

# Northern Virginia Transportation Authority Planning & Coordination Activities

## Examples of Bus Rapid Transit in Fairfax County

Presentation to Virginia General Assembly  
SJ 122 Study Committee

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Chair  
Jurisdiction and Agency Coordinating Committee  
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

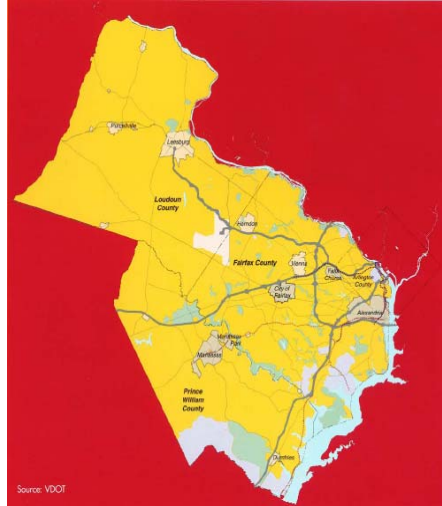


## NVTA Background



- Established in 2001 by HB 2606 (McClure)
- Nine Jurisdictions (Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William Counties; Alexandria, Fairfax City, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park)
- Membership
  - One member from each of the nine jurisdictions (Chief Elected Official or designee)
  - One member of the Senate of Virginia
  - Two members of the House of Delegates
  - The Commissioner of VDOT (Non-voting)
  - The Director of DRPT (Non-voting)
  - One town representative (Non-voting)

# Northern Virginia



## NVTA Background



- Selected Authority/Responsibilities (Per Statute)
  - **Develop a long-range transportation plan** for Northern Virginia;
  - **Construct or acquire**, by purchase, lease, contract, or otherwise, the **transportation facilities** specified in the transportation plan;
  - **Finance the construction and operation** of transportation facilities;
  - **Prepare a plan for mass transportation services** with persons, cities, counties, agencies, authorities, or transportation commissions and contract with any such person or other entity to provide necessary facilities, equipment, operations and maintenance, access, and insurance pursuant to such plan;
  - **Recommend regional transportation priorities** to state, regional, and federal agencies, including public-private transportation projects, and funding allocations;

# NVTA Background



- Develop, in coordination with affected counties and cities, regional priorities and policies to improve air quality;
- **Allocate any funds** made available to the Authority to priority regional transportation projects;
- **Recommend priority regional transportation projects** for receipt of federal and state funds;
- General oversight of regional transportation issues of a multijurisdictional nature, including but not limited to intelligent transportation systems, signalization, and preparation for and response to emergencies;
- **Serve as an advocate for the transportation needs of Northern Virginia** before the state and federal governments; and
- Apply for state and federal grants.



## Approved Long Range Transportation Plan

# Approved Long Range Transportation Plan



The Authority  
for Transportation in Northern Virginia

- The TransAction 2030 Plan, Northern Virginia's update to its long-range transportation plan, was approved by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) on September 14, 2006, after over two years of work on the project.
- Updated the Northern Virginia 2020 Transportation Plan approved by the Transportation Coordinating Council (TCC) and the local jurisdictions in 1999.
- Before approving the Plan, the NVTA received endorsements for the TransAction 2030 Plan from all nine of its member jurisdiction Boards and Councils.
- Documented the need for \$16.6 Billion in additional Northern Virginia transportation funding over 25 years (approximately \$700 million per year).

*TransAction2030*  
Transportation for Today and Tomorrow

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# Approved Long Range Transportation Plan



The Authority  
for Transportation in Northern Virginia

The effort included the following activities:

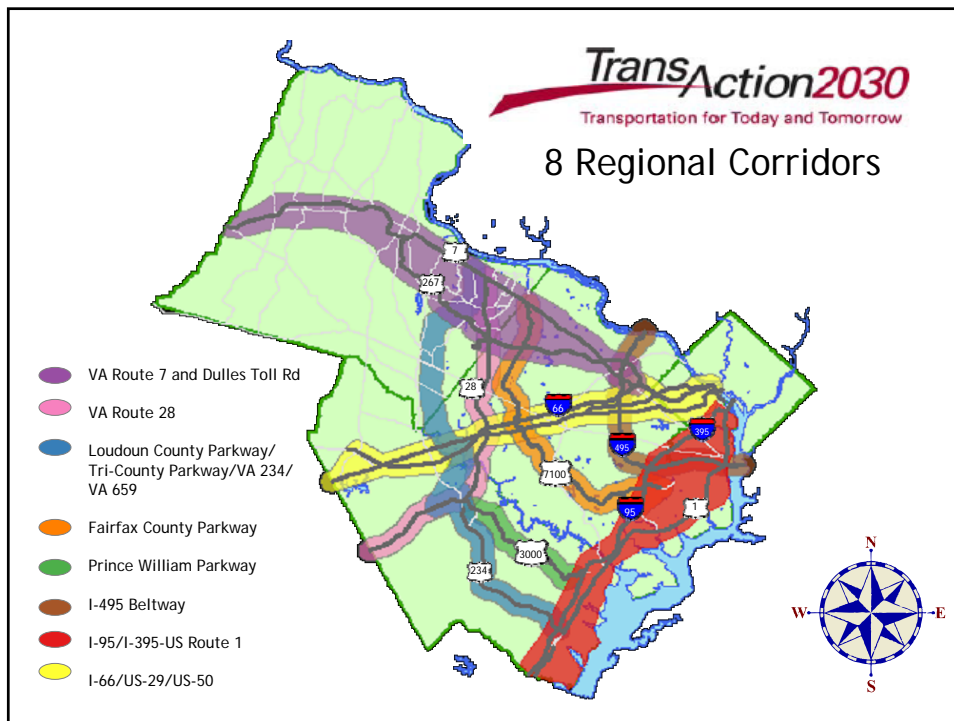
- Updating the Northern Virginia 2020 Transportation Plan project list to delete projects that were completed between 1999 and 2005;
- Updating the cost estimates for remaining projects in the 2020 Plan;
- Updating project scopes, based on studies undertaken (1999 and 2005);
- Extending the planning period from 2020 to 2030;
- Modeling the impact of constructing/implementing the projects in the TransAction 2030 Plan on the region's highway network and comparing these impacts to the Washington region's Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP); and
- Calculating the funding required to implement TransAction 2030.

# Approved Long Range Transportation Plan



The TransAction 2030 effort also involved several things that were not part of the Northern Virginia 2020 Transportation Plan. These include:

- Conducting a statistically-valid poll to assess the public's view of the most important transportation projects and the funding sources most acceptable to pay for them;
- Developing transit level of service maps based on passenger loads, service coverage, travel time, frequency and hours of service;
- Developing park-and-ride lot level of service maps;
- Developing multi-modal level of service information for eight corridors; and
- Prioritizing projects within each of the eight corridors in the region using objective criteria.



# Approved Long Range Transportation Plan



## Summary of Bus and Bus Rapid Transit Projects included in TransAction 2030

- **I-66 Corridor** (Prince William to Arlington/DC) (*Being Studied*)
- **I-95/395** (Stafford to DC) (*HOT Lanes Project*)
- **I-495** (American Legion Bridge to Woodrow Wilson Bridge) (*HOT Lanes Project - portion*)
- **Route 1 Corridor** (Alexandria to Prince William) (*Richmond Highway Express – Portion*)
- **Route 50 Corridor** (Loudoun to Arlington)
- **Crystal City – Potomac Yards Transitway** (*Being Studied, Designed*)
- **Prince William Parkway** (Woodbridge to Manassas)
- **Fairfax County Parkway** (Reston to Springfield/Ft. Belvoir)
- **Little River Turnpike** - Route 236 (Fairfax City to Alexandria)



# NVTA Six Year Program



- On January 10, 2008, the NVTA approved an initial Six Year Program projects to be funded by the revenue sources approved in HB 3202.
- This initial program reflected anticipated revenues for FY 2008 to FY 2010.
- This program also included the initial \$102 million in bond projects approved by NVTA on July 12, 2007.
- BRT Projects Included in NVTA's Initial Six Year Program
  - Crystal City – Potomac Yards Transitway
  - Richmond Highway Public Transportation Initiative

# NVTA Today



Based on the Virginia Supreme Court's Ruling on HB 3202, NVTA has:

- Terminated its Executive Director's Contract;
- Closed physical office, but has virtual office with phone, address;
- Preparing comments for the CTB upcoming Six Year Program public hearings and a 2009 legislative program;
- Continuing to monitor major regional transportation projects such as the I-95/395 HOT Lanes project, the I-495 HOT Lanes project and the I-66 Alternatives Study;
- Providing recommendations for the CTB regarding allocation of federal transportation funds the region receives
- Still meeting approximately quarterly
- On-going support has been and continues to be provided by jurisdiction and regional transportation agency staff.

# NVTA Today



Continued Coordination Role on Regional Transportation Issues, including BRT Studies

- Jurisdiction and Agency Coordination Committee
  - Representatives from all jurisdictions and transportation agencies
  - Input and Coordination with Major Regional BRT Projects
    - I-95/395 HOT Lanes Transit Study
    - I-66 Transit/TDM Study
  - Also, Coordination of Recommendation for NVTA's CTB Testimony, Legislative Program and Regional Allocation of Federal Funds

# Examples of Bus Rapid Transit in Fairfax County



## Overview of Transit Service in the County



### County Served by Six Transit Systems

#### Rail

- **Metrorail**
- **VRE**



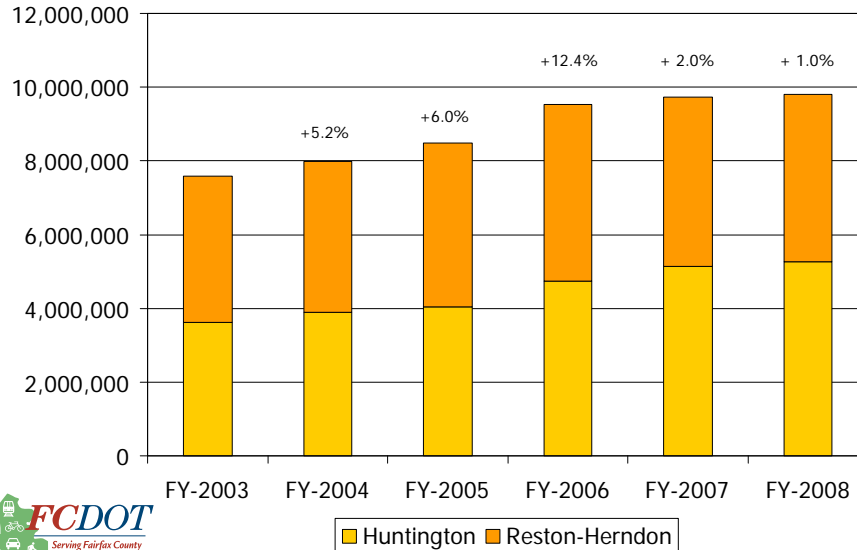
#### Bus

- **Metrobus** (Primarily Interjurisdictional Service, Some Feeder Service to Metrorail Stations)
- **Fairfax Connector** (Cross County Service and Feeder Service to Metrorail Stations, Local Circulator Services)
- **TAGS** (Circulator Service in Springfield; Operated by Metrobus)
- **CUE** (Local Service GMU to Vienna Metrorail Station via Fairfax City)

- Common Fare Media (SmarTrip), Transfer Policies, Telephone Information and Web-based Trip Planning



## Fairfax Connector – Annual Ridership by Division



## Existing Fairfax County BRT Examples



### Dulles Corridor Bus Service

- Implemented in 1997
- Capital Facilities
  - 2 Park-and-Ride Lots
  - 3 Transit Centers
  - Dulles Airport Access Road and HOV lanes on Dulles Toll Road
  - Additional and Automated Slip Ramps
- Operating Funding (FY 2009)
  - \$24.7 M (Entire Reston-Herndon Division)
  - County General Funds; Surplus Dulles Toll Road Revenues; State Transit Assistance; Commercial and Industrial Property Tax Revenues; Passenger Fares; Advertising Revenues

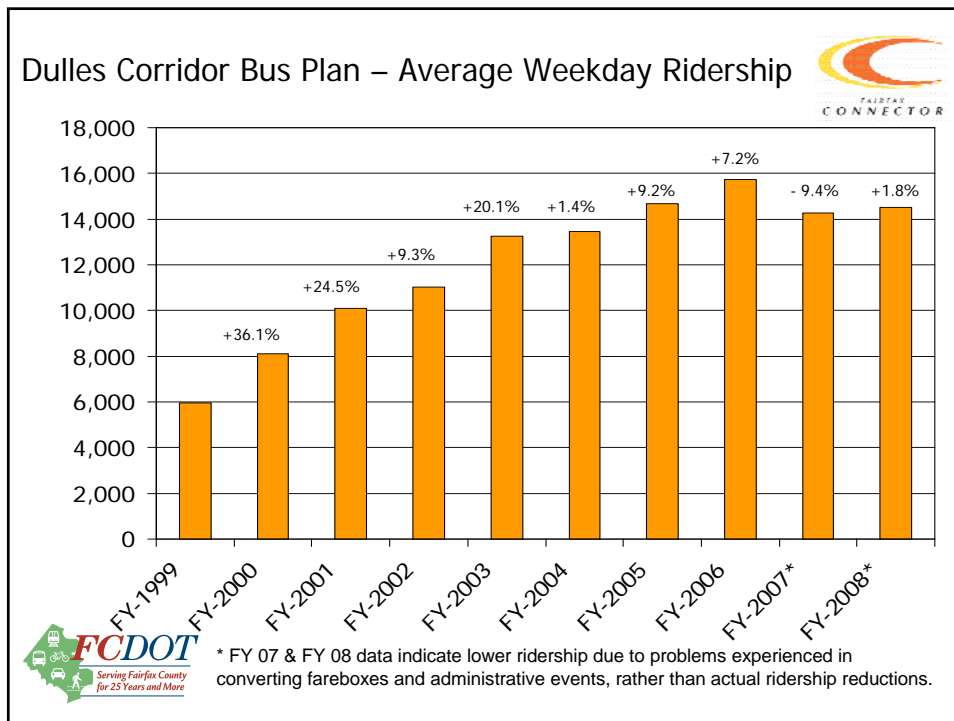


# Existing Fairfax County BRT Examples



## Dulles Corridor Bus Service Configuration

- <6 min. peak service (Herndon Monroe to West Falls Church) – Load and Go.
- ~ 7 min. peak service (Reston East to West Falls Church)
- Frequent service Reston Town Center to West Falls Church) and Tysons Corner to West Falls Church
- Local circulator service which feeds corridor service: Herndon, Reston, Tysons Corner
- Enhanced Evening/Weekend Service



# Existing Fairfax County BRT Examples



## Richmond Highway Public Transportation Initiative

- Implemented in 2004
- Capital Facilities
  - Upgraded Bus Stops (including 18 Super Stops – larger shelters, solar lighting, info)
  - Significantly Enhanced Pedestrian Facilities
  - Signal Prioritization
  - Future: Park-and-Ride Lots; Transit Centers
- Fare Equalization
- Operating Funding (FY 2009)
  - \$24.9 M (Entire Huntington-Herndon Division)
  - County General Funds; State Transit Assistance; Commercial and Industrial Property Tax Revenues; Passenger Fares; Developer Contributions; Advertising Revenues



# Existing Fairfax County BRT Examples



## Richmond Highway Service Components

### Richmond Highway Express (REX)

- Configuration
  - » Major Stops Only
  - » 15 min. peak period service (Ft. Belvoir to Huntington)
  - » Enhance Evening/Weekend Service

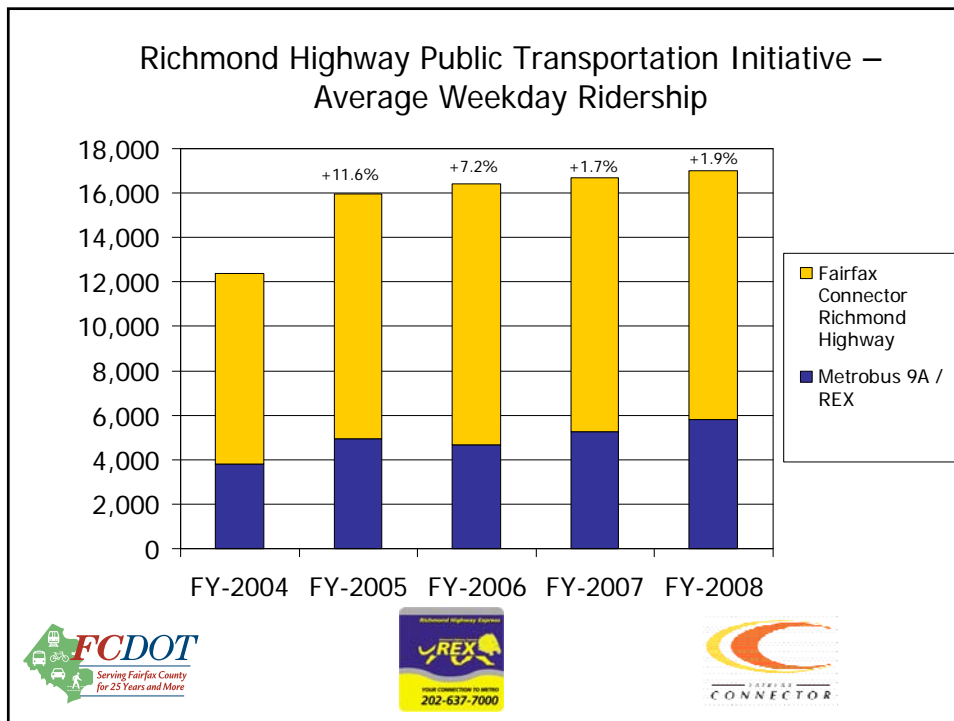


### Fairfax Connector Route 171

- Configuration
  - » All Stops
  - » 30 min. service all day (Franconia-Springfield to Huntington) (*Net Effect: REX and 171 – 10 min. service*)

### Other Fairfax Connector Service in Corridor

- Routes 151/152 and Routes 161/162 (Neighborhood and Trunk Line Service)



## Other Northern Virginia BRT Service

- Columbia Pike (Arlington County, Metrobus, Fairfax County)
- Crystal City – Potomac Yards Transitway (Alexandria, Arlington County, Metrobus)
- Several Corridors in Alexandria
- Metrobus Priority Corridor Study

**Questions?**