

Project Implementation Working Group
Fairfax County Division of Transportation
Legato Building, 4th Floor Conference Room
Fairfax, Virginia

Minutes

Meeting Held On,
November 8, 2013; 10:00 a.m.

Members:

Chris Zimmerman, Chair
Gary Garczynski, Co-Chair
Jim Maslanka – Alexandria
Jennifer Fioretti – Arlington
Wendy Block-Sanford – City of Fairfax
Jeanette Rishell – City of Manassas Park
Rich Roisman – COG/TPB
Joe Swartz – DRPT
Noelle Dominguez – Fairfax County
Ron Kirkpatrick – Fairfax County
Paul Stoddard – Falls Church
Joe Kroboth, III, PE – Loudoun
Bob Brown - Loudoun
Rick Canizales – Prince William
Cynthia Porter-Johnson – PRTC

Kelly Coyner – NVTC
Clair Gron – NVTC
Doug Allen – VRE
Christine Hoeffner – VRE
Allison Davis - WMATA

Others:

Helen Cuervo - VDOT
Denise Nugent - Travesky & Associates
Rob Whitfield – Dulles Corridor Users Group
Clayton Medford – Sharon Bulova’s Office
Mark Duceman – Town of Herndon
Calvin Grow – Town of Leesburg

I. Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Chris Zimmerman called the meeting to order.

II. General Business

Cynthia Porter-Johnson of PRTC agreed to be the scribe for the Project Implementation Working Group (PIWG).

III. Approval of Summary of July 8, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

IV. Report from other Working Groups

The following update was provided:

- A. Financial Working Group (“FWG”)** – Noelle Dominguez (Fairfax County) reported that the FWG is working on the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the NVTA and the jurisdictions.

V. Review of Overarching Questions

A. Overview of NVTA FY 2014 Program

Jennifer Fioretti presented an overview of the NVTA FY 2014 Program. Of the total 33 projects approved in the FY 2014 Program, 24 are in the CLRP. Of the 15 projects not considered for FY 2014 funding, 6 are in the CLRP.

Jeanette Rishell asked why the Fairfax County project (Route 28 Widening, 4-6 lanes) was not considered for FY 14 Funding. Ms. Dominguez explained that other Fairfax County projects were further along in the process.

B. Discussion of NVTA Six – Year Program (SYP)

a. Coordination with VDOT Rating Study

Ms. Fioretti identified VDOT’s Rating Study provided an overview of the documents related to the CTB approval of the study selection priorities.

Ms. Helen Cuervo indicated that the stakeholder meeting letters had gone out to all jurisdictions and transit agencies requesting representatives to help VDOT and DRPT conduct the study. Ms. Cuervo gave a brief history of the legislation that as suggested by Chair Gary Garczynski. She indicated that VDOT is developing a program that will screen the projects. She further stated that VDOT is collaborating with many jurisdictions that will help to decide the definitions of regional significance and congestion reduction. The study is on a fast track and VDOT is completing the rating as fast as they can to have a project list to be rated in the spring of 2014. Ms. Cuervo explained that the NVTA is not bound by the rating and has the choice to decide whether transit projects will be run through the system. She advised that Monday, November 11th would be the deadline for VDOT to receive comments and to provide representatives for the input session that will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2013.

Ms. Cuervo later stated that Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. would be the absolute latest that VDOT could receive comments. VDOT needs time to meet and discuss the comments in preparation for the input session. Ms. Dominguez stated that VDOT giving the NVTA less than one week is not coordination nor is it in the spirit and the letter of the law. Ms. Cuervo reiterated that VDOT is doing the best that they can to have a list of projects in the spring and summer of 2014. She also stated that sharing the project selection and evaluation framework with the NVTA is an example of coordination.

Chairman Zimmerman stated that it has been reiterated the time constraints of this study. VDOT took a long time to get a consultant on board. He stressed if we had some dialogue prior, we would be further along.

Mr. Garczynski identified that there are dueling pressure with the CTB and VDOT and accountability to the legislature. The General Assembly wants to know that we have a process to relieve congestion.

Ms. Allison Davis asked how transit projects would be included in the study. Ms. Cuervo responded by stating VDOT will send the list of projects through the system. However, she noted that the law does not require transit projects to be run through the system.

Chairman Zimmerman stated that the NVTA is not required to submit projects that expand transit capacity, they do not need to go through VDOT's process. Thus, there is no reason to submit transit projects through the rating system.

Mr. Rick Canizales asked the group to consider how NVTA defines congestion. Ms. Fioretti stated that the Trans Action 2040 document approved by the authority captures the definitions of congestion and regional significance. Mr. Canizales followed by stating there is no need to reinvent the wheel. VDOT should be asked to use some of the measures already approved in Trans Action 2040.

Ms. Fioretti provided members with a draft definition of congestion. She indicated that congestion is more than traffic. TransAction 2040 has quantitative analysis that has already been done.

Mr. Paul Stoddard indicated his support for the Congestion write-up dated November 6, 2013, but suggested that "at the current price" be added to the language.

Ms. Rishell noted that she submitted her comments on the definition of regional significance and congestion reduction via email to the PIWG co-coordinators. Ms. Fioretti confirmed receipt.

Mr. Jim Maslanka stated that he agreed with Ms. Fioretti's definition of congestion but indicated VDOT's definition of congestion is based on single occupancy vehicles. He mentioned that there are times when Level C of congestion is more efficient and we should be careful about how we define congestion.

Ms. Cuervo indicated that the program model VDOT selected for the study is much more refined and can add an additional car to a train. This program has the ability to consider surrounding areas and transit, etc.

Mr. Zimmerman stated that as stated in the September 26, 2013 NVTA meeting, he looks forward to VDOT sharing the details of the model with NVTA.

b. SYP Development

Mr. Canizales indicated that there will be a call for projects at the December 12th NVTA meeting. The call for projects would be for FY15 – FY16 with an amendment to FY14. He reminded the group that there are allocations left from FY14 funding. The deadline to submit project requests will be Friday, January 17, 2014.

Christine Hoeffner asked if there will be any changes to the process or application. Mr. Canizales responded stating that the NVTA criteria has been validated by the court, however minor changes will be needed. Changes should be discussed at the next meeting. Ms. Fioretti followed by stating VDOT's scope requires significant information and the application may need to be modified based on VDOT's requirements.

c. Discussion of draft SYP Calendar

Chairman Zimmerman directed attention to the proposed schedule for the Six Year Program of Projects. Ms. Fioretti noted that some of the dates shown on the calendar are tentative. The calendar will be updated to reflect the most up to date information.

C. Coordination with TAC and PCAC

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

VI. Other Topics for Discussion

A. Discussion of NVTA budget as it pertains to project implementation

I. Two Program Coordinator Positions

Ms. Fioretti indicated that the purpose of the coordinators is to help develop the regional plan and manage projects. She explained that there will be a significant amount of work if the NVTA administers projects. With the call for projects in December 2013, Ms. Fioretti stated that we will need to have someone on board in the next quarter.

VI. Next Meeting

The next two PIWG meetings will be held on Monday, November 18, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. and Monday, December 2, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. The meetings will be held at the Fairfax County Legato Building. **(Note: The meeting scheduled for Monday, November 18, 2013 was subsequently cancelled).**

XI. Meeting was Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.