

MOTION:

SECOND:

**RE: AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT FUNDING FOR FY2022 – FY2023 I-395
 COMMUTER CHOICE PROJECTS**

ACTION:

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) has issued a call for projects for the FY2022 - FY2023 I-395 Commuter Choice program; and

WHEREAS, management has identified and prioritized seven (7) suitable projects; and

WHEREAS, management will advise the Commission on the selection of any proposed projects; and

WHEREAS, Commission authorization is required of all applications; and

WHEREAS, Commission endorsement of project prioritization is required of all applications; and

WHEREAS, execution of a funding agreement, in a form approved by legal counsel, is necessary to receive any project funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission does hereby authorize the Executive Director to apply for and accept funding from the FY2022 - FY2023 I-395 Commuter Choice programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission does hereby endorse management's prioritization of proposed projects.

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent from Vote:


Alternate Present Not Voting:


Absent from Meeting:



January 7, 2021

TO: Chair Franklin and PRTC Commissioners

FROM: Joseph Stainsby 
Chief Development Officer

THROUGH: Robert A. Schneider, PhD 
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Authorization to Apply for and Accept Funding for FY2022 – FY2023 I-395
Commuter Choice Projects

Recommendation:

Authorize the Executive Director to apply for and accept funding for FY2022-2023 I-395 Commuter Choice projects and endorse management's prioritization of projects.

Background:

In November 2020 the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) issued a call for projects to be funded under next year's I-395 Commuter Choice program. NVTC has developed an evaluation and selection process for proposed projects. This process includes the formation of an evaluation working group, which PRTC staff has been a participant in. Funding for selected projects would be available July 1, 2021.

OmniRide's proposed projects are intended to provide additional commuter options in the I-395 corridor. It should be noted that current I-395 Commuter Choice policy is that applications for transit operating assistance are for two (2) years at a time. After the first five years of 100 percent funding, the funding percentage decreases. Projects are eligible for up to eight (8) years of transit operations funding.

Applicants have been asked to prioritize their proposed projects so that agency or jurisdictional priorities can be considered in the evaluation process.

The following are the proposed projects listed in order of management's priority:

1. Continued funding for two (2) additional morning and evening trips on the Dale City-Pentagon-Rosslyn-Ballston route. The continued operation of two (2) additional morning

and evening commuter express trips between Dale City and Pentagon, Rosslyn, and Ballston will allow for continued enhanced services along the I-395 express lanes. This service connects major commuter lots in Prince William County with employment centers in and around the Pentagon, as well as along the Rosslyn/Ballston corridor. This service would cost approximately \$300,000 over two years. If approved this project is eligible for 100 percent funding.

2. Continued funding of commuter express service from Staffordboro Commuter Lot to the Pentagon. The continued operation of peak service between Stafford County and the Pentagon will allow the service to grow its ridership base by providing enhanced mobility in the I-395 express lanes, providing commuting alternatives to the Pentagon with connections to the Metrorail system, as well as other OmniRide commuter services. This service also takes pressure from Prince William County commuter lots and allows for additional utilization of those lots by having expanded commuter operations along the I-95 corridor. This service would cost approximately \$700,000 over two years. If approved this project is eligible for 100 percent funding.
3. Continued funding of commuter express service from Staffordboro Commuter Lot to downtown Washington, DC. The continued operations of peak service between Stafford County and downtown Washington, DC will allow the service to grow its ridership base by providing enhanced mobility in the I-395 express lanes, providing direct service into downtown Washington, DC and also provide connectivity with the Metrorail system, as well as other regional transit services. This service would cost approximately \$975,000 over two years. If approved this project is eligible for 100 percent funding.
4. Additional Corridor Incentive. This project would provide an additional \$400 per month to vanpools that utilize the corridor and are enrolled in the Vanpool Alliance program. Vanpools have seen a significant decline in the region due to pandemic related telecommuting. This additional incentive is designed to stimulate vanpooling in northern Virginia. The estimated cost is \$210,000 over two years.
5. Vanpool Parking Benefit. This project would provide an additional payment of \$200 per month for new vanpools that serve the I-395 corridor and are enrolled in the Vanpool Alliance program. This project was suggested by the members of the OmniRide/Vanpool Alliance Vanpool Council and is based on the successful new vanpool incentive administered by Vanpool Alliance with funding from the Vanpool!VA program. The total funding request is \$200,000 over two years. This project would dovetail with an already existing identical program for I-66 that has already been approved. The two projects would

operate concurrently to effectively cover Virginia based commuting routes into the District of Columbia.

6. Continued funding of additional peak service on Prince William Metro Express. The continued operation of additional peak service between Woodbridge, Potomac Mills, the Horner Road Commuter Lot, and Franconia-Springfield Metro Station provides enhanced mobility for commuters and local residents alike. These services provide connectivity to not only the Metrorail system, but to regional bus systems that allow for easier access to employment in Fairfax County, Alexandria, and Arlington. This service would cost approximately \$475,000 over two years. If approved this project is eligible for 100 percent funding.
7. Continued funding of additional peak service for OmniRide local service along the Route 1 corridor. The continued operation of additional peak services is between the southern end of Route 1 near Quantico and the Woodbridge VRE station. This increased frequency provides needed access to many residential and employment locations in the corridor, connecting residents to NOVA Woodbridge, medical appointments, other OmniRide local and commuter routes, and to the VRE. This service would cost approximately \$560,000 over two years. If approved this project is eligible for 100 percent funding.

Management will provide updates to the Commission as the project selection process progresses. If one or more of the projects is selected for funding it will be necessary to execute funding agreements for Commuter Choice projects. The related resolution will authorize the Executive Director to execute a funding agreement without returning to the Commission for further authorization under a subsequent resolution.

Fiscal Impact:

The Commuter Choice Program will provide 100 percent of the funding for selected projects.