



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

NVTA's
TransAction
Transportation Action Plan for Northern Virginia

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CONTACT: Camela Speer (703) 462-3972
Camela.Speer@TheNoVaAuthority.org

GUIDED BY PUBLIC INPUT, NORTHERN VIRGINIA KICKS OFF TRANSPORTATION ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Poll: Reducing Trip Times is Public's Top Priority

The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) released a survey of Northern Virginians' views on transportation issues as the initial step in a multi-faceted effort to involve the public in updating TransAction, the region's long range transportation plan.

"The poll provides deep insights into what Northern Virginians think about transportation," said Martin E. Nohe, chairman of the NVTA and a member of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors. "It serves as a reality check on our current transportation system and a compass for actions we should consider to make future travel faster and easier.

"Burdened by the [nation's longest commutes](#), Northern Virginians' reported top priority is reducing trip times, followed by making transportation services more affordable," Nohe said from the kick-off event near the Route 7 bridge over the Dulles Access Road, a \$45 million project funded in part by the NVTA as part of its FY2015-16 Program.

Highlights and analysis of the survey are detailed in the accompanying fact sheet.

The update will utilize the most current available data and employ best practices from across the U.S. and internationally. It will deliver a multi-modal vision for transportation improvements in Northern Virginia, serving as the mechanism through which more than \$1.7 billion will be allocated to regional transportation improvements from 2018 to 2023.

The update will model alternative futures to represent the ways in which rapidly evolving technologies will change the way people travel and shape Northern Virginia's future transportation network.

The release of the survey marked the start of the NVTA's initiative to engage the public in updating TransAction, which will be the first since the passage of Virginia's 2013 transportation funding bill (HB 2313), a landmark law that provides an estimated \$300 million annually in local and regional transportation funding to Northern Virginia.

Fairfax County Board Chairman Sharon Bulova underscored the value of public involvement in the TransAction update: "It is essential we know and understand the views of Northern Virginians on how we should invest in tomorrow's transportation improvements. That's why we're launching an extensive effort to gain broad and representative public feedback."

More



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During the two-year TransAction plan update, the NVTA will employ a blend of traditional and innovative outreach techniques to elicit input from residents in all NVTA jurisdictions, including:

- A new interactive TransAction-dedicated website: NVTATransAction.org;
- Informal "pop-up" meetings, where TransAction team members will engage residents at high-foot-traffic locations such as seasonal festivals and Metro stations;
- A range of social media efforts, including Twitter;
- Periodic "e-blast" newsletters and other information sent to interested individuals and groups;
- Input gathered by the latest online public engagement tools; and
- Public hearings.

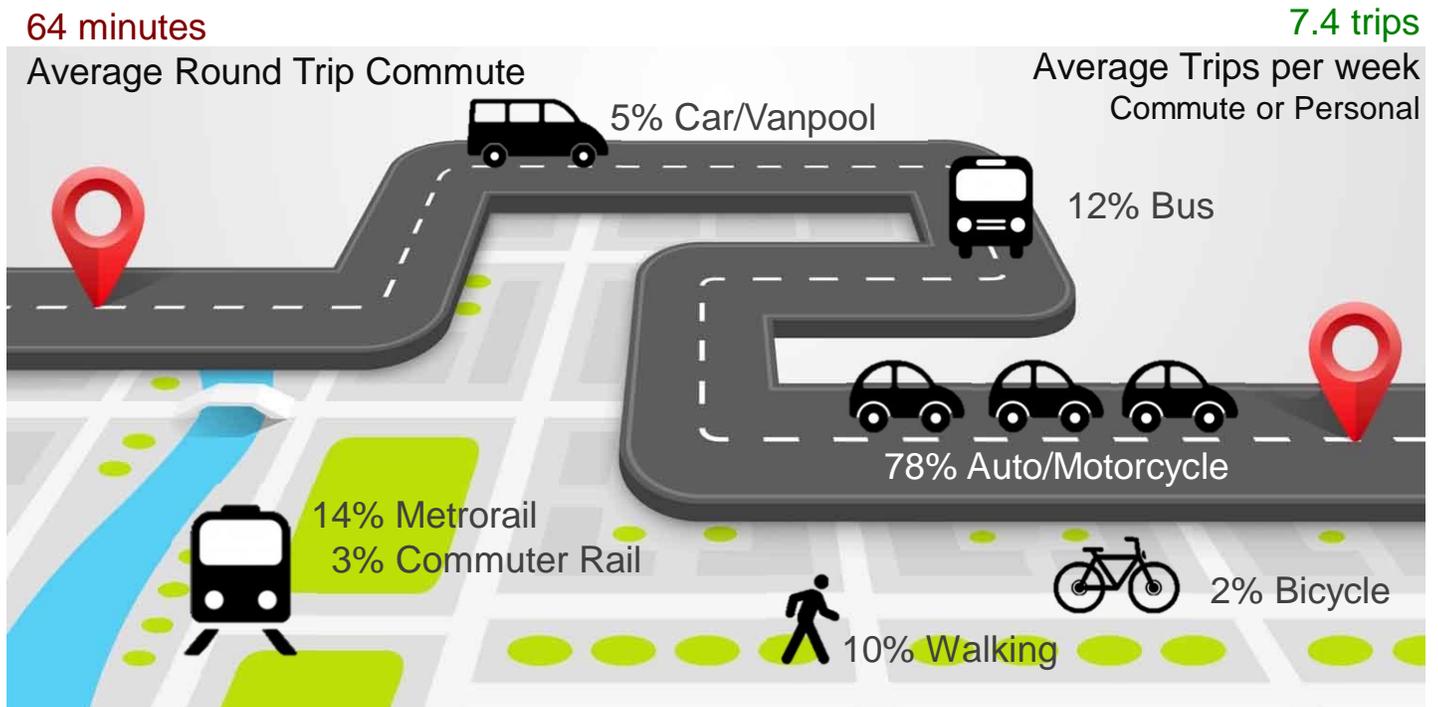
The NVTA was created by the General Assembly on July 1, 2002, to offer a common voice for Northern Virginia on transportation issues confronting the region. The Authority is made up of nine jurisdictions including: the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William; as well as the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park. The Authority is responsible for updating Northern Virginia's long-range transportation plan, TransAction, and since 2014 manages approximately \$300 million annually in public funds for transportation projects designed to provide congestion relief throughout Northern Virginia. For more information visit www.thenovaauthority.org.

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Commuter Profile (self reported data)

- 76% of employed/student residents work/attend in Northern Virginia.
- 78% use a single mode of transportation for their commute, 18% use multiple modes.
- Residents spend an average of 64 minutes commuting round trip, primarily by auto/motorcycle (78%).



Transportation Quality of Life

- Quality of life in terms of transportation in the Northern Virginia region averages 5.8 on a ten point scale, falling about midway between the worst and best possible quality.
- Still, 42% of residents believe their quality of life related to transportation in the region is improving.

Ideal Travel vs. Northern Virginia Travel

- The ideal travel experience is described as quick, smooth or easy, safe and predictable. Typical travel in the Northern Virginia region is described as slow, congested, unpredictable and frustrating.

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Research Conducted by:
Dee Allsop, Ph.D.
www.heartandmindstrategies.com



Transportation Personal Values

- 59% indicate traffic flow and congestion as having the biggest impact on their quality of life. Of those, 71% feel the region is doing a 'mostly bad' job in this area.
- Three other areas indicated as the most important factor include convenient access to work, shopping, restaurants, schools and services (14%), number and variety of public transportation options (13%) and maintenance and quality of the transportation infrastructure (13%).

Priority Areas

- Transportation areas of greatest importance to the future of the region include reducing trip times (58%), making the transportation system affordable (53%), investing in new highways and road improvements (45%), more predictable trip times (44%) and making the transportation system more efficient and safer by using latest technologies (42%).

Importance of Recently and Soon to be Completed Projects

- Building the Silver Line to Tysons and Loudoun County is regarded as the most important project by 42%.
- Replacement of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge is second most important cited by 32%.

Top Ranked Potential Project Types

- Upgraded arterial roads are the highest ranked potential project or improvement for the region.
- New or updated rail lines rank a very close second.

Public Awareness of NVTA & TransAction

- 33% have heard of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority.
- 8% have heard of the TransAction long range transportation plan.

Self Driving Car Perceptions

- 84% believe driverless cars will be driving on Northern Virginia highways within the next 20 years.
- 51% are at least somewhat likely to try a self-driving car if they make it to Northern Virginia roads by 2020.

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Methodology

This fact sheet presents the findings of a survey conducted among a sample of 610 adults 18 years of age or older residing in one of nine jurisdictions in the Northern Virginia region. The nine jurisdictions represented include Arlington County, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, Prince William County, City of Alexandria, City of Fairfax, City of Falls Church, City of Manassas and City of Manassas Park.

This survey was conducted online and was live October 8-15, 2015.

This survey was designed to be representative on key demographics including jurisdiction, gender, age and ethnicity. Quotas were enforced among panel member participants in an effort to reflect census data for the region. Completed interviews are weighted by ethnicity to ensure reliable and accurate representation of the total nine jurisdiction population, 18 years of age and older.

Respondents for this survey were selected from among those who have volunteered to participate in online surveys and polls. Because the sample is based on those who initially self-selected for participation, no estimates of sampling error can be calculated. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to multiple sources of error, including, but not limited to sampling error, coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response options, and post-survey weighting and adjustments.

About Heart+Mind Strategies (www.heartandmindstrategies.com)

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This point of view illuminates

- How and why people make the decisions they do
- How perceptual equity can translate into bottom-line equity
- The role and linkage of both reason and emotion in persuasion
- What it takes to build measurable value

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