Reinvesting Toll Revenues into Multimodal Improvements in Northern Virginia

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NVTC

The Voice of Transit in Northern Virginia

- Funding and stewardship of Metro and Virginia Railway Express
- Managing state and regional funding for six local bus systems
- Working across jurisdictional boundaries to coordinate transit service
- Administering the Commuter Choice Program (I-66 inside the Beltway and I-395/I-95)
About Commuter Choice

A competitive grant program that invests toll revenues from two Northern Virginia expressway corridors into transportation projects that benefit toll payers, in that they...

Maximize Person Throughput & Implement Multimodal Improvements

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

Improve mobility
Support new, diverse travel choices
Enhance transportation safety and travel reliability
Commuter Choice on the I-66 corridor
(Began in 2017)
Commuter Choice on the I-395/95 corridor
(Began in 2019)
Technical evaluation process

Technical Merit

- Person Throughput: 45%
- Travel Time Savings: 15%
- Transportation Connections: 15%
- Accessibility: 15%

Annualized Cost Effectiveness: 15 points
Applicant Preference: 10 points
Interagency Collaboration: 5 points

Results in a technical score (max 100 points) provided to Commission and public for consideration.
Projects to date:
Bus services and related capital improvements

$51M of the $58M awarded

Image Credits (clockwise from upper left): OmniRide, Alexandria Transit Company, NVTC (bottom two)
Projects to date: TDM campaigns and strategies

$4M of the $58M awarded

Image Credits: bottom right, NVTC; others, Arlington County
Projects to date: Other categories

Access to transit
- $2M of the $58M awarded

Roadway operations
- $1M of the $58M awarded

Image Credits: left side, top two NVTC, bottom City of Fairfax; right side, both Arlington County
Impacts: Tolling and Commuter Choice funding

- 700 more people moved through the corridor each morning in 2019
- 750 fewer vehicles moved through the corridor each morning in 2019

26% growth in commuter bus ridership since 2015

Commuter bus and rail are complementary transit services.

Image Credits: NVTC
Challenges we’re working to address

• **Encourage diverse project proposals**
  - Likely nearing market saturation for new/expanded commuter bus routes even pre-COVID

• **Assist applicants in fostering strong, innovative project proposals**
  - More discussion about finding good fits with program requirements, less unguided “seeing what sticks”
  - Encourage innovative technology solutions within the constraints of competitive procurement requirements

• **Emphasize directly measurable outcomes**
  - For ease of performance reporting, especially with TDM
Thank You.

Ben Owen
Commuter Choice Senior Program Manager,
Northern Virginia Transportation Commission
benowen@novatransit.org
http://www.novatransit.org/programs/commuterchoice/
571.565.4407 direct | 703.524.3322 main