



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

February 29, 2008

Contact: Kala Quintana
703/ 524-3322 ext. 104
kala@nvtdc.org

VIRGINIA SUPREME COURT SENDS TRANSPORTATION TAXES AND FEES BACK TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

\$1.7 BILLION IN TRANSPORTATION FUNDING IN JEOPARDY IF GENERAL ASSEMBLY FAILS TO ACT

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA – Today, the Virginia Supreme Court ruled that the General Assembly violated the constitution when it delegated to the Authority the power to collect the seven taxes and fees under the Transportation Funding and Reform Act of 2007 (HB3202). As a result, Northern Virginia faces the loss of more than \$300 million in annual revenue that was the centerpiece of the landmark 2007 transportation legislation.

The Authority urges Governor Kaine and General Assembly leaders to act immediately to replace the funding stream. Failure to act will result in a loss of over \$1.7 billion in potential transportation revenue for the region including dedicated funding for Metro. In addition, hundreds of transportation projects will be sidelined and the regional transportation crisis will continue unabated, affecting the region's economy, environment, and the quality of life for all Northern Virginians.

"It is critical that the General Assembly act expeditiously to address this problem so that the vital transportation solutions we are prepared to implement are not delayed any further," said Chris Zimmerman (Arlington), Chairman of the Authority.

Among the projects in jeopardy are:

- \$50 million annually in dedicated funding for Metro capital improvements
- \$25 million annually in dedicated funding for the Virginia Railway Express
- Improvements to the Fairfax County Parkway, the Prince William County Parkway, and Battlefield Parkway
- The Crystal City - Potomac Yards and the Columbia Pike Transit-way Projects
- Improvements to address impacts of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) recommendations

- Route 1 highway and transit improvement in Prince William County and Fairfax County
- Route 7 Improvements in Fairfax County and the City of Falls Church
- Route 28 Improvement in Loudoun County and Manassas
- Improvements to the King Street, West Falls Church, Huntington and Vienna Metrorail Stations
- Transit buses to allow for expanded transit service in various parts of Northern Virginia.
- Route 123 improvements in the City of Fairfax
- Improvements to Manassas Drive in the City of Manassas Park

The seven regional taxes and fees are:

- 2% Transient Occupancy Tax
- Grantor's Tax of 40 Cents/per \$100 valuation
- 2% Tax on Vehicle Rentals
- Safety Inspection Fee of \$10
- Initial Vehicle Registration Fee of 1%
- 5% Sales Tax on Auto Repair
- Regional Vehicle Registration Fee of \$10

For more information, contact the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority by going to www.TheNoVaAuthority.org.

NVTA