

## **PLANNING COORDINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

6:30 p.m. EST

*This meeting was held on an online meeting platform and livestreamed via YouTube.*

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

#### **I. Call to Order/Welcome**

- Chair Pro Tem Miles (Town of Dumfries), Vice Chair of the Committee, welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
- Attendees:
  - **PCAC Members:** Chair Pro Tem Miles (Vice Chair, Town of Dumfries); Board Member Spain (Arlington County); Supervisor Bierman (Fairfax County); Supervisor Glass (Loudoun County); Supervisor Franklin (Prince William County); Council Member Underhill (City of Falls Church); Council Member Peterson (City of Fairfax); Council Member Smith (City of Manassas); Vice Mayor Hedrick (Town of Herndon).
  - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (Chief Executive Officer); Sree Nampoothiri (Senior Manager); Starla Couso (Planning and Programming Manager); Harun Rashid (Planning Analytics Manager).
  - **Other:** Kate Widness (Kimley Horn and Associates).

#### **II. Action Items:**

**A. Summary notes of September 24, 2025, meeting:** The meeting summary was approved unanimously, with abstention from members who were not present at the September 24 meeting.

#### **B. Regional Approach to Funding Northern Virginia's Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure:**

- Ms. Couso provided context for the origin of the initiative, stating that this was a formal request made by the Virginia House and Senate Transportation Committee Chairs to the Authority in March 2025. After Authority approval in May 2025, NVTA staff began working on the initiative to review Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Northern Virginia Bicycle and

Pedestrian Network Study and prepare regional recommendations to fund the infrastructure identified in VDOT’s study. In this meeting, staff is seeking committee endorsement for the Authority’s approval in November.

- Ms. Widness, from the consultant team, provided a brief presentation highlighting the goal of this initiative – to develop funding strategies and source recommendations for Northern Virginia’s planned bicycle and pedestrian network as identified in the 2024 VDOT study. Over 4000 miles of active transportation network were identified in this study, including facilities like shared-use-paths, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes. The methodology consists of three tiers:
  - Review and research potential funding sources and strategies,
  - Consult ongoing efforts (e.g., SJ28 and DMVMoves),
  - Engage with regional coordination stakeholders (identify local challenges and opportunities).

In the first step, the project team researched existing funding sources, met with regional stakeholders to gain understanding of the use and barriers of existing funding sources, and identified future funding strategies. Funds from existing local, regional, state, and federal sources can and may already be used to implement bicycle and pedestrian projects. Further, the team identified new strategies to create revenue that may not be currently available in Northern Virginia or elsewhere.

Forty-five new funding sources, which include new taxes and fees, were evaluated against seven metrics for their feasibility. The evaluation process was qualitative in nature, without any rigorous financial modeling or similar approach. Results of this process were presented at the second regional stakeholder coordination meeting. With input from regional planning staff and stakeholders, fourteen viable strategies are recommended. In the recommended list, strategies were further classified as having high revenue potential, and if a pathway already exists regionally for their implementation. In addition, there were five strategies identified that are not likely to move forward regionally for various reasons.

After the presentation, committee members shared the following questions and comments, with requests:

- Board member Spain shared that he has received a set of queries and concerns from a local advocacy group. Ms. Couso stated that a number of comments were received on the draft report during the comment period (October 8, 2025, to October 22, 2025), and staff are currently preparing responses. In response to a follow up question, she confirmed receipt of the set of queries from the advocacy

group, Coalition for Smarter Growth (CSG), and ongoing work to address their comments.

- Council member Underhill inquired about her set of three queries from CSG that she shared with NVTA staff before the meeting:
  - In the 2024 VDOT study, the project cost estimate is very high, and appears to be estimated for stand-alone projects. Many of the identified improvements can be implemented as a part of a roadway re-construction project, and overall costs will be drastically lower. Ms. Backmon noted that NVTA staff will work closely with VDOT staff to confirm the responses to comments received that are related to VDOT's study. Once confirmed, these additional notes can be added to the draft report.
  - On page 13/14, there is a need to explain the share of NVTA's funding that has been allocated to bicycle-pedestrian projects in Northern Virginia. Ms. Backmon explained that staff can only evaluate and the Authority can only fund applications that are received from jurisdictions and agencies. The majority of applications for regional revenue, since the passage of HB2313, are for larger projects both in scope and scale, many of which include bicycle-pedestrian components. Also, NVTA's local revenue funding stream supports a number of active transportation projects. This contextual information will be added to the draft report before final approval by the Authority.
  - Council member Underhill then inquired if there is potential for additional project scope/tasks after the Authority approves this draft report. Ms. Backmon stated that all committee recommendations will be shared with the Authority. Any requests for expanded scope/tasks will require Authority consideration and action.
- Council member Peterson mentioned that he also received the same comments from CSG and is appreciative of staff effort to address them.
- Board member Spain inquired when committee members can receive the set of responses to CSG queries and commented that he is in full support of this initiative and ready to endorse to the Authority. Ms. Couso and Ms. Backmon stated NVTA responses will be ready before the Authority meeting dispatch on November 6.

After this discussion, the motion to endorse the Regional Approach to Funding Northern Virginia's Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Report was passed unanimously.

**III. Discussion/Information Items:**

**NVTA Update:**

- Ms. Backmon mentioned that there will be two presentations at the November Authority meeting. Mr. Mercer (Executive Director, MWCOG) and Mr. Hill (County Executive, Fairfax County) will discuss task force recommendations from the recent regional initiative known as DMVMoves, and VDOT staff will provide status updates of Transform-66 concessionaire-funded projects. In addition, there are two action items for the Authority's approval - item IIB above and NVTA's five-year Strategic Plan.

**IV. Adjournment:**

The next scheduled meeting for the PCAC is on November 19, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. EST. Vice Chair Miles highlighted the earlier meeting date of November 19, and that this will be an in-person meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.