NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL TRANSIT SERVICE & NEEDS

VITAL TRANSIT SERVICES

The Fairfax Connector, Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Commuter Rail, and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Metrorail, Metrobus, and MetroAccess are vital services to the mobility and economic growth of Northen Virginia and the Commonwealth. According to a 2023 Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) report, Northern Virginia's transit network generates $1.5 billion in annual personal income and sales tax revenue for Virginia.

Transit in Northern Virginia supports over 311,000 jobs, including nearly 41,000 outside of Northern Virginia.

In 1985, the Fairfax Connector began with 10 routes serving one Metrorail station and now transports approximately 33,000 people on 90 routes daily. Today, the Connector connects to 19 Metrorail stations, including 7 express routes serving the Pentagon Metrorail station, providing approximately 10 million trips annually.

Without the region's transit network, more people would have to drive to reach their destination – adding 278,000 vehicle trips per day – which could lead to a 64% increase in delays due to congestion.

IN VIRGINIA, LOCAL JURISDICTIONS HAVE HISTORICALLY PROVIDED SUBSTANTIAL FUNDING FOR WMATA AND THEIR LOCAL TRANSIT SERVICE.

✓ The County currently provides over $190 million in local and regional revenues annually to fund vital transit service to our region – for the Fairfax Connector, VRE, and WMATA.

✓ Every dollar Virginia invests in transit in Northern Virginia generates an additional $1.60 in statewide revenue, a 160% return on investment.

✓ The revenue makes up nearly 5% of the entire Virginia General Fund, supporting programs and services statewide.

- Approximately 45% of the County's $290 million commitment to WMATA is provided by the County's General Fund (primarily through local property tax revenues), County-authorized bond proceeds, and a regional gas tax.
- Fairfax County also utilizes state assistance (also provided to other public transit systems in the Commonwealth) to support WMATA and Fairfax Connector operating and capital expenses. This state assistance is held in accounts at NVTC to help address the needs and funding obligations for both systems.
- Separately, the County sends the Commonwealth approximately $13 million annually to address Virginia's commitment to WMATA's state of good repair needs, in accordance with the 2018 WMATA funding bill.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES NEEDED

Beginning in FY 2028, WMATA will require around $153 million in additional annual operating assistance from the Commonwealth.

- *The County thanks the General Assembly for providing additional assistance in FY 2025-2028 to help meet these needs.*

Starting in FY 2029, Northern Virginia localities will also be responsible for an additional $136 million each year, with a 3% escalation, to address WMATA capital needs.

WMATA has identified $500 million in operational efficiencies and is committed to finding more, while also making efforts to address fare evasion.

FAIRFAX COUNTY'S LEGISLATIVE POSITION

Investments in transportation are necessary to ensure a modern, efficient, multimodal transportation system. This is essential to the Commonwealth and is intrinsically tied to the region's continued economic success and ability to compete in a global economy. Fairfax County, along with localities throughout the state, continues to provide hundreds of millions in local funds for transportation each year.

Fairfax County supports dedicated, sustainable funding for critical transit systems, including the Fairfax Connector and WMATA, which connect our residents to jobs, schools, and essential services.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT LEGISLATIVETEAM@FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV

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