



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of January 21, 2023

DRAFT FOR TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DATE: January 3, 2022

SUBJECT: Application to the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 - FY 2025 I-395/95 Commuter Choice Program for the Metrobus Route 16M Service Enhancements

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Adopt the resolution (Attachment A) authorizing Arlington County's application to the NVTC for up to \$8,000,000 in regional transportation funding for the subject project.
2. Authorize the County Manager, or his designee, to execute all documents associated with a Standard Project Agreement (SPA) for the subject project upon funding award and subject to approval of such agreement as to form by the County Attorney.

ISSUES: None at the time of this report.

SUMMARY: This is a request for the County Board to approve an application to NVTC for the I-395/95 Commuter Choice Program. A resolution of support from the applicant's governing body is required for all Commuter Choice Program applications.

BACKGROUND: This is the third round of funding under the I-395/95 Commuter Choice Program, and NVTC and PRTC have moved to a two-year solicitation and funding award cycle. NVTC staff anticipates a two-year program funding level of approximately \$45 million. Project applications and resolutions of support are due to NVTC on January 28, 2022. Project applications will be evaluated and scored during the winter and spring. NVTC and PRTC will approve a slate of recommended projects for final approval by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) under the terms of the programmatic Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the three entities. CTB's approval will formally place the projects in the new FY 2024-2029 Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP) that begins on July 1, 2023.

DISCUSSION: The Metrobus Route 16M enhanced service is a critical piece of the Columbia Pike Premium Transit Network in the approved FY2023-FY2032 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and Transit Development Plan (TDP, now called Transit Strategic Plan [TSP]). The base 16M will begin revenue service in spring 2023 and will connect the Skyline area in Fairfax

County Manager:

County Attorney:

Staff: Rich Roisman, Department of Environmental Services

County¹ with Crystal City, operating via Columbia Pike, [Army-Navy Drive](#), the [Transitway Extension to Pentagon City](#), and the [Crystal City / Potomac Yard Transitway](#). New transit stations along Columbia Pike at South Greenbrier Street opened on December 28, 2022, and the other transit stations along Columbia Pike in the completed sections of the [Columbia Pike Multimodal Improvements](#) will open as the station construction is completed. The balance of new transit stations along Columbia Pike will progress with the schedule for the rest of the Columbia Pike Multimodal Improvements. The 16M will operate on existing streets in Pentagon City until the Transitway is completed north of its current terminus at Crystal Drive and 15th Street South.

The County's application to NVTC is for operating funds and will initially support two years of service enhancements above and beyond the base 16M service. While the base service will provide a frequency of 5 buses per hour (12-minute headways) during the entire service day, the proposed Commuter Choice-funded service enhancements will increase frequencies to 10 buses per hour (6-minute headways) during peak periods.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Level of Engagement: Communicate

Outreach Methods: The Transportation Commission (TC) was briefed on the County's Commuter Choice application on December 1, 2022, and on January 6, 2023.

Community Feedback: On January 6 the TC voted **X to Y to INSERT RECOMMENDATION**

FISCAL IMPACT: NVTC Commuter Choice funding does not have a local match requirement. In addition, because the Metrobus Route 16M provides a direct connection to two Metrorail stations (Pentagon City and Crystal City) and crosses a jurisdictional boundary (the Fairfax County / Arlington County border), the funds are not subject to a gradual step down of operating support over an eight-year timeline; however, funds must be re-applied for every two years and are subject to the same programmatic evaluation each cycle. If either the initial funding application or subsequent re-applications are not successful, the 16M base service levels would continue without interruption, but service enhancements would either not occur or would need to be funded by the County directly.

¹ Fairfax County Transportation staff is bringing a letter of support to NVTC supporting Arlington's application to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for approval in January. A letter of support to NVTC from the WMATA General Manager and Chief Executive Officer will also accompany Arlington's Commuter Choice application.

Attachment A

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATIONS
TO THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
AND THE POTOMAC AND RAPPAHANNOCK TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 I-395/95 COMMUTER CHOICE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia (“County Board”) desires to submit applications to the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission as part of the solicitation under the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 I-395/95 Commuter Choice Program; and

WHEREAS, up to \$8,000,000 will be requested for the Metrobus Route 16M Service Enhancements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County Board hereby supports the making of applications and authorizes and directs the County Manager to make applications to the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission for up to \$8,000,000 of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 I-395/95 Commuter Choice Program funds for the above-described project, and further authorizes the County Manager, or his designee, to execute a Standard Project Agreement (SPA) for each approved project, subject to approval of such agreement as to form by the County Attorney.

Adopted January 21, 2023