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# Board Matter

**March 22, 2022**

WMATA announced the Yellow Line tunnel and bridge crossing the Potomac will shut down starting September 10 for up to eight months because of essential safety rehab work.

Clearly, safety must be the highest priority when it comes to our transit system. However, the seemingly endless stream of shutdowns, delays, and missed completion dates is making Fairfax County commuters increasingly frustrated and hampering Metro's ability to rebound from pandemic ridership numbers. While during the height of COVID, these issues were less impactful due to the robust teleworking taking place, I am greatly concerned about the impacts of this shutdown, especially as people slowly return to the workplace - something we see in traffic volumes daily.

Everyone is trying to get back to normal and Fairfax County is on the fast track to recovery from the pandemic, so a reliable transit is more important than ever.

Therefore, I move that the Board write a letter to WMATA urging them to investigate ways they can provide a more robust system of convenient bussing than what has already been proposed, to provide transit alternatives while this essential route is offline. Other methods should also be explored, such as fare reductions and parking fare reductions at Yellow Line stations, like Huntington. The letter should also encourage the Virginia

Railway Express (VRE) to play a lead role in possibly providing relief in ways like fare incentives for Yellow Line riders.

Lastly, the letter should urge WMATA to conduct a thorough review to see if a tighter timeline can be developed.

The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) has already convened a working group and plans to write a similar letter, and that's a good thing. We need all the help we can get.