
*The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia*

February 8, 2016

Ms. Sarah Crawford  
Regional Transportation Planning Program Coordinator  
Transportation Division  
Arlington County Department of Environmental Services  
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 900  
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Ms. Crawford,

I am responding to your email dated January 27, 2016 requesting determination eligibility status utilizing both 70% and 30% funds for the following:

- **Land acquisition for the purchase of property for a transportation facility.** This property would be used for a secured parking area for approximately 50 ART buses, a building for dispatching, operations supervisor, and bus operator's room, and a facility for storing bus shelters, benches, and related bus stop equipment for the long-term future.

According to the identified request, the NVRTA staff have concluded that the request appears to be consistent with the allowable uses for the 70% regional revenues provided that the project is in the Authority's Long-Range Transportation Plan and undergoes the HB 599 and the Authority's project evaluation process.

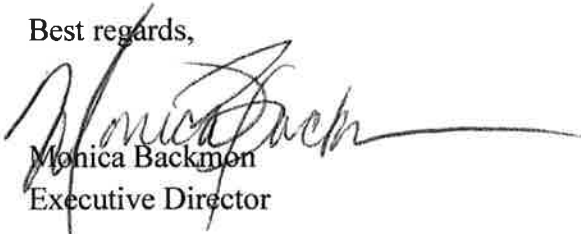
Staff has also concluded that the request appears to be consistent with the use of 30% funds as identified in the legislation.

As stated in the HB2313, 30% funding can be used for the purposes identified below:

1. additional urban or secondary road construction;
2. for other capital improvements that reduce congestion;
3. for other transportation capital improvements which have been approved by the most recent long range transportation plan adopted by the Authority;
4. or for public transportation purposes.

If you have any additional questions concerning the appropriateness of a specific potential use or expenditure, please let me know and the NVTA staff will be glad to work through the question with the County.

Best regards,



Monica Backmon  
Executive Director

cc: NVTA Council of Counsels  
Board Member Jay Fisette  
Michael Longhi, NVTA, CFO

**From:** Sarah Crawford <[scrawford@arlingtonva.us](mailto:scrawford@arlingtonva.us)>  
**Date:** January 27, 2016 at 10:00:50 AM EST  
**To:** Monica Backmon <[Monica.Backmon@thenovaauthority.org](mailto:Monica.Backmon@thenovaauthority.org)>  
**Subject: RE: Use of NVTA Funding**

Hi Monica:

This property would be used for a secured parking area for approximately 50 ART buses, a building for dispatching, operations supervisor, and bus operators room, and a facility for storing bus shelters, benches, and related bus stop equipment for the long-term future.

If land acquisition for this purpose is determined eligible for both/either NVTA local/regional funds, we would also likely use either/both of those funds to construct the facility.

Sarah

**Sarah Crawford**  
Transportation Division  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
(703) 228-3397

**From:** Monica Backmon [<mailto:Monica.Backmon@thenovaauthority.org>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2016 9:53 AM  
**To:** Sarah Crawford <[scrawford@arlingtonva.us](mailto:scrawford@arlingtonva.us)>  
**Subject: RE: Use of NVTA Funding**

Hi Sarah,

Can you provide additional information on the transportation facility and the proposed use of the facility?

Thanks  
Monica

**Monica Backmon**  
**Executive Director**  
**703-642-4650 (O)**  
**571-355-4176 (C)**  
**Northern Virginia Transportation Authority**  
*The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia*  
3040 Williams Drive ♦ Suite 200 ♦ Fairfax, VA 22031  
[www.TheNoVaAuthority.org](http://www.TheNoVaAuthority.org)

**From:** Sarah Crawford [<mailto:scrawford@arlingtonva.us>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2016 9:11 AM  
**To:** Monica Backmon  
**Subject:** Use of NVTA Funding

Hi Monica:

I'd like to request your input on the eligible use of both NVTA 30% local and NVTA 70% regional funding. Is land acquisition an eligible use of either of these funding streams? This is not ROW acquisition, but rather would be the purchase of property for a transportation facility. Thank you for your guidance!

Sarah

**Sarah Crawford**

Regional Transportation Planning Program Coordinator

Transportation Division  
ARLINGTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 900  
Arlington, VA 22201  
(703) 228-3397  
[www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us)



**Northern Virginia Transportation Authority**  
*The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia*

February 10, 2016

Ms. Wendy Block-Sanford  
Transportation Director  
10455 Armstrong Street  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030-3630

Dear Ms. Block-Sanford,

I am responding to your letter dated February 5, 2016 requesting determination eligibility status utilizing 30% funds for the following:

- Utilize 30% funding to install street lights adjacent to an existing sidewalk. There are currently no lights along a portion of George Mason Boulevard between George Mason University and downtown City of Fairfax. The City would like to install low-level pedestrian lighting in this location to improve visibility in the area and increase usage of this sidewalk.

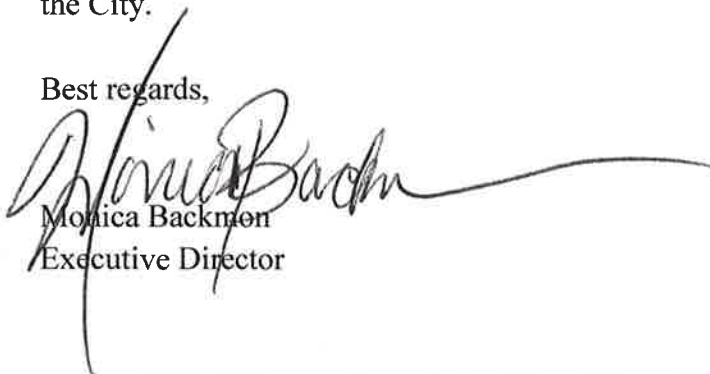
According to the identified request, the NVTa staff has concluded that the request appears to be consistent with the use of 30% funds identified in the legislation.

As stated in the HB2313, 30% funding can be used for the purposes identified below:

1. additional urban or secondary road construction;
2. for other capital improvements that reduce congestion;
3. for other transportation capital improvements which have been approved by the most recent long range transportation plan adopted by the Authority; or
4. for public transportation purposes.

If you have any additional questions concerning the appropriateness of a specific potential use or expenditure, please let me know and the NVTa will be glad to work through the question with the City.

Best regards,



Monica Backmen  
Executive Director

cc: NVTA Council of Counsels  
Mayor R. Scott Silverthorne  
Robert Sisson, City Manager  
David Hodgkins, Assistant City Manager/CFO  
Brian Lubkeman, City Attorney  
David Summers, Public Works Director  
Michael Longhi, NVTA, CFO





**City of Fairfax**

*10455 Armstrong Street  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030-3630*

February 5, 2016

Ms. Monica Backmon  
Executive Director  
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority  
3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200  
Fairfax, Virginia 22031

Re: Request for determination about Project Eligibility Utilizing 30% Funding

Dear Ms. Backmon:

The City of Fairfax requests a determination from the NVTa Council of Counsels about eligibility to utilize 30% funding to install street lights adjacent to an existing sidewalk. There are currently no lights along a portion of George Mason Boulevard between George Mason University and downtown City of Fairfax. The City would like to install low-level pedestrian lighting in this location to improve visibility in the area and increase usage of this sidewalk.

Sincerely,

*Wendy Block Sanford*

Wendy Block Sanford  
Transportation Director

CC: Robert Sisson, City Manager  
David Hodgkins, Assistant City Manager/CFO  
Brian Lubkeman, City Attorney  
David Summers, Public Works Director



February 19, 2016

Dear Colleague,

A floor on the regional fuels tax for the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and Potomac and the Rappahannock Transportation Commission is imperative for the sustainability of our transportation system; a concern we know we share. NVTC and PRTC lost \$24 million in gas tax revenues last year due to the lack of a floor. With gas prices continuing to fall, the region faces even greater losses in 2016. These revenues are critical for transportation operating and capital expenses from Spotsylvania County to Loudoun County.

- VRE commuter rail operations are sustained by these revenues.
- The very existence of local and commuter bus service in Prince William County is threatened by the absence of a floor. Without this service, thousands of commuters will need to find other options to get to work, crowding the already congested I-95 corridor, and thousands of local residents without alternative transportation will have no way to access jobs and doctors.
- PTRC jurisdictions including the Cities of Fredericksburg, Manassas and Manassas Park, and Stafford and Spotsylvania Counties use these revenues for vital roadway investments.
- NVTC's WMATA Compact members use these revenues as an important source for making its commitments to Metro.
- Loudoun County is already counting on its portion of these receipts to honor its commitment to Metro beginning in the very near future.

The need for a sustainable source of transportation funding has never been greater. Your support of a floor on the regional motor fuels tax is essential to preserving businesses and supporting commuters throughout the region. We urge you to join us in finding a solution to this pressing problem.

Sincerely,

Martin Nohe  
Chairman, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority  
Coles District Supervisor, Prince William County Board  
of Supervisors

Jay Fiset  
Chairman, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission  
Vice-Chair, Arlington County Board

Gary Skinner  
Chairman, Virginia Railway Express Operations Board  
Lee Hill District Supervisor, Spotsylvania County Board of  
Supervisors

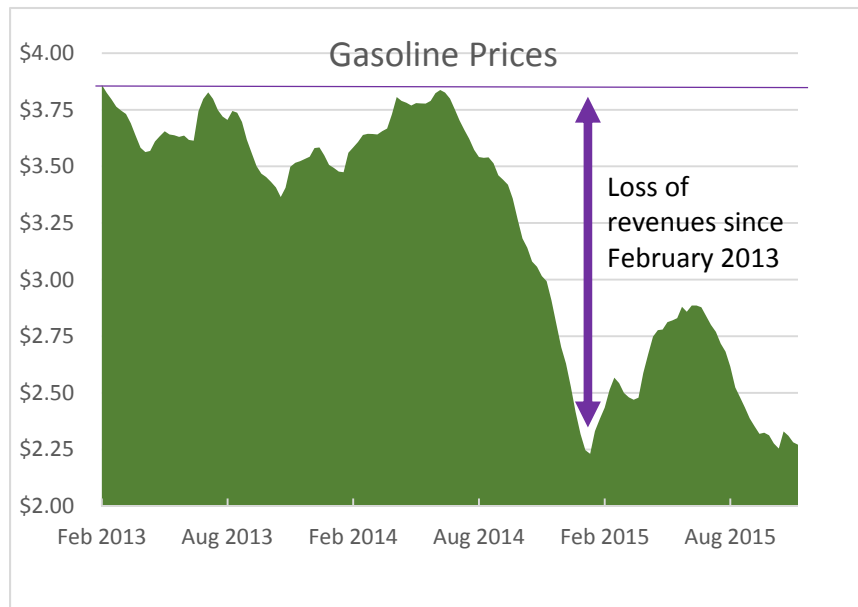
Frank Principi  
Chairman, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation  
Commission  
Woodbridge District Supervisor, Prince William County  
Board of Supervisors

# Gas Tax Floor Essential for Regional Transportation Funding

February 2016

## Where Things Stand

Since 2013, NVTC and PRTC have experienced as much as a 40 percent decrease in monthly motor fuels tax collections – funding that is used to support capital and operating expenses for transit that serves Fairfax, Arlington, Loudoun, Prince William, Stafford, Spotsylvania and the cities of Fairfax, Alexandria, Falls Church, Manassas, Manassas Park and Fredericksburg. Because the tax is based on the sales price of fuel, the tax fluctuates with the change in the price of fuel. The State gas tax has protections to keep a minimum level of revenue; however, the regional gas tax does not.



## What is the Regional Motor Fuels Tax?

The Motor Vehicle Fuels sales tax is levied at the rate of 2.1 percent on fuels sold/delivered in bulk in the Northern Virginia area. The tax is imposed on the sales price of fuel to retail dealers, and includes other state and federal taxes in the base. The tax is collected by the Commonwealth of Virginia, and remitted to NVTC where it is held in trust for its member jurisdictions' restricted use. The NVTC WMATA compact members, which include the counties of Fairfax and Arlington, and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church, are required to use the tax for Metro subsidies. Loudoun County may use the tax for any transportation purpose. The PRTC jurisdictions use the tax to support the Virginia Railway Express, local transit service, and other transportation needs.

The Regional Motor Fuels sales tax was first levied in 1981 at the rate of 2 percent of retail sales. Effective January 1, 2010, the tax was changed to a 2.1 percent tax on a wholesale basis (Virginia Code Section 58.1-2291). The increase in the rate was to account for the loss of dealer profit that was part of the two percent tax base when it was a retail tax.

## Why have revenues fallen as much as 40 percent?

Because the tax is based on the sales price of fuel, the tax fluctuates with the change in the price of fuel. Recently, gas tax collections have decreased by as much as 40% in some months compared to 2013, with similar decreases experienced by our partner transportation district, the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC). While HB2313 created a floor for the statewide gas tax, a floor was not established for the regional gas tax.

## What would happen if the floor was restored?

In 2013, legislation was passed that put a minimum threshold of revenues from the State gas tax – to a level no less than the revenue that was available at the time of the law's passage - effectively protecting the amount of revenue available at the State level. During calendar year 2015 alone, NVTC lost \$13.2 million and PRTC lost \$10.6 million in revenue because the regional tax lacks the same protection as the statewide tax.



<b>NVTC &amp; PRTC Regional Motor Vehicle Fuels Sales Tax            Lost Revenue without Fuels Price Floor</b> Calendar Year 2015 (\$ in Thousands)			
		Actual Collections	Lost Revenue
NVTC	City of Alexandria	2,634.6	1,039.8
	Arlington County	3,108.6	1,103.0
	Fairfax County	19,069.3	7,370.2
	City of Fairfax	1,284.0	531.4
	City of Falls Church	378.0	165.6
	Loudoun County	7,860.8	2,943.4
	<b>Total NVTC</b>	<b>34,335.3</b>	<b>13,153.3</b>
PRTC	City of Fredericksburg	1,460.0	816.3
	City of Manassas	938.8	471.2
	City of Manassas Park	626.3	297.8
	Prince William County	10,866.1	5,250.6
	Spotsylvania County	3,889.2	2,184.7
	Stafford County	3,259.8	1,584.2
	<b>Total PRTC</b>	<b>21,040.2</b>	<b>10,604.7</b>
<b>Total NoVa</b>		<b>55,375.5</b>	<b>23,758.0</b>