

APPENDIX D

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ENDORSES TRANSPORTATION REFERENDUM


At its evening business meeting on October 3, 2002, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) joined a growing number of local and regional agencies and organizations by endorsing the November 5th transportation sales tax referendum. NVTC's board consists of 18 state and local elected officials (and the director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation) from six jurisdictions (the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun). NVTC is chaired by Chris Zimmerman, who also chairs the boards of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and Arlington County.

The commission cited three reasons for urging voters to approve the half-percent increase in the sales tax:

- First, all of the money raised by the sales tax will be spent in Northern Virginia. The newly created Northern Virginia Transportation Authority will decide how to spend the \$5 billion proceeds over the next 20 years.
- Second, over 40 percent of the costs for the projects listed in the referendum are for transit. For example, the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) which is co-owned by NVTC, has been experiencing annual growth in ridership of almost 20 percent. VRE will receive \$100 million for new railcars if the voters approve the referendum.
- Third, the new sales tax revenues will make a real difference in the lives of Northern Virginia's citizens. Each new transit rider saves almost five pounds of NOx emissions in a year, which is vitally important for a region struggling to achieve clean air targets and avoid losing

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METRO N.Va. Sales Tax Referendum

In the News

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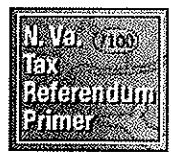
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Primer

N.Va. Sales Tax Referendum

If passed, the Nov. 5 regional referendum would increase the non-food sales tax by half a cent to raise money for transportation.



Evolution of Virginia's Sales Tax

The sales tax rate grew to 4 1/2 cents per dollar over 20 years. Northern Virginians will vote on whether to make it 5 cents.

- 1966: A 2 percent sales tax is created. Half of the money goes to the state general fund, and half goes to school systems based on school-age population.
- 1966: The state authorizes local governments to impose an additional 1 cent per dollar sales tax, which would be collected by the state and immediately returned to local treasuries. All jurisdictions do so.
- 1968: The state increases its portion of the original sales tax by 1 cent, doubling the amount of sales tax revenue that goes to the state's general fund.
- 1986: Sales tax is increased by a half-cent per dollar, with proceeds going to the newly created Transportation Trust Fund.

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