

**Commonwealth Transportation Board Rail and Transit Subcommittee  
VDOT Human Resources Training Conference Room  
1221 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
May 14, 2024  
9:00 a.m.**

**AGENDA**

1. Approval of March 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes
2. Public Comment
3. Director's Report  
*Jennifer DeBruhl, DRPT Director*
4. I-66 Commuter Choice  
*Kate Mattice, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission Executive Director*  
*Todd Horsley, DRPT Director of Northern Virginia Transit Programs*

**Commonwealth Transportation Board  
Rail and Transit Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
VDOT Conference Room, 1221 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia  
March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 8:30 a.m.**

## **CTB Members Present**

Jennifer DeBruhl (Chair), Dr. Raymond Smoot, Jr., Tom Fowlkes, Mark Merrill, Wayne Coleman, E. Scott Kasprowicz, Linda Green, Frederick Stant III, Mary Hynes

## **Staff and Others Present**

Andrew Wright (DRPT), Jayla Parker (DRPT), Miriam Foster (DRPT), Emily Stock (DRPT), Grant Sparks (DRPT), Avery Daughtery (DRPT), Linda Balderson (DRPT), Evan Price (DRPT), Zach Trogdon (DRPT), Mike Todd (DRPT),

## **Agenda**

1. Approval of June 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes
2. Public Comment
3. Director's Report  
*Jennifer DeBruhl, DRPT Director*
4. Fiscal Year 2025 Public Transportation Update  
*Zach Trogdon, Chief of Public Transportation*
5. Fiscal Year 2025 Rail Update  
*Emily Stock, Chief of Rail Transportation*
6. Virginia Breeze Expansion  
*Avery Daughtery, Statewide Programs Manager*

## **Call to Order**

Chair DeBruhl called the meeting to order at 8:31 am and welcomed the subcommittee members.

## **Approval of the June 20, 2023 Minutes**

On motion of Mr. Fowlkes, seconded by Mr. Coleman, the June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Rail and Transit meeting minutes were approved.

## **Public Comments**

None.

## Director's Report

*Presented by DRPT Director DeBruhl*

Chair DeBruhl informed the subcommittee of the presentation and delivered her Director's Report.

Chair DeBruhl informed the subcommittee of DRPT's strategic plan and new Director's Report template.

Chair DeBruhl presented on DRPT's efforts to create a positive impact on the Commonwealth, including moving a VA Breeze stop, increasing overall statewide ridership, and throughput of rail freight.

Mr. Stant inquired about the Commonwealth's contingent interest in CWRV, and the ownership structure of that shortline railroad.

Chair DeBruhl informed the subcommittee on DRPT's efforts to foster innovative practical solutions. These included working with WMATA, planning for rail crossing elimination, and planning for PAT.

Mr. Merrill inquired about DRPT staff responsibilities on WMATA's boards.

Chair DeBruhl informed the subcommittee on DRPT's efforts to convene with partners and stakeholders. This included working with FRA on their long-distance passenger rail study, and its review of the State Management Plan.

Chair DeBruhl informed the subcommittee on DRPT's efforts to cultivate a sustainable well-managed organization. This includes partnering with VCU's Master of Public Administration program, updating and modernizing its Open Data Portal, and preparing for its triennial federal review.

Chair DeBruhl updated the subcommittee on DRPT's performance metrics. Statewide ridership was 116 million.

Mr. Merrill inquired about ridership declines in the last quarter of the calendar year. Chair DeBruhl answered.

Mr. Kasprovicz and Mr. Merrill inquired about VRE ridership, particularly regarding declines post-pandemic. Chair DeBruhl addressed those questions.

Dr. Smoot inquired about ridership compared to pre-pandemic levels. Chair DeBruhl provided an update on the comparison.

Mr. Coleman inquired about WMATA ridership and its recovery. Chair DeBruhl answered these questions.

Chair DeBruhl provided an update on the Virginia Breeze's ridership.

Mr. Kasprowicz inquired about the Virginia Breeze's farebox recovery. Mr. Daughtery answered that it ranged from 33% to 50%. Chair DeBruhl added further information.

Chair DeBruhl provided an update on Amtrak Virginia ridership. Ms. DeBruhl noted that Amtrak Ridership year over year set new records.

Dr. Smoot asked about a national bus network and long-haul bus services. Chair DeBruhl noted that Virginia Breeze connects with the national bus network.

## **Fiscal Year 2025 Public Transportation Update**

*Presented by DRPT Chief of Public Transportation Zach Trogdon*

Mr. Trogdon began his presentation at 8:56 am. Mr. Trogdon provided an update to DRPT's MERIT program for prioritizing public transit funding. Mr. Trogdon updated the subcommittee on available transit funding. Mr. Trogdon provided an update on the funding and prioritization model for public transit operating and capital support.

Mr. Kasprowicz inquired about DRPT's state-of-good repair scoring methodology, particularly an example of how zero emissions technology may impact scoring. Mr. Trogdon provided an answer.

Mr. Merrill inquired about DRPT's MERIT major capital scoring program. Mr. Trogdon and Chair DeBruhl provided an answer.

Mr. Trogdon presented an update on the number of requests DRPT received for capital support and special programs. Mr. Trogdon provided an update on the Transit Ridership Incentive Program's requests by program area. Mr. Trogdon provided an update on DRPT's coordination the FTA 5310 Enhanced Mobility program.

Dr. Smoot inquired about the use of funding to support vehicle purchasing.

Mr. Kasprowicz inquired about MERIT-Operating Assistance, particularly using operating cost per passenger mile. Chair DeBruhl provided an answer.

## **Fiscal Year 2025 Rail Update**

*Presented by DRPT Chief of Rail Transportation Emily Stock*

Mrs. Stock began her presentation at 9:11 am. Mrs. Stock presented a summary of DRPT's FY25 rail applications and the operations of DRPT's rail team. Mrs. Stock provided an update on DRPT's FREIGHT program.

Mr. Stant inquired about the number of applications for the FREIGHT program that came from Class I Railroads. Mrs. Stock and Mr. Todd provided an answer.

Dr. Smoot inquired about what type of projects fall under the FREIGHT program. Mrs. Stock and Mr. Todd provided an answer. Dr. Smoot inquired about who benefitted from these programs. Chair DeBruhl and Mrs. Stock provided further information.

Mrs. Stock provided updates on the Rail Preservation Programs. Mrs. Stock presented a map of the applications received for the FREIGHT and Rail Preservation programs. Mrs. Stock noted the gap between the funding available vs. the funding requested for both the FREIGHT and Rail Preservation programs.

Mr. Kasprowicz inquired about capturing data on originating and terminating rail carloads in Virginia. Mr. Kasprowicz noted that identifying increases in originating and terminating rail carloads in Virginia would illustrate the performance of DRPT's rail programs. Mr. Kasprowicz requested an update on these data.

## **Virginia Breeze Expansion**

*Presented by DRPT Statewide Programs Manager Avery Daughtery*

Mr. Daughtery began his presentation at 9:29 am. Mr. Daughtery presented the study of an east-west Virginia Breeze bus service expansion along the I-64 corridor. Mr. Daughtery explained the operations and purpose of the Virginia Breeze. Mr. Daughtery noted that the Virginia Breeze currently only serves north-south corridors. Mr. Daughtery noted that the FTA requires an analysis to determine whether intercity bus needs have been made. Mr. Daughtery explained DRPT's study of the need for a new east-west VA Breeze expansion, including stakeholder engagements.

Mr. Daughtery noted the two alternative routes for the east-west Virginia Breeze.

Dr. Smoot inquired about the net cost to operate. Mr. Daughtery provided an answer.

Mr. Kasprowicz inquired about the cost per passenger mile. Mr. Kasprowicz requested that information and noted his surprise at the low cost of operating.

Mrs. Hynes inquired about the frequency of service. Mr. Daughtery provided an answer.

Mr. Merrill inquired about the time and schedule of the service. Mr. Daughtery said he would provide an answer.

Mrs. Hynes inquired about which route would take longer.

Mr. Kasprowicz noted he would be interested in the amount of CO2 emissions reductions.

Chair DeBruhl noted that this service would receive state funds through the TRIP program.

Mr. Coleman commented on the previous rail program. He noted his support for the FREIGHT program, particularly for supporting the Port of Virginia.

## **Other Business**

None.

## **Adjournment**

Chair DeBruhl adjourned the meeting at 9:46 am.



# I-66 Commuter Choice: Draft FY 2025-2026 Program of Projects

**Commonwealth Transportation Board  
Rail and Transit Subcommittee**

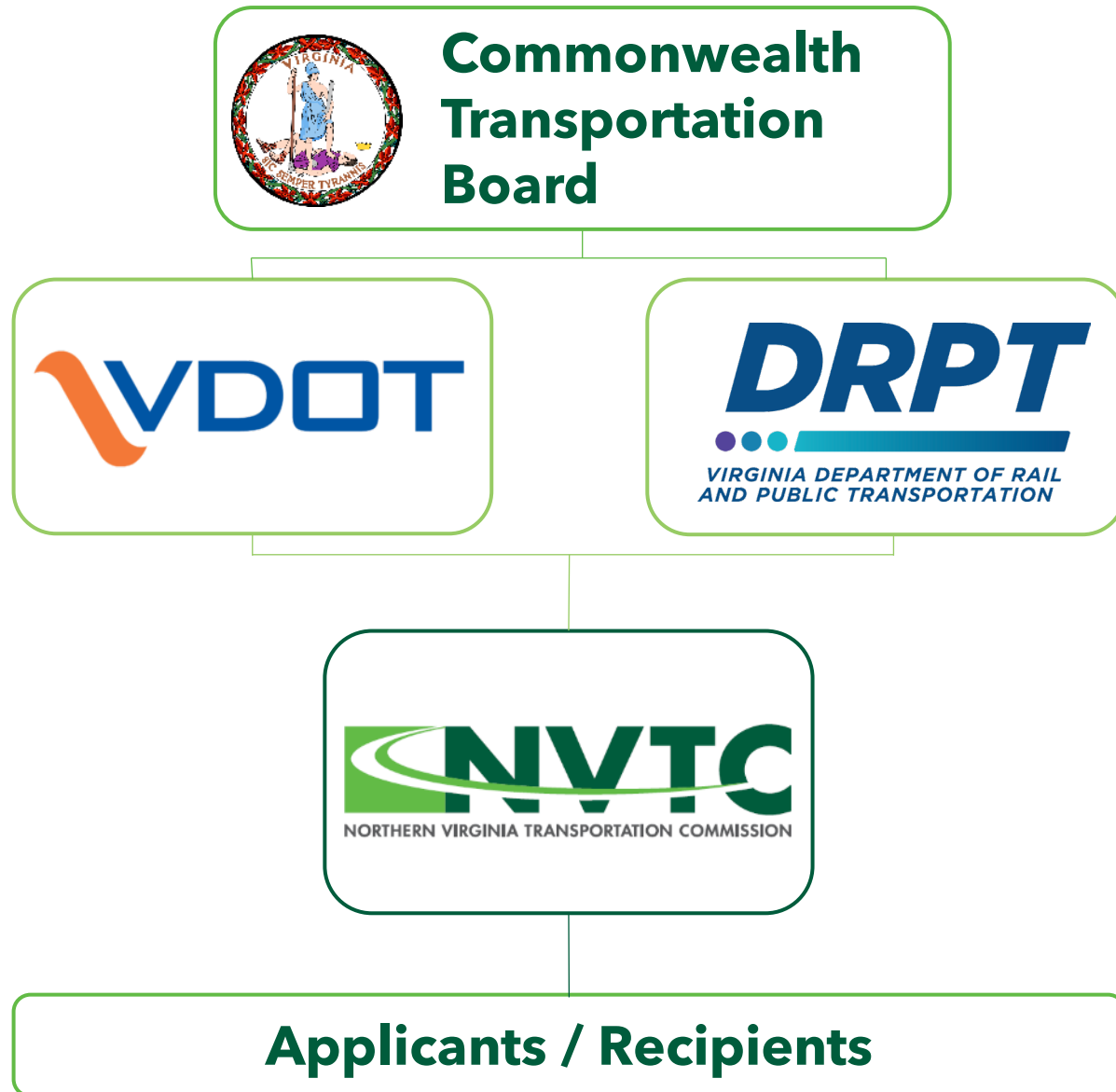
**May 14, 2024**

**Kate Mattice**  
*Executive Director, NVTC*

**Todd Horsley**  
*Director of Northern Virginia  
Transit Programs, DRPT*

# Key Roles and Responsibilities

## I-66 Commuter Choice



- Approves projects identified by NVTC via DRPT
- Receives annual Commuter Choice report

- **VDOT** transfers toll revenue (ITB) to DRPT
- **DRPT** transfers concessionaire payments (OTB) and toll revenue (ITB) to NVTC, reviews projects for eligibility in coordination with OAG and makes final recommendations to CTB

- Selects multimodal improvements
- Monitors effectiveness of projects
- Develops annual program report for CTB
- Markets transportation options in the corridor

- Apply for and implement projects



# About Commuter Choice

A competitive grant program that invests toll revenues from I-66 Inside the Beltway and I-395/95 into transportation projects that...



Maximize person throughput



Improve mobility

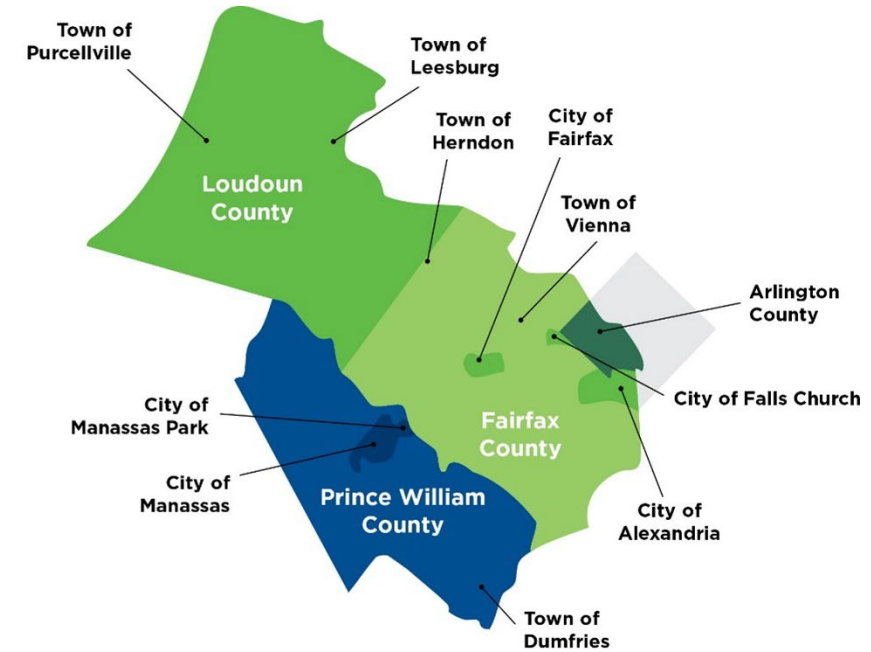


Support new, diverse travel options



Enhance safety and reliability

Each corridor has a multi-decade payout schedule and typically about \$30 million in available funds per two-year program.



## Eligible Applicants

### Localities

NVTC Jurisdiction

PRTC Jurisdiction

### Transit Agencies

OmniRide

Virginia Railway Express

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

# I-66 Commuter Choice: Draft FY 2025-2026 Program of Projects



Applicant	I-66 Commuter Choice FY 2025-2026 Application	Proposed Award	Score (100 Points)
Arlington County	ART 75 Service Enhancement: Shirlington to Virginia Square	\$397,160	56
Fairfax County	Fairfax Connector Route 697: Stringfellow Road Park-and-Ride to L'Enfant Plaza (Continuation)	\$2,130,488	69
	Fairfax Connector Route 698: Stringfellow Road Park-and-Ride to the Pentagon (Continuation)	\$1,506,053	78
	Fairfax Connector Route 699: Monument Drive Park-and-Ride to Downtown Washington, D.C. (Continuation)	\$2,592,444	60
	Fairfax Centre Bikeshare Expansion	\$510,000	64
	Fairfax Connector Route 610: Centreville to George Mason University *	\$1,826,943	45
Loudoun County	Loudoun County Transit Route 281/681 Service Enhancement: Stone Ridge Park-and-Ride to Downtown Washington, D.C. (Continuation)	\$553,000	84
	Loudoun County Transit Route 483/883: Harmony Park-and-Ride to Downtown Washington, D.C. (Continuation)	\$281,000	93
OmniRide	OmniRide Route 612: Gainesville to the Pentagon (Continuation)	\$2,393,125	89
	OmniRide Route 622: Haymarket to Rosslyn	\$1,621,275	62
	OmniRide Route 653: Warrenton and Gainesville to L'Enfant Plaza *	\$3,805,125	63
<b>(continued)</b>			

\* Project was referred to DRPT's Outside the Beltway funding program based on the nature of the anticipated benefits. If DRPT opts to fund the project, it would be removed from Commuter Choice consideration.

# I-66 Commuter Choice: Draft FY 2025-2026 Program of Projects

Applicant	I-66 Commuter Choice FY 2025-2026 Application	Proposed Award	Score (100 Points)
OmniRide	OmniRide Route 671: Front Royal, Linden, and Gainesville to Downtown Washington, D.C. *	\$3,228,625	67
Prince William County	TDM Strategy: I-66 OmniRide Fare Buy-Down	\$1,000,000	55
VRE	TDM Strategy: Amtrak Step-Up Reinstatement on VRE Manassas Line	\$537,420	94
	Crystal City Station Expansion **	\$8,000,000	73
NVTC	<i>Program Administration and Oversight FY 2025-2026</i>	\$350,000	
	<i>I-66 Corridor Needs Assessment</i>	\$250,000	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$30,982,658</b>	

\* Project was referred to DRPT's Outside the Beltway funding program based on the nature of the anticipated benefits. If DRPT opts to fund the project, it would be removed from Commuter Choice consideration.

\*\* Project received an initial installment of funding (\$10,786,281) under I-395/95 Commuter Choice. The remaining \$8,000,000 is proposed to be fulfilled under I-66 Commuter Choice.

**2,700**  
daily trips

**21M**  
fewer annual  
vehicle miles

**250K**  
hours of delay  
saved each year

**70%**  
GHG emissions  
reduction over  
driving alone

**\$2.6M**  
annual savings  
for commuters  
in fuel costs

# Strategic Programming Shift: VRE Crystal City Station Expansion Project



- In the last I-395/95 Commuter Choice round, Commissions and CTB funded construction of the new, larger Crystal City VRE (and future Amtrak) station, a project with a unique nexus to both corridors
- \$18.8M award was to be split across I-395/95 FY24-25 (\$10.8M) and FY26-27 (\$8M) programs
- The outstanding \$8M is included in the draft I-66 FY25-26 program instead, given nexus and funding availability
- Supports Transforming Rail in Virginia, makes funding available to VRE sooner and frees up funding in the next I-395/95 cycle



Images: [VRE](#)



Image: [VPR](#)



Image: [WMATA](#)



# Planning for Future Rounds: Proposed I-66 Corridor Needs Assessment

- Evaluation of current and future I-66 corridor travel needs to identify:
  - Menus of eligible local and regional transit and multimodal projects, and
  - Opportunities and considerations to leverage toll revenue strategically for long-term transformative capital investments
- Compilation of an investment pipeline will be based on:
  - Reviews of existing transit strategic plans and capital improvement programs for projects consistent with program requirements
  - Quantitative analyses of current and future travel patterns and needs
  - Workshops with localities and transit operators to discuss unmet needs and identify additional potential projects

# I-66 Commuter Choice: Next Steps



- **Eligibility Review**
- **Technical Evaluation**
- **Public Outreach and Comment**



- **NVTC Commission** adopts Program of Projects and authorizes contracting for needs assessment work
- **CTB** approves final Program of Projects as part of DRPT's Six-Year Improvement Program



- **NVTC and recipients** begin to execute Standard Project Agreements for selected projects
- **NVTC and DRPT** begin I-66 Needs Assessment study



- **Recipients** carry out selected projects and report on project status and performance to NVTC
- **NVTC** administers funds, monitors project implementation and develops annual reports on funded projects

# Questions?

**Kate Mattice**

*Executive Director, NVTC*

**Todd Horsley**

*Director of Northern Virginia  
Transit Programs, DRPT*



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