



MEDIA RELEASE

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NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY APPROVES FY2014 TRANSPORTATION PROJECT LIST

Authority will initiate a Bond Validation Suit on subset of Approved Projects

NORTHERN VIRGINIA—On July 24, 2013 the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority held its final public hearing on its proposed FY2014 regional multimodal project list. The final proposed project list was vetted by the NVTa's Project Implementation Working Group (PIWG) which considered over 200 public comments received between June 6 and July 22, 2013. It's estimated that roughly \$270 million in new transportation funding created by HB2313 began to flow into the Northern Virginia region on July 1, 2013. These monies will fund much needed transportation improvements.

Twenty-one speakers testified before the Authority on Wednesday night outlining a variety of opinions for the proposed FY2014 projects.

Following the public hearing, the NVTa held a meeting and approved the following resolutions:

- [FY 2014 project selection process](#);
- [FY2014 program](#);
- [Carryover projects](#) for consideration in the development of the future six year program or other capital improvement programs by NVTa;
- [Bond project list](#);
- The [Pay-As-You-Go project list](#);
- Appointment of bond counsel: McGuire Woods;
- Authorization for the initiation of a bond validation proceeding;
- Appointment of the FY2014 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members; and the
- Appointment of an interim Executive Director: John Mason.

In addition to the approval of the first year of projects valued at \$116,058,000 the Authority voted for a project bond package totaling \$93,735,000. Project totals on both the Pay-As-You-Go and bond lists equal \$209,793,000.

The bond package approval preceded the approval of the bond validation suit. The purpose of a bond validation suit is to get a court determination, before bonds are even sold, that they will be upheld as binding, valid and legally payable obligations. This process is used by governmental entities regularly both to enhance the attractiveness of their bonds as investments and to protect the taxpayers and bond investors. This also protects businesses and entities engaging in project work to be funded not only by the taxes and fees identified in HB2313, but also by the bonds to be sold under that legislation. Ultimately the Bond Validation suit protects the NVRTA and its member jurisdictions by ensuring that the revenue stream identified to pay back the bonds is legal. This is essentially a legal test and eliminates years of costly court challenges that could impede the Authority's ability to do the work it was charged to do by the General Assembly. The suit also ensures that all procedures associated with the imposition and implementation of taxes and fees as well as the project selection process are lawful.

"Tonight the Authority has taken a significant first step into the future of comprehensive transportation planning in Northern Virginia. This is a critical time for the region. We no longer accept that hours spent sitting in traffic or overcrowded trains and buses is acceptable for our residents and businesses. Tonight we acted to address one of the greatest threats to our region: Congestion. Congestion impacts all Northern Virginians both economically and from a safety standpoint. While all of the Authority's regional partners may not always agree on the exact pathway to success, rest assured that we will all continue to work together to identify the best transportation funding solutions for this region," said **Marty Nohe**, Chairman of the Authority.

In addition to the other actions, the Authority appointed Hon. John Mason as its interim Executive Director. Mason previously served as the Authority's Executive Director in 2007 – 2008. Mr. Mason is the former mayor of the city of Fairfax and a retired Army officer.

"We look forward to working with Mr. Mason, the public and our regional transportation planning partners to clear the way to a brighter future for all Northern Virginians," said **Marty Nohe**, Chairman of the Authority.

For more information and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) on the Bond Validation Suit please visit the Authority web site at www.thenovaauthority.org. As the Bond Validation suit progresses, the Authority will post all public documents to the web site so that citizens can view the information.

The public hearing and NVRTA meeting was broadcast on City Screen Channel 12 (Cox and Verizon). The hearing and meeting will be rebroadcast throughout the week (check your cable listings) and a link will to the broadcast will be posted to YouTube and linked to the Authority web site on July 29, 2013.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

NVRTA was created by the General Assembly on July 1, 2002, to offer a common voice for Northern Virginia on transportation and other issues that confront the region. The Authority is made up of nine jurisdictions including: the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William; as well as the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park.

As the entity responsible for long-range transportation planning for regional projects in Northern Virginia, the Authority recently completed TransAction 2040, its regional transportation plan.

NVTA Who's Who

The voting members of the Authority include:

Hon. Martin Nohe, NVTA Chairman; Prince William County
Hon. William D. Euille, NVTA Vice Chairman; City of Alexandria
Hon. R. Scott Silverthorne, City of Fairfax
Hon. Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County
Hon. Harry J. "Hal" Parrish II, City of Manassas
Hon. Bryan Polk, City of Manassas Park
Hon. David Snyder, City of Falls Church
Hon. Scott York, Loudoun County
Hon. Christopher Zimmerman, Arlington County
Hon. Adam Ebbin, Virginia Senate
Hon. Joe T. May, Virginia House of Delegates
Hon. Thomas Davis Rust, Virginia House of Delegates
Sandy Bushue, Governors Appointee
Gary Garczynski, Governors Appointee, CTB Member

Non-voting members of the Authority include:

Helen Cuervo, VDOT
Kevin Page, VDRPT
Gerald "Jerry" Foreman, Town of Dumfries

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