



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of December 16, 2023

DRAFT FOR TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DATE: November 27, 2023

SUBJECT: Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) I-66 Commuter Choice Program Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Grant Application

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Approve the resolution (Attachment A) endorsing Arlington County's I-66 Commuter Choice Program funding application to NVTC for \$400,000 for bus service enhancements to Arlington Transit (ART) Route 75.
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, 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 Arlington's grant application to NVTC for bus service enhancements to ART Route 75. A resolution of support from the applicant's governing body is required for all Commuter Choice Program applications.

BACKGROUND: NVTC approved its Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-FY2026 I-66 Commuter Choice Program call for projects on October 5, 2023. Applications are due on December 18, 2023. NVTC anticipates a two-year program budget between \$40 million and \$50 million. Additional background on the I-66 Commuter Choice Program may be found in the January 12, 2022 staff report accompanying the County's previous application.

DISCUSSION: Only weekday, peak-period, peak direction service enhancements are eligible for funding under I-66 Commuter Choice. Staff proposes applying to NVTC for one project for \$400,000 based on the prioritization of eligible planned service improvements in the FY2025-FY2034 Arlington Transit Strategic Plan (ATSP) approved by the Board on November 14, 2023.

- 1. ART Route 75 service enhancement -- \$400,000

County Manager:

County Attorney:

Staff: Rich Roisman, Department of Environmental Services, Transportation Division

ART Route 75 connects the Shirlington Bus Station (also called the Shirlington Transit Center) with the Ballston-MU and Virginia Square-GMU Metrorail Stations on the Orange and Silver Lines. Figure 1 shows the route map included in the ATSP.

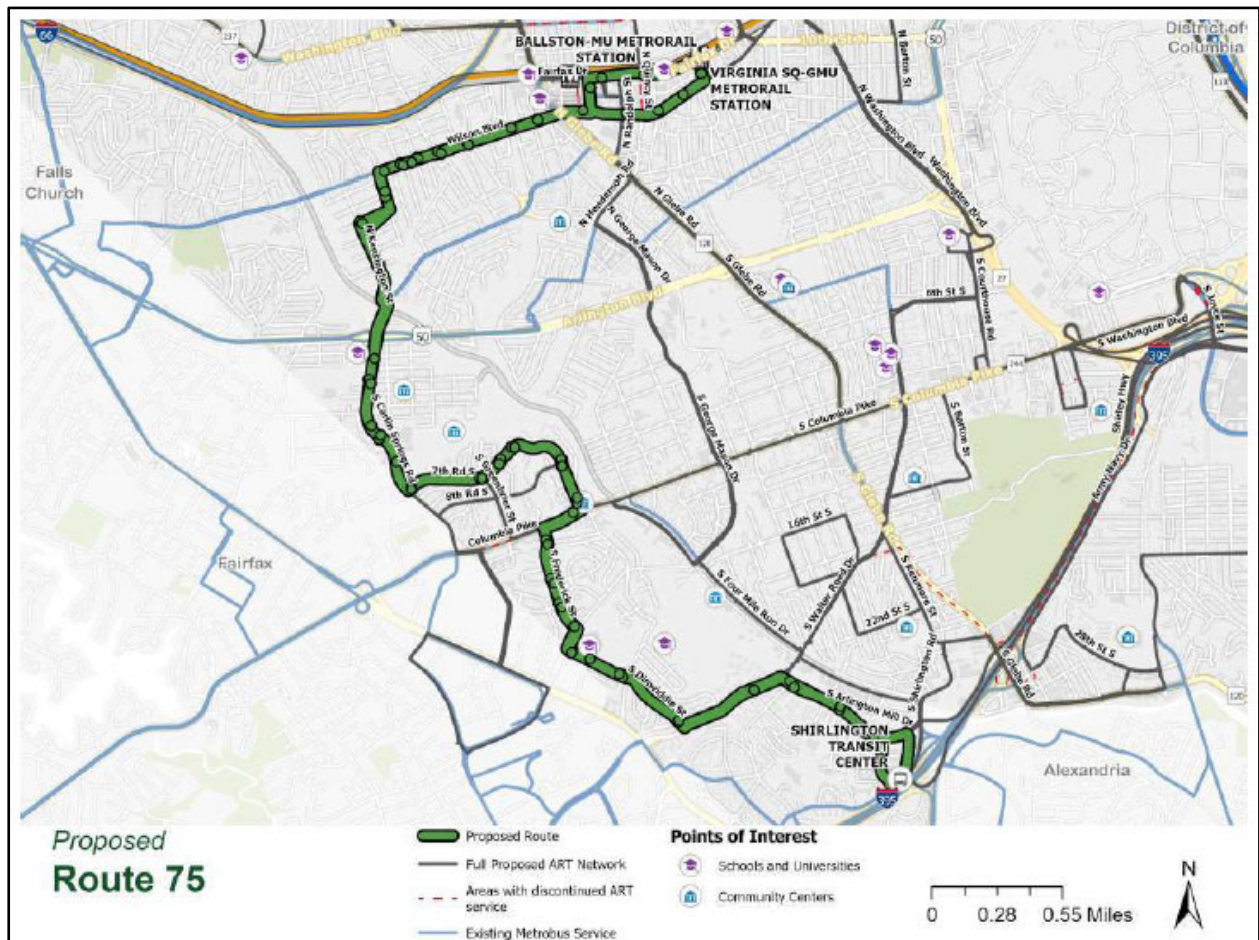


Figure 1: ART Route 75 (source: ATSP)

The proposed service enhancements would improve weekday peak-period, headways (the amount of time between buses) from 30 minutes to 20 minutes, corresponding to an improvement in frequency (number of buses) from 2 buses per hour to 3 buses per hour. The Commuter Choice funding would allow the service enhancements to operate for two years, starting on the next regular ART schedule change after July 1, 2024.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Level of Engagement: Communicate

Outreach Methods: The Transportation Commission (TC) was briefed on the County’s Commuter Choice application on November 2, 2023, and again at their regular meeting on November 30, 2023. If the County’s application is successful, the community will be notified of the ART service enhancements as part of routine communication of regular, periodic ART schedule changes.

Community Feedback: At the November 30 meeting, the TC INSERT RESULTS OF TC ACTION.

FISCAL IMPACT: NVTC Commuter Choice funding does not have a local match requirement; however, I-66 Commuter Choice Program guidelines specify that only peak-period, peak-direction bus service enhancements are eligible for reimbursement. Therefore, the two years of I-66 Commuter Choice funding, if awarded, will cover the incremental cost of those new bus trips (approximately eight new bus trips per weekday, one new trip per hour from Shirlington to Virginia Square between 5:30 AM and 9:30 AM, and one new trip per hour from Virginia Square to Shirlington between 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM) associated with the service enhancements throughout the weekday. The balance of the cost for the enhanced service outside of peak-period, peak-direction must be funded by the County and will be covered by the Commercial and Industrial Tax account of the Transportation Capital Fund (TCF-C&I).

Because ART Route 75 connects to two Metrorail stations, the Commuter Choice funding is 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, ART Route 75 service enhancements would either not occur or would need to be completed funded by the County.

Attachment A

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION
TO THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 I-66 COMMUTER CHOICE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia (“County Board”) desires to submit an application to the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission as part of the solicitation under the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 I-395/95 Commuter Choice Program; and

WHEREAS, \$400,000 will be requested for the Arlington Transit (“ART”) Route 75 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 for \$400,000 of Fiscal Year 2025-2026 I-66 Commuter Choice Program funds for the above-described project, and further authorizes the County Manager, or his designee, to execute all documents associated with a Standard Project Agreement (“SPA”) for the subject project upon funding award, subject to approval of such agreement as to form by the County Attorney.

Adopted December 16, 2023