



March 7, 2019

TO: Madam Chair Anderson and Commissioners

FROM: Robert A. Schneider, PhD  
Executive Director

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RE: I-66 Commuter Choice Program

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At the March meeting the Commission will receive an update on the I-66 and I-395/95 Commuter Choice.

For the I-66 Commuter Choice program, Commissioners will be provided with a summary of submitted applications, a determination of whether applications meet the eligibility criteria established in the [I-66 Memorandum of Agreement with the Commonwealth](#), and a FY2020 program timeline update. Action on a proposed list of I-66 Commuter Choice projects for public comment will be requested at April's NVTC meeting.

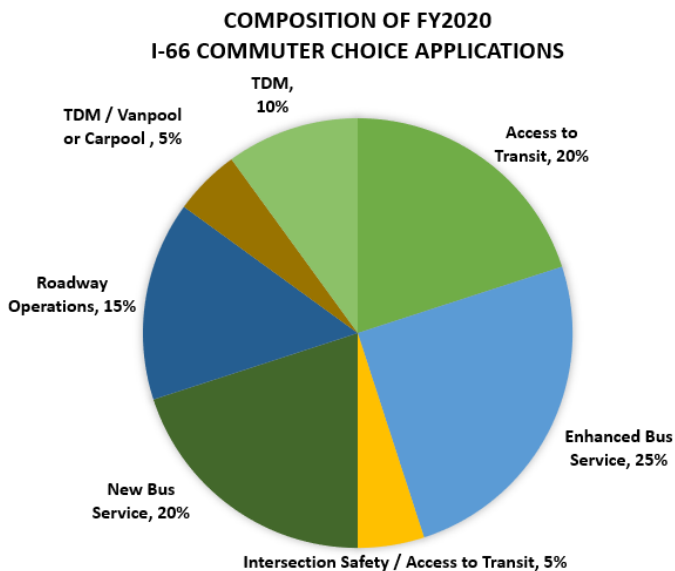
For the I-395/95 Commuter Choice program, Commissioners will be provided with an overview of the process and schedule for the FY2020 Inaugural Program aimed at selecting projects that are ready for commuters on toll day one (fall 2019). Action on the project selection process, technical evaluation criteria, and authorization to issue a call for projects for the I-395/95 Commuter Choice program will be requested at April's NVTC and PRTC meetings.

#### **A. I-66 Commuter Choice: FY2020 Call for Projects Update**

The FY2020 I-66 Commuter Choice call for projects produced 20 applications for a total of \$32 million in requests for projects designed to expand transportation capacity in the I-66 corridor inside the Beltway. Applications were received from the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William, the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church, PRTC (OmniRide), and the Town of Vienna.

Project types under consideration in the FY2020 program include:

- six enhanced bus services;
- five access to transit projects;
- three new bus services;
- three roadway operations projects;
- three transportation demand management (TDM) projects;
- one intersection safety project; and
- one vanpool/carpool program.



*Source: Northern Virginia Transportation Commission*

Two of the applications encompassed more than one project type.

#### **List of Eligible FY2020 Projects**

NVTC staff assessed all applications received and determined that all the proposed projects meet the eligibility criteria established in the MOA. Table 1 lists the proposed project information including applicant, project type, funding request and eligibility determination.

#### **Public Outreach Strategy**

At the April Commission meeting, staff will seek Commission approval to open a public comment period to solicit comments on the list of eligible, scored projects. The public comment period will run from April 5, 2019 to May 15, 2019 at 5:00 P.M. Members of the public will be able to submit comments via email to [comment@commuterchoice.org](mailto:comment@commuterchoice.org), through a web form at [novatransit.org](http://novatransit.org), or by phone at (703) 495-3130.

NVTC will host two outreach events and participate in a separate regional outreach event during the I-66 Commuter Choice public comment period:

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1. An Open House will be held on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 beginning at 6:00 P.M. at Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School, 7130 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Virginia and will be followed by a welcome and remarks at 6:30 P.M.
2. Prior to the May 2<sup>nd</sup> NVTC Commission meeting, an Open House will take place beginning at 6:00 P.M. in the lobby of the Navy League Building, 2300 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Virginia, followed by a public hearing at 7:00 P.M. in the First Floor Large Conference Room.
3. NVTC will also solicit public comment at the Northern Virginia joint transportation public meeting tentatively scheduled for May 13, 2019. The location is yet to be determined. Other participants include the Virginia Railway Express (VRE), the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB).

NVTC plans to enhance traditional outreach efforts by launching a geo-targeted social media campaign and by partnering with jurisdictional staff to attend local events to increase visibility and awareness of the public comment period.

**Table 1: Eligible I-66 Commuter Choice FY2020 Projects**

Applicant	FY2020 Commuter Choice Application Title	Project Type	Funding Request	Eligibility Determination
Arlington County	Vehicle Presence Detection Enhancements on Lee Highway	Roadway Operations	\$300,000	✓
Arlington County	Lee Hwy and Washington Blvd Intersection Improvements	Roadway Operations	\$400,000	✓
Arlington County	Enhanced Bus Service on Metrobus 3Y: Lee Highway-Farragut Square	Enhanced Bus Service	\$1,040,000	✓
Arlington County	Expanded TDM Outreach to the I-66 Corridor	TDM	\$1,350,000	✓
Arlington County	Lee Highway HOV & Bus-Only Lane in Rosslyn	Roadway Operations	\$1,500,000	✓
City of Fairfax	Bike Share Implementation	Access to Transit	\$1,085,000	✓
City of Falls Church	N Washington St & Gresham Pl Intersection Improvements	Intersection Safety / Access to Transit	\$1,500,000	✓
Fairfax County	New Bus Service from Stringfellow to Constitution Center	New Bus Service	\$4,326,000	✓
Fairfax County	Trail Access to Vienna Metrorail Station	Access to Transit	\$3,000,000	✓
Fairfax County	Enhanced Bus Service from Government Center to D.C.	Enhanced Bus Service	\$1,939,500	✓
Loudoun County	New Bus Service from Stone Ridge to Pentagon	New Bus Service	\$1,257,226	✓
Loudoun County	Enhanced Bus Service from Stone Ridge to D.C.	Enhanced Bus Service	\$532,031	✓
Loudoun County	New Bus Service from Purcellville to D.C.	New Bus Service	\$949,482	✓
Prince William County	New TDM Outreach to the I-66 Corridor	TDM	\$200,000	✓
Prince William County	Residency Road Trail Access to VRE Broad Run Station	Access to Transit	\$4,882,800	✓
PRTC (OmniRide)	Enhanced Bus Service from Gainesville to Pentagon	Enhanced Bus Service	\$4,671,700	✓
PRTC (OmniRide)	New Bus Service from Haymarket to Rosslyn	New Bus Service	\$776,700	✓
PRTC (OmniRide)	Enhanced Bus Service from Gainesville to D.C.	Enhanced Bus Service	\$1,519,100	✓
PRTC (OmniRide)	I-66 Slug Line Campaign	TDM / Vanpool or Carpool	\$287,800	✓
Town of Vienna	Bike Share Implementation	Access to Transit	\$550,000	✓
<b>TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST</b>			<b>\$ 32,067,339</b>	

Source: Northern Virginia Transportation Commission

### **Next Steps**

NVTC staff will work with the Program Advisory Committee and the I-66 Commuter Choice staff working group to discuss eligible applications and propose a I-66 Commuter Choice FY2020 Program for the Commission's approval. Upon approval by NVTC, the Program will be submitted by NVTC to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for adoption into the Commonwealth's FY2020 Six-Year Improvement Program.

The upcoming milestones for the I-66 Commuter Choice FY2020 Program are as follows:

- March 2019:  
Project evaluation and program development with NVTC's Program Advisory Committee and the I-66 Commuter Choice staff working group
- April/May 2019:  
Public meetings and public comment period
- June 2019:  
NVTC Commission selection of FY2020 Program  
CTB approval of Program in FY2020 Six-Year Improvement Program

### **B. I-395/95 Commuter Choice: Outline of Schedule and Process for the FY2020 Inaugural Program**

For the I-395/95 Commuter Choice program, Commissioners will be briefed on the proposed schedule and process for the FY2020 Inaugural Program, with a goal to have projects implemented by toll day one, scheduled for late October 2019. Initial work on this program has been done by a NVTC/PRTC joint staff working group and a Joint Commission Working Group comprised of NVTC and PRTC Commissioners.

The I-395/95 Commuter Choice program and I-66 Commuter Choice program, while different in geography, are nearly identical in program goals, criteria, and reporting. Both programs must fund projects that benefit toll payers of the respective corridor and must be used to fund multimodal projects that demonstrate their ability to meet the improvement goals. As such, the proposed approach and criteria for the I-395/95 Commuter Choice program are modeled after the I-66 Commuter Choice program.

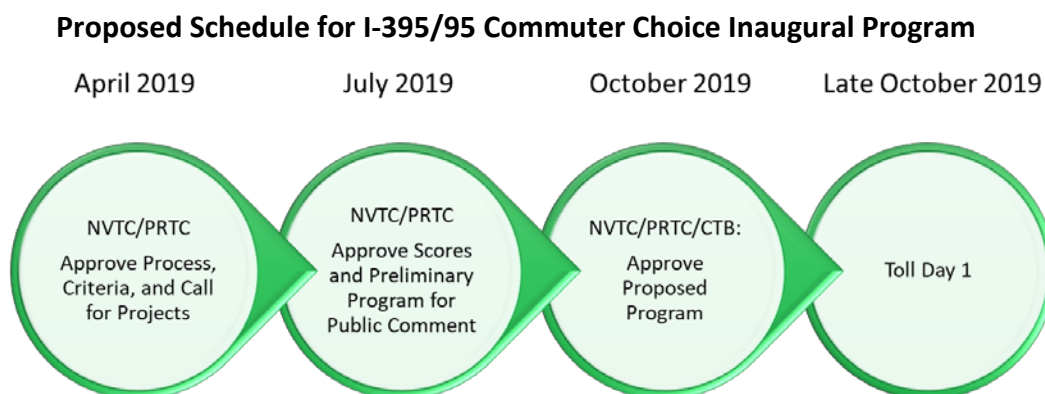
As resolved in the [Memorandum of Agreement between NVTC and PRTC for distribution and Allocation of I-395 Annual Transit Investment Funds](#), approved by NVTC and PRTC in January 2019, NVTC staff will be administering the I-395/95 Commuter Choice program. The proposed program of projects will be jointly approved by the two Commissions prior to submission to the

Commonwealth Transportation Board. A I-395/95 Commuter Choice Joint Commission Working Group, made up of representatives from NVTC and PRTC jurisdictions and chaired by Jeff McKay was established to help facilitate the development of the various decision documents prior to submission to the Commissions for approval.

Below are details on the proposed schedule, project selection process, and technical evaluation criteria, all of which have been reviewed by the Joint Commission Working Group and are recommended for Commission consideration. Approval of the I-395/95 Commuter Choice Inaugural Program's project selection process, technical evaluation criteria, and authorization to issue a call for projects will be requested at April's NVTC and PRTC meetings.

### **Proposed Schedule**

In anticipation of toll day one in October 2019, NVTC staff prepared the timeline with key milestones that will permit the development and implementation of an Inaugural I-395/95 Commuter Choice program with projects that will provide transportation options to commuters on toll day one scheduled for late October 2019.



As such, the Commissions will be asked at their April meetings to jointly approve the proposed project selection process, technical evaluation criteria, and authorize the announcement of a call for projects. Following receipt and evaluation of the projects, the two Commissions will be asked to approve the publication of projects scores for public comment and then will be asked to approve the submission of the FY2020 Inaugural I-395/95 Commuter Choice Program of Projects to the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

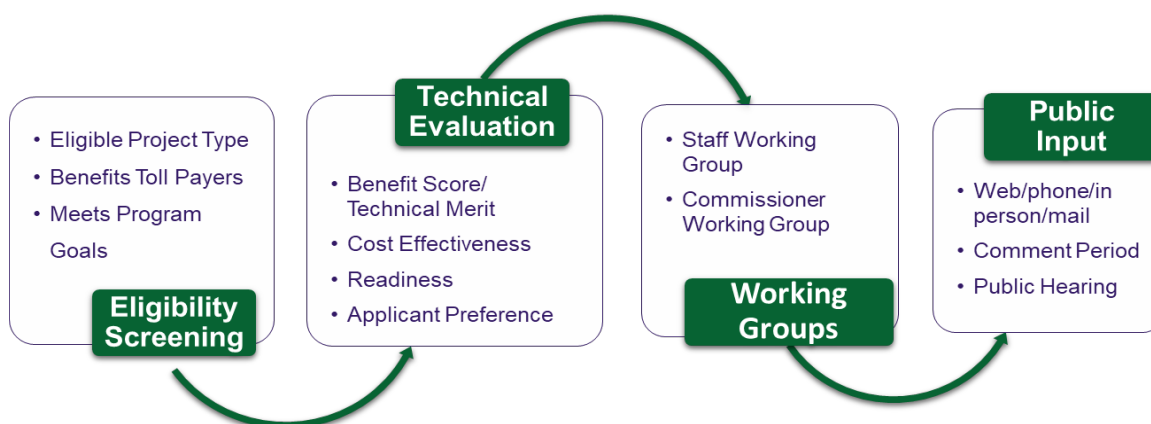
### **Proposed Project Selection Process and Technical Evaluation Criteria**

To meet the accelerated schedule noted above and to align the two Commuter Choice programs, staff recommends using existing technical materials and procedures developed and vetted through the I-66 Commuter Choice program to expedite the delivery of the I-395/95 Commuter Choice FY2020 Inaugural Program. The proposed project selection process and the technical

evaluation criteria will be presented to the two Commissions in April for approval along with the call for projects.

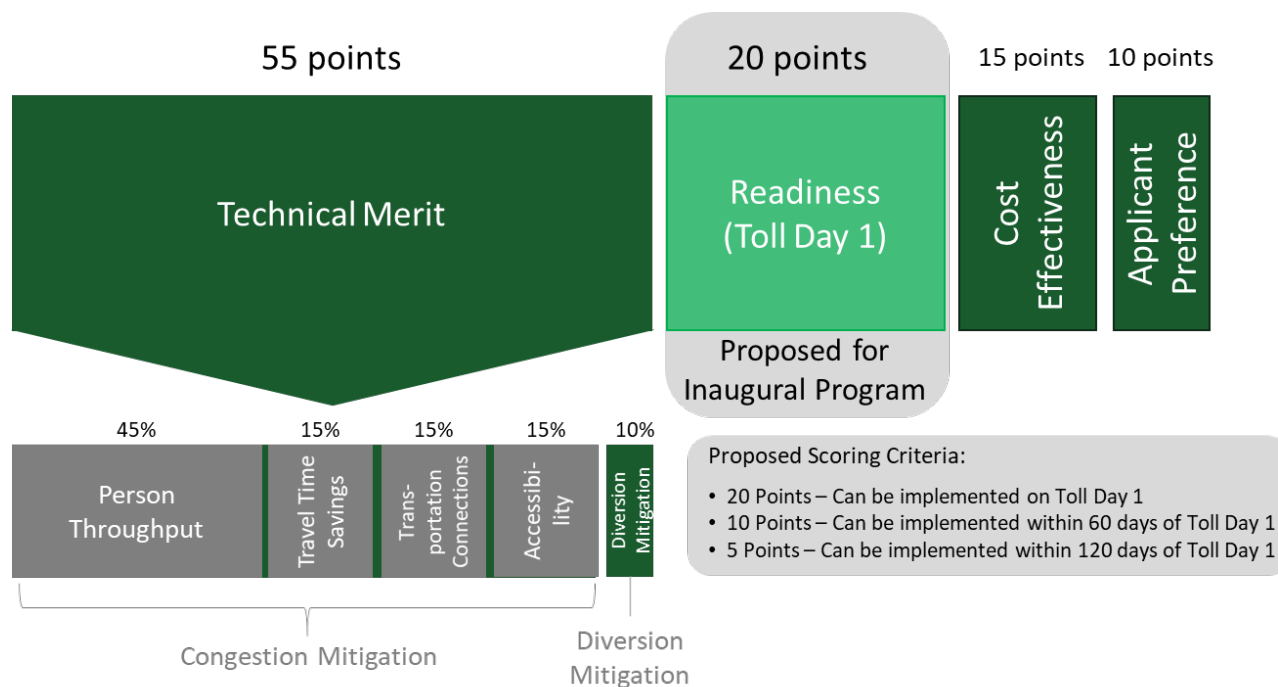
Based upon the requirements of the MOA and lessons learned from the I-66 Commuter Choice program, NVTC staff propose the following project selection process for the I-395/95 Commuter Choice program:

**Proposed I-395/95 Commuter Choice Project Selection Process**



As the I-395/95 Commuter Choice program and I-66 Commuter Choice program are nearly identical in program goals, criteria, and reporting, NVTC staff proposes that the I-395/95 technical evaluation criteria be based on the I-66 Commuter Choice program. Priorities for scoring will focus on technical merit (congestion and diversion mitigation) and cost effectiveness, as well as the priority for a given project by the applicant. In addition, staff proposes that a project be scored higher if it can be ready on or near toll day one (readiness). This proposed technical evaluation criteria and weighting has been endorsed by the Joint Commission Working Group, NVTC's Program Advisory Committee, and the I-395/95 Commuter Choice staff working group.

### Proposed Inaugural I-395/95 Commuter Choice Program Technical Evaluation Criteria



Details of the proposed application process, project selection process and the technical evaluation criteria are included in the [Draft I-395/95 FY2020 Inaugural Program Memorandum](#).