

March 6, 2018

To: Hon. Martin E. Nohe  
Supervisor, Prince William County

Hon. Harry J. "Hal" Parrish, II  
Mayor, City of Manassas

Hon. Katie Cristol  
Chair, Arlington County

Hon. David Snyder  
Council Member, City of Falls Church

Hon. Jeanette Rishell  
Mayor, City of Manassas Park

Hon. Richard H. Black  
Virginia Senate

Mary Hynes  
Governor's Appointee, CTB Member

Helen Cuervo  
NOVA District Administrator, VDOT

Hon. Phyllis Randall  
Chair, Loudoun County

Hon. Sharon Bulova  
Chairman, Fairfax County

Hon. David L. Meyer  
Mayor, City of Fairfax

Hon. Allison Silberberg  
Mayor, City of Alexandria

Hon. Tim Hugo  
Virginia House of Delegates

Jim Kolb  
Governor's Appointee

Jennifer Mitchell  
Director, DRPT

Hon. Kelly Burk  
Mayor, Town of Leesburg

CC: Sarah Camille Hipp,  
Communications & Public Affairs Manager  
sarahcamille.hipp@thenovaauthority.org

Re: Northern Virginia Transportation Authority's Six Year Program Priorities

Dear Members of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority,

At the heart of better transportation is creating mixed-use, walkable, bike-able, transit-oriented communities so that people have more travel choices and we use our available assets more efficiently. Investments in public transportation create stronger, more attractive communities with cleaner air and vibrant economic centers. We envision a long-term Northern Virginia planning

approach that more effectively preserves farms, forests, and natural areas, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and maximizes water quality, air quality, and economic equality and public health. Transit systems should be accessible, affordable and reliable. They should be easy to reach by walking or biking. People should be able to live, work, play within their towns and neighborhoods to support a strong local economy, clean environment and high quality of life.

The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority has worked for the last two years to create a comprehensive list of transportation projects for the region. We support prioritizing funding to transit projects in Northern Virginia in the next regional funding program. As the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority selects projects under their Six Year Program, we ask that you provide funding for key projects that expand transportation choices and support more sustainable, walkable, transit-oriented communities. Otherwise we will face both far worse traffic and the severe negative impacts that result from widening roads at great cost to adjoining neighborhoods.

The following should be investment priorities for Northern Virginia Transportation Authority funds:

1. Focus transportation investments around Metro and VRE stations including a connected local street network of “complete streets” to facilitate "first and last mile" access to transit, including bicycling, walking, and bus connections
2. Focus new residential development near existing and planned Metro stations in Fairfax and Loudoun, VRE stations, and in commercial corridors being planned for and transformed into walkable, mixed-use, transit-oriented places, while protecting rural land on the periphery of suburbia
3. Rebuild Metro’s rail and bus capital infrastructure and expanding its capacity to support compact development, serve more people., and maintain and strengthen our economic competitiveness
4. Expand VRE capacity on existing lines
5. Expand express bus service, maximizing transit use of HOV lanes on I-66, I-95, and create dedicated bus lanes on Route 50, Route 7, Route 28 and other major corridors, providing a faster, more reliable commute option
6. Make local bus service improvements to support all socio-economic demographics, connect people to jobs, and support mixed-use, walkable, transit-accessible neighborhoods:
  - Alexandria -- DASH
  - Arlington – ART
  - Fairfax Connector
  - PRTC Omnilink
  - Loudoun Transit

7. New fixed-guideway transit in existing and emerging walkable, mixed-use areas:

- Route 7, Alexandria to Tysons
- Route 1 in Fairfax and Prince William
- Columbia Pike
- Gallows Road, Tysons to Inova, with local connection to Annandale

Northern Virginia is a thriving region, expected to grow by 1.6 million people by 2040. We need to utilize these planning strategies that help reduce driving demand and foster walkable, mixed-use areas. The most effective way to address traffic congestion is to build more walkable, mixed-use, transit-friendly communities connected by an expanded network of transit, including both local service and service on dedicated rights-of-way. Building better communities provides benefits for economic development and job creation, health, and the environment. Regional cooperation will bring accessible, affordable and reliable public transit to the entire Northern Virginia region and foster sustainable, attractive and competitive communities.

Signed,

Julie Kimmel  
Co-chair  
350 Fairfax

Rick Holt  
Chair  
Active Prince William

Mr. John Sutherland  
President  
Arlington Coalition for Sensible  
Transportation

Harrison Wallace  
Virginia Policy Coordinator &  
Coastal Campaigns Manager  
Chesapeake Climate Action  
Network (CCAN)

Stewart Schwartz,  
Executive Director,  
Coalition for Smarter Growth

Andrea McGimsey  
Global Warming Director  
Environment Virginia

Jeff Anderson  
President - Board of Directors  
Fairfax Alliance for Better  
Bicycling

Kofi Annan  
President  
Fairfax County NAACP

Meg Mall  
Executive Director  
Faith Alliance for Climate  
Solutions

Kris Unger  
Primary Conservator  
Friends of Accotink Creek

Bill Tanger  
Chair  
Friends of the Rivers of Virginia  
(FORVA)

Dr. Laura Anderko  
Professor and Endowed Chair  
Georgetown University

Mary Barhydt  
League of Women Voters

Karen Nightengale  
President  
NAACP Arlington 7047 Branch

Stair Calhoun  
Director Network NoVA Action

Dan Holmes  
Director of State Policy  
Piedmont Environmental Council

Charles A. Grymes  
Chair  
Prince William Conservation  
Alliance

Rev. Cozy E. Bailey  
President  
Prince William NAACP

Marjorie A. Leach-Parker,  
Chair  
Sierra Club Virginia Chapter

Ray Atkinson  
Transportation and Land Use  
Chair  
Mount Vernon Group of Sierra  
Club

Oliver Aurand  
Communications director  
Social Enterprise Alliance  
Virginia

Trip Pollard  
Director, Land and Community  
Program  
Southern Environmental Law  
Center

Mary Rafferty  
Executive Director  
Virginia Conservation Network

Tamara Evans  
Advocacy Director  
Washington Area Bicyclist  
Association

Paula Clements  
Chair  
The Climate Reality Project:  
Northern Virginia Chapter

Kelsey Crane  
Program Manager  
Sierra Club Virginia Chapter