



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 29, 2016

Contact: Chris Smith

chris.smith@drpt.virginia.gov

804-225-3930

Commuters Advised to Telework During SafeTrack

RICHMOND - The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) encourage Northern Virginia commuters to telework when possible during SafeTrack, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) year-long operation to repair and make safety updates to the Metrorail system.

When businesses offer a telework option to employees, research shows benefits of decreased turnover and absenteeism with increased employee productivity, performance and morale. The region also benefits through decreased congestion and harmful emissions in the environment. A DRPT 2015 Statewide Travel Study shows that 729,000 Virginia residents currently telework occasionally and of that 400,000 telework at least once per week. The study also revealed there is a potential for 600,000 additional teleworkers.

One of the goals of Telework!VA, an initiative launched by DRPT that provides support to Virginia employers to start or expand a telework program, is reaching those potential teleworkers. It offers online e-learning tools to help train employers and employees on how to telework effectively. Through a partnership between DRPT and VDOT, Telework!VA is now providing free technical assistance to Northern Virginia employers to set up telework programs. The assistance includes: assessing telework needs, helping to draft telework policies and agreements, identifying positions that are best suited for telework and more. Learn more about getting started with telework by visiting teleworkva.org/nova.

About the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

The mission of DRPT is to facilitate and improve mobility of the citizens of Virginia and promote the efficient transport of goods and people in a safe, reliable and cost-effective manner.

About Telework!VA

The Telework!VA program was launched by DRPT to help reduce the number of commuters on Virginia's roadways. Telework!VA is the one-stop resource for businesses, individuals and government agencies interested in learning more about telework or starting or expanding a telework program.

###