



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES SIX-YEAR PLAN**

***Authority officially appoints John Mason as its First Executive Director***

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA** – The members of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVRTA) unanimously approved the Authority’s Six-Year Plan, following a Public Hearing, at its first meeting of 2008.

Over 60 people attended the Public Hearing at George Mason High School in Falls Church, Virginia. Approximately 21 people spoke and provided feedback to the Authority members on the proposed \$93.3 million for each fiscal year of projects in the plan, which includes FY 2009 and FY 2010.

The approved list of projects features a combination of roadway, transit, pedestrian and bicycle improvements. Funding of \$206 million for FY08 - FY10 for Metro & VRE combined is also included in the six-year plan.

“We are doing what we said we would do, delivering real solutions and making smart investments in transportation for Northern Virginia. Approval of this plan is an important step for the Authority in solving our region’s traffic woes,” said Chris Zimmerman, Authority Chairman.

Roadway improvements include:

- Route 3000 (Prince William County Parkway) Widening between Old Bridge and Minnieville;
- Route 15 Road Widening (Evergreen Mill Rd to Leesburg);
- Route 7 Widening from Rolling Holly Drive to Reston Parkway & Route 7/Route 659 Interchange;
- Mulligan Road (Old Mill Rd Connector Road) [Fort Belvoir BRAC Related];
- Route 1 Widening (Prince William Co.) from Featherstone Road to Joplin Road;
- Route 28 Grade Separation Overpass (B-Line and Wellington Rd)

Transit improvement projects include:

- Columbia Pike Streetcar;
- I-66/Vienna Metrorail Accessibility & Capacity Improvements;
- Rosslyn (Metro) Station Access Improvements;
- Transit Development Plan (Fairfax Connector); and
- Capital Improvements -76 Buses, Facilities, and Service.

For a full list of the projects please visit:

<http://thenovaauthority.org/PDFs/Meetings/2008/1.10.08/Six%20Year%20Plan%20Projects%20121807.pdf>

### **Mason Officially Appointed as Executive Director**

The Authority also voted unanimously to appoint John Mason as Executive Director and formally approved his contract.

“With John Mason taking on this important role, this is yet another integral step forward for the Authority,” said Authority Chairman Chris Zimmerman (Arlington Co.)

John Mason has worked for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) since 1978, serving as vice president and director of the Transportation Policy and Analysis Center.

Mason served on the City of Fairfax’s city council from 1986 – 1990 and served as that city’s mayor from 1990 to 2002. In addition to his service to the City of Fairfax, Mason has served on the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), including a year as chairman in 2001; the Transportation Coordinating Council (TCC) of Northern Virginia; the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC), including a year as chairman in 1993; the Virginia Municipal League Transportation Committee; the Governor’s Commission on Rail Enhancement for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; and the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO), serving as chairman in 2000.

“I am honored to be appointed as the Authority’s first Executive Director. I am eager to see that we begin to deliver what we’ve promised to Northern Virginians: to work toward fixing the region’s transportation problems with targeted transportation improvements and wise investments. From day one the Authority has been open, transparent and inclusive I will work to maintain this. The Authority’s members believe that by working together with the public, businesses, local governments and planning agencies we can make smart investments that have real impact on Northern Virginia’s congestion challenges,” said Mason.