

United States Senate
Washington

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wed., Feb. 17, 2021

CONTACT:
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ADVISORY: WARNER IN ARLINGTON TO HOST SOCIALLY DISTANCED DISCUSSION ON COVID-19 IMPACT ON REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

~ Will discuss ongoing COVID-19 relief negotiations to keep transit authorities afloat ~

WASHINGTON – **On Friday, February 19 at 1:30 PM in Arlington, Va.**, U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA) will hold a socially distanced meeting with transportation leaders from across the region to discuss effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the region’s transportation grid. The meeting comes as Congress begins work on another round of COVID-19 relief to provide more funding for urgent priorities including transit operating costs as transit authorities across the Commonwealth continue to struggle financially due to the COVID-19 health and economic crises.

In December, Sen. Warner personally [negotiated](#) a [COVID-19 package](#) that provided \$14 billion in emergency relief for public transit agencies to continue operations during the pandemic, ensuring access to transportation for frontline workers and civil servants. As a result, the National Capital Region received over [\\$800 million](#) in emergency funding. Additionally, Sen. Warner successfully advocated for \$150 million in federal funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to fund critical capital investment and safety projects. The December COVID-19 relief package also included a provision Sen. Warner successfully pushed for to allow for the construction of a new Long Bridge on the Potomac River, which will double the capacity of the rail crossing between Virginia and D.C. Sen. Warner introduced the [Long Bridge Act of 2020](#) in August to allow for this construction.

WHAT: Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA) to host socially distanced conversation on COVID-19 impact on regional transportation

WHO: U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA)
Shannon Valentine, Virginia Secretary of Transportation
Monica Backmon, Executive Director, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)
Paul Wiedefeld, General Manager & CEO, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)
Rich Dalton, CEO, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)
Bob Schneider, Executive Director, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission
Kate Mattice, Executive Director, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC)

Jason Stanford, Executive Director, Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance
Doug Pigford, President & CEO, Dulles Area Transportation Association
Jack Potter, President & CEO, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA)
Joe McAndrew, Vice President, Greater Washington Transportation Partnership
Gordon Dixon, Executive Vice President, Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance

WHERE: Northern Virginia Transportation Commission
2300 Wilson Blvd. Suite 230
Arlington, VA 22201

WHEN: Friday, February 19 at 1:30 PM

RSVP: This event is open to media. **Media planning to attend must RSVP to nelly_decker@warner.senate.gov.**

This event is open to press. **Due to the current health crisis, media must RSVP to me (nelly_decker@warner.senate.gov) and are asked to practice social distancing and wear a mask.**

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