



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

NVTA's
TransAction
Transportation Action Plan for Northern Virginia

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NORTHERN VIRGINIANS STRIKINGLY MORE UPBEAT ABOUT REGION'S PERFORMANCE IN DELIVERING TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Poll Shows 25-point Gain Since 2015 in View that N. Virginia Doing a Good Job with Infrastructure

Fairfax, VA – With momentum behind a host of major transportation projects, Northern Virginians are strikingly more positive about the region's performance in improving the region's transportation infrastructure than they were just over a year ago. A survey conducted in December 2016 for the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) found that 68 percent of Northern Virginians believe the region is doing a "good job" with the maintenance and quality of transportation infrastructure – up significantly from 43 percent who felt positive about the performance in an October 2015 survey.

"Northern Virginians seem to be responding to the seismic changes coming to our transportation network," said Martin E. Nohe, a member of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors and chairman of the NVTA, which is releasing the survey to kick-off its second year of engaging the public in updating Northern Virginia's TransAction plan. "The past year has seen a great deal of focus on projects to transform I-66 inside and outside the Beltway, extend express lanes on I-395 and I-95, the continued progress on the Silver Line and the sometimes inconvenient but necessary Metro SafeTrack repairs and upgrades."

The positive finding is particularly notable because Northern Virginians continue to view gridlock as by far the most impactful factor on their quality of life: 33 percent identified "reducing traffic congestion and improving transportation options," followed by affordable housing at 18 percent, jobs at 12 percent and crime at 8 percent. Residents also view the current performance of the transportation network as mediocre, rating it a six on a 10-point scale.

Consistent with the above key finding, the NVTA survey also found Northern Virginians more interested in and knowledgeable about transportation issues, up 10 and seven percentage points, respectively.

With Northern Virginians burdened with the [nation's most time-consuming commutes](#), the survey not surprisingly found that reducing trip times is their top transportation priority for the future (54 percent), followed closely by affordability (52 percent), more predictable trip times and applying latest technologies (both 44 percent), and new highway and road improvements (43 percent).

Additional details about the survey, conducted by Heart + Mind Strategies of Reston, VA, are at the [NVTA TransAction webpage](#).

Commenting on the TransAction update, Fairfax County Board Chairman and NVTA Board Member Sharon Bulova said: "This survey provides great insight into Northern Virginians' views about our current performance and is instrumental to helping us chart an efficient and safe transportation future. We look forward to listening to the public during the remainder of 2017 to ensure our plan supports their wants and needs."



NVTA is using a variety of traditional and innovative outreach techniques to hear from residents in all NVTA jurisdictions:

- An interactive website: NVTATransAction.org;
- Informal “pop-up” meetings, where TransAction team members engage residents at high-foot-traffic Locations, such as 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.

Outreach activities undertaken in Fall 2016 identified the following regional transportation priorities: Reducing delays during commuting periods, increasing travel time reliability throughout the day, increasing travel options, increasing access to rail and increasing connections between businesses and residential centers.

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.

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