




July 11, 2019

TO: Madam Chair Anderson and PRTC Commissioners

FROM: Robert A. Schneider, PhD
Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Authorization to Commence a Public Comment Period for the I-395/95 Commuter Choice Program List of Eligible Scored Projects

Recommendation:

Authorize the Executive Director to commence a public comment period for the I-395/95 Commuter Choice Program list of eligible scored projects.

Background:

The I-395/95 Commuter Choice program funds projects to improve the reliability and efficiency of travel along the corridor. The program seeks to move more people through the corridor and support multimodal transportation improvements that improve mobility, increase travel options, and enhance transportation safety and travel time reliability. Funding is available to any NVTC or PRTC member jurisdiction or any other public transit agency providing service in NVTC or PRTC's jurisdiction. Funded projects must benefit toll payers of the 37-mile I-95/395 high-occupancy toll (HOT) lane facility extending between Stafford County and the Virginia/Washington, D.C. line.

In April, both NVTC and PRTC approved the project selection process and technical evaluation criteria for the FY2020 I-395/95 Inaugural Program. The Commissions also authorized staff to open the Call for Projects effective April 5th and closing May 15th. The approved selection process and evaluation criteria largely mirror those for the more established I-66 Commuter Choice program. However, for the I-395/95 Inaugural Program, Toll Day 1 readiness is a significant factor in the scoring (in lieu of regional priorities in the most recent I-66 call).

The Commission will be asked to authorize a public comment period to solicit feedback on the FY2020 list of eligible scored projects for the inaugural I-395/95 Commuter Choice program. The public comment period will run from August 4, 2019 to September 6, 2019 at 5:00 P.M. Members of the public also will be able to submit written comments via email at publichearing@omniride.com or letter.

For the FY2020 Inaugural Program, NVTC received 17 applications from eight applicants. The technical team assessed all applications and determined that each met the eligibility criteria established in the

MOA. On June 13th staff reviewed the eligible projects with the Joint Commission Working Group (JCWG). The NVTC technical team, in coordination with applicant staff, then scored the projects using the criteria approved by both NVTC and PRTC in April 2019. The detailed technical scores reflect \$30.8 million in requests plus NVTC program management costs for a total of \$31.6 million. A total of \$22 million is available for this first round of funding. This amount reflects a 20-month program extending from Toll Day 1 on the I-395 express lanes, which is expected to occur in late October 2019 through June 30, 2021.

NVTC and PRTC will each hold a public hearing to solicit comments on the proposed I-395/95 Commuter Choice projects at their respective September 5th Commission meetings. In addition, NVTC, in coordination with PRTC, plans to enhance traditional outreach efforts by launching a social media campaign that is geo-targeted to each project (i.e. specific communities and neighborhoods of potential transit riders and potential sluggers, etc.) and by partnering with jurisdictional staff to attend local events to increase visibility and awareness of the public comment period.

Table 1: List of Eligible Scored Projects for I-395/95 Commuter Choice FY2020 Inaugural Program

| Applicant | Application Title | Application Score (100 Points) | Funding Request | Cumulative Funding Request |
|--|--|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| NVTC | I-395/95 Commuter Choice Program Administration, Evaluation, Oversight, Marketing and Outreach | - | \$ 800,000 | \$ 800,000 |
| OmniRide | Enhanced Bus Service from Dale City to Ballston | 100 | \$ 251,600 | \$ 1,051,600 |
| DASH / City of Alexandria | Enhanced Bus Service on AT-1 Plus: West End to Van Dorn Metro | 92 | \$ 3,040,000 | \$ 4,091,600 |
| OmniRide | Enhanced Bus Service on Prince William Metro Express: OmniRide Transit Center to Franconia-Springfield Metro | 85 | \$ 562,400 | \$ 4,654,000 |
| City of Fredericksburg / Fredericksburg Regional Transit | New Bus Service from North Stafford to Quantico VRE Station | 84 | \$ 322,619 | \$ 4,976,619 |
| OmniRide | Enhanced Bus Service on Route 1 Local: Quantico to Woodbridge VRE | 80 | \$ 1,133,500 | \$ 6,110,119 |
| Fairfax County | New Bus Service to the Pentagon with Gambrill and Backlick North Park and Ride Improvements | 80 | \$ 3,540,903 | \$ 9,651,022 |
| Northern Virginia Regional Commission | New TDM Outreach Campaign for Military Facilities | 79 | \$ 396,184 | \$ 10,047,206 |
| OmniRide | New Bus Service from Staffordboro to Downtown D.C. | 77 | \$ 3,569,200 | \$ 13,616,406 |
| DASH / City of Alexandria | Enhanced Bus Service on AT-9: Mark Center to Potomac Yard | 74 | \$ 1,949,000 | \$ 15,565,406 |
| Arlington County | Operational Enhancements of the Crystal City - Potomac Yard Transitway | 67 | \$ 150,000 | \$ 15,715,406 |

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|------------------------------|--|----|--------------|----------------------|
| OmniRide | New Bus Service from Staffordboro to the Pentagon | 66 | \$ 3,495,300 | \$ 19,210,706 |
| Arlington County | Enhanced Bus Service on Metrobus 7Y: McPherson Square to Southern Towers | 64 | \$ 200,000 | \$ 19,410,706 |
| Arlington County | Commuter Store at the Pentagon Transit Center | 63 | \$ 211,962 | \$ 19,622,668 |
| Fairfax County | Enhanced Bus Service to the Pentagon with Saratoga and Backlick North Park and Ride Improvements | 57 | \$ 3,382,520 | \$ 23,005,188 |
| Prince William County | New TDM Outreach to the I-395/95 Corridor | 56 | \$ 300,000 | \$ 23,305,188 |
| Stafford County | Expanded Transit Access to Leeland Road VRE Station | 39 | \$ 5,268,687 | \$ 28,573,875 |
| Arlington County | Roadway Improvements at Glebe Road and I-395 Interchange | 18 | \$ 3,000,000 | \$ 31,573,875 |
| TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST | | | | \$ 31,573,875 |

Project Descriptions

Program Administration, Evaluation, Oversight, Marketing and Outreach

NVTC (\$800,000)

This funding is used to support two staff positions responsible for the following: program operations and oversight; coordination with the Commonwealth, applicants, and grantees; quarterly and annual reporting; grant and contract management; contracted technical support related to project scoring and analysis; and coordinated outreach efforts along the I-395/95 corridor.

Enhanced Bus Service from Dale City to Ballston

OmniRide (\$ 251,600)

This project adds two morning and two evening trips from eastern Prince William County to employment areas in the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor and the Pentagon. This route serves three commuter lots including Horner Road, Telegraph Road and Dale City.

Enhanced Bus Service on AT-1 Plus: West End to Van Dorn Metro

DASH / City of Alexandria (\$ 3,040,000)

This project increases the frequency, extends hours and improves bus stop amenities on the DASH AT-1 Plus bus service, improving connectivity for riders from the West End/Beauregard area of Alexandria to the Van Dorn Metrorail Station. The route parallels the I-395 corridor and stops at shopping areas, educational centers and the Mark Center.

Enhanced Bus Service on Prince William Metro Express: OmniRide Transit Center to Franconia-Springfield Metro

OmniRide (\$ 562,400)

This project increases rush-hour service frequency on OmniRide's express route connecting the OmniRide Transit Center in Dale City, Potomac Mills Mall and the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station.

New Bus Service from North Stafford to Quantico VRE Station

City of Fredericksburg / Fredericksburg Regional Transit (\$ 322,619)

This project funds operation of a new Fredericksburg Regional Transit rush hour bus service connecting commuters from North Stafford to the Quantico VRE station with stops at the Aquia Towne Center, the VDOT Park and Ride lot near Route 610/Garrisonville Road, Quantico Corporate Center and Marine Corps Base Quantico. The service connects riders to activity centers and transit options, including VRE and OmniLink.

Enhanced Bus Service on Route 1 Local: Quantico to Woodbridge VRE

OmniRide (\$ 1,133,500)

This project increases rush-hour service on OmniRide's Route 1 local route between Woodbridge and Quantico. The project includes the purchase of a bus to provide the additional service.

New Bus Service to the Pentagon with Gambrill and Backlick North Park and Ride Improvements

Fairfax County (\$ 3,540,903)

This project splits Fairfax County Connector Route 395, which provides rush-hour express service between two Springfield park-and-ride lots and the Pentagon, into two separate routes. Funding for this project will create the new 396 express route with direct connections from the Backlick North Park and Ride lot to the Pentagon. The project supports additional service, the purchase of four buses, and installation of secure bicycle parking and wayfinding improvements at the lots.

New TDM Outreach Campaign for Military Facilities

Northern Virginia Regional Commission (\$ 396,184)

This project, led by NVRC, includes outreach, marketing and educational services to specifically foster ridesharing and transit use by the 115,000 personnel working at local military bases along the corridor, including Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall, Fort Belvoir/Fort Belvoir North and Marine Corps Base Quantico.

New Bus Service from Staffordboro to Downtown D.C.

OmniRide (\$ 3,569,200)

This project introduces OmniRide commuter express bus service between the Staffordboro Commuter Lot, which currently serves slugs and carpools, and major employment areas in downtown Washington D.C. including Metro Center, Archives, Smithsonian and L'Enfant Plaza. The project includes the purchase of four new motor coaches.

Enhanced Bus Service on AT-9: Mark Center to Potomac Yard

DASH / City of Alexandria (\$ 1,949,000)

This project improves service frequency throughout the day and extends the hours of service on DASH's AT-9 local bus route, which serves major employment, shopping and educational sites in the I-395 corridor. The project will also install four real-time bus arrival information displays at bus stops along the route.

Operational Enhancements of the Crystal City - Potomac Yard Transitway

Arlington County (\$ 150,000)

The Crystal City - Potomac Yard Transitway, operating between the Pentagon City and Braddock Road Metrorail stations, provides service along the congested Route 1 corridor in Arlington and Alexandria.

This project would apply pavement treatments along Arlington County's portion of the 4.5-mile Crystal City-Potomac Yard Transitway to reduce the occurrence of private vehicles driving in the transitway's bus-only lanes, thereby improving safety and service reliability.

New Bus Service from Staffordboro to the Pentagon

OmniRide (\$ 3,495,300)

This project introduces OmniRide commuter express bus service between the Staffordboro Commuter Lot, which currently only serves slugs and carpools, and the Pentagon. The project includes the purchase of four new motor coaches.

Enhanced Bus Service on Metrobus 7Y: McPherson Square to Southern Towers

Arlington County (\$ 200,000)

This project reroutes afternoon southbound trips on the Metrobus 7Y route, which connects riders traveling to McPherson Square, the Pentagon and areas in Alexandria, to include a stop at the Pentagon City Metrorail Station to match morning northbound service. The extension creates a one-seat ride from McPherson Square in Washington, D.C. to Pentagon City.

Commuter Store at the Pentagon Transit Center

Arlington County (\$ 211,962)

The recently opened Commuter Store at the Pentagon Transit Center provides travel information, sales and assistance to nearly 2000 visitors, employees and commuters each month. This project will fund store operations for 12 months.

Enhanced Bus Service to the Pentagon with Saratoga and Backlick North Park and Ride Improvements

Fairfax County (\$ 3,382,520)

This project adds trips to Fairfax County Connector Routes 393 and 394, which are rush-hour express routes that connect riders from Springfield to the Pentagon. The project includes the purchase of four buses and the installation of secure bicycle parking and wayfinding signage at the Backlick North and Saratoga park-and-ride lots.

New TDM Outreach to the I-395/95 Corridor

Prince William County (\$ 300,000)

This project, led by Prince William County in partnership with OmniRide and Virginia Railway Express, establishes a transportation demand management program that will increase commuters' awareness of mobility options. This project will build upon ongoing TDM efforts along the I-66 corridor which are funded by the I-66 Commuter Choice program.

Expanded Transit Access to Leeland Road VRE Station

Stafford County (\$ 5,268,687)

This project expands and reconfigures Leeland Road south of the Leeland Road VRE station to include continuous bike lanes and sidewalks, as well as a continuous center two-way left turn lane.

Roadway Improvements at Glebe Road and I-395 Interchange

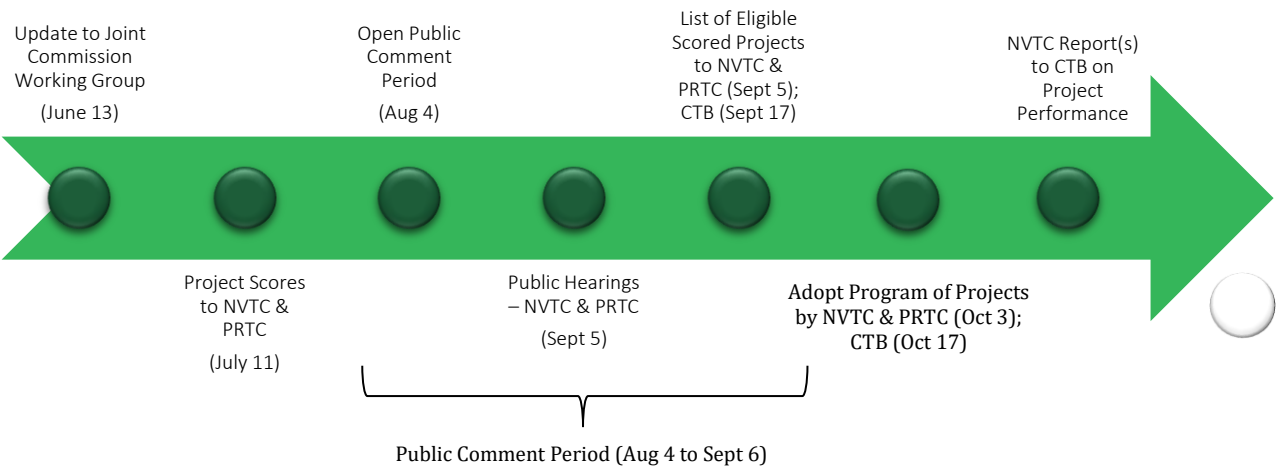
Arlington County (\$ 3,000,000)

This project reconfigures the intersection of South Glebe Road and West Glebe Road to reduce traffic backups that can often extend through an adjacent offramp into I-395's northbound lanes.

Next Steps

To demonstrate immediate transportation benefits to toll payers, NVTC and PRTC will announce project selections prior to Toll Day 1 on the I-395 express lanes. To meet this expedited schedule, public hearings on the proposed project selections will be held as part of NVTC and PRTC Commission meetings on September 5th, followed by adoption of the program of projects by both Commissions on October 3rd and by the Commonwealth Transportation Board on October 17th.

Figure 2: FY2020 I-395/95 Commuter Choice Program Timeline



Fiscal Impact:

Not applicable.