

Metro to Potomac Mills? Group recommends extending Blue Line, widening I-95

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Northern Virginia's top transportation priority should be widening Interstate 95 between the Capital Beltway and Richmond, and extending Metro's Blue Line to Potomac Mills in Prince William County, according to a transportation planning group.

The nonprofit organization, called TRIP, released its list of the top 50 surface transportation projects to support economic growth in Virginia on Tuesday.

The Metro extension would lengthen the Blue Line by 12 miles. The route is already served by Virginia Railway Express, but it is already operating at capacity. Commuters like Nicole Salomone say it's too much effort.

"I would have to get on the VRE, transfer -- it would take me like 60 minutes to get into work and I worked in the center part of D.C.," Salomone said. "It would be wonderful if it was easier for us to sort of hop on the Metro and cut right to the point.."

The concept is also welcomed at Potomac Mills, one of Virginia's top tourist attractions. At the Sensational Stylz salon, customers and owners believe Metro would be good for business.

Woodbridge business owner Marcus Johnson believes it would "cut down on cars being out a lot, because you can take the Metro.

A Metro extension toward Dulles International Airport is already underway.