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Contact: Camela Speer: 703.642.4651
camela.speer@thenovaauthority.org

LOUDOUN COUNTY TRANSIT IMPROVES SILVER LINE CONNECTING TRANSIT SERVICE WITH SEVEN NEW BUSES

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority Partners with Loudoun County to provide funding for two new buses

LOUDOUN COUNTY – On July 5, 2016, four new Loudoun County Transit buses will begin providing additional commuter bus service from the East Gate Park-n-Ride on Tall Cedars Parkway and Dulles Town Center Park-n-Ride lots to the Wiehle-Reston East Metro Station on the Silver Line. This new service is anticipated to reduce the number of passenger car commuter trips in the Northern Virginia region by 70,000 trips. Reducing the number of passenger vehicles on the highway system improves operations, reduces congestion and enhances air quality. The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority provided \$880,000 to Loudoun County for the purchase of two of these buses, with an additional \$1.8 million allocated for four new buses anticipated to arrive in winter 2016. These new buses represent six of the 34 buses funded by the NVTA throughout the region.

Phyllis J. Randall, Loudoun County Board Chair and member of the NVTA, said, *“Increased transit service in Loudoun County provides a great benefit to our community. The new buses will add capacity for more service and help decrease traffic congestion. Our goal is to help people get to where they need to go.”*

Martin E. Nohe, NVTA Chairman and Prince William County Supervisor, commented, *“The NVTA continues to work with our regional partners to increase transportation choices and access to transit services for all Northern Virginia commuters. The NVTA is committed to improving transportation in Northern Virginia by funding regional projects that reduce the most congestion relative to cost.”*

The NVTA is the premiere planning, prioritizing and funding transportation organization in Northern Virginia. The Authority is responsible for the region’s long range transportation plan and works regionally to fund projects based on congestion reduction relative to cost. To date, the Authority has funded 68 projects for a total of \$535 million. It has also distributed \$233 million, as of March 2016, to member jurisdictions for local transportation projects of their choice, within the parameters set by HB 2313. The Authority is currently developing its FY2017 Program, with adoption anticipated in July 2016, and is in the process of updating the region’s long range transportation plan, TransAction. The update to TransAction is a two year process and adoption of the new plan is anticipated in fall 2017.

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Attached Photo: Chair Phyllis Randall (right) and NVTA Chairman Martin E. Nohe (left) cutting the ribbon on one of the new buses. Additional photos available upon request.

Photo Title: Regional Cooperation Funds Transportation Improvements in Northern Virginia.

Photo Caption: Loudoun County Board Chair Phyllis Randall and NVTA Chairman Martin E. Nohe welcome new buses to the Loudoun County Transit fleet.

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 \$340 million annually in public funds for transportation projects designed to provide congestion relief throughout Northern Virginia. For more information visit www.thenovaauthority.org.