



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

SUMMARY MINUTES

Thursday, July 11, 2024

7PM, EST.

2600 Park Tower Drive, First Floor Conference Room

Vienna, VA 22180

This meeting was conducted in person and livestreamed via [NVTA's YouTube Channel](#)

1. Call to Order

Chair Randall

- ✓ Vice Chair Snyder called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Henderson, Board Secretary

- ✓ **Membership: Attendees** Vice Chair David Snyder, Chairman Jeffrey McKay, Supervisor Koran Saines, Chair Deshundra Jefferson, Board Member Matt de Ferranti, Mayor Justin Wilson, Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger, Mayor Jeanette Rishell, Mayor Catherine Read, Senator Jennifer Boysko (Arrived at 7:19 p.m.), Delegate Karrie Delaney (Remote – Personal, Logged in at 7:13 p.m.), Mayor Sheila Olem, Mr. William Cuttler and Mr. Zack Trogdon (Remote – Distance). **Non-Attendees:** Delegate Luke Torian, vacant gubernatorial appointee seats.
- ✓ **Staff Attendees:** Chief Executive Officer Monica Backmon; Chief Financial Officer Michael Longhi; Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming Keith Jasper; Deputy Chief Financial Officer Peggy Teal; Senior Manager, Transportation Planning and Programming Dr. Sree Nampoothiri; Communications and Public Affairs Manager Abigail Hillerich Planning Analytics Manager Harun Rashid; Regional Transportation Planners Griffin Frank, Kristen Sarik and Alyssa Beyers; Executive Assistant to the CEO Amanda Sink; Senior Accountant Adnan Malik; Debt and Investment Manager Dev Priya Sen; and Board Secretary Lee Ann Henderson.
- ✓ **Council of Counsel Attendees:** Mr. Daniel Robinson-Fairfax County, and Ms. Christina Zechman Brown-City of Alexandria (Remote – Personal).
- ✓ **Other Attendees:** None.

Members of the public, jurisdiction and agency staff were in person and were able to watch the meeting livestreamed via [NVTA's YouTube Channel](#).

PRESENTATIONS

3. PDP-BRT Update and Feedback Session (Part 2 of 2)

Mr. Keith Jasper, Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming

- ✓ Mr. Jasper presented Part 2 of the Preliminary Deployment Plan for a Bus Rapid Transit System in Northern Virginia (PDP-BRT) Update and Feedback session for the Authority. He stated that this is an opportunity to share findings from the community engagement activities, provide a status update and to seek feedback and guidance from Authority members.

- ✓ Chairman McKay announced that the Richmond Highway BRT Project has moved forward with the Federal Transit Administration from conceptual to engineering phase. It will be the longest lane dedicated BRT project in Virginia.
- ✓ Mr. Jasper asked for any feedback or guidance that jurisdictions can give on developing BRT systems moving forward.
- ✓ Mr. Jasper introduced William Bohner of WBA Research, who presented the results of the online survey. He noted that the top priority for Virginian residents is relieving congestion and survey respondents' willingness to consider BRT, increases with the addition of amenities.
- ✓ Mr. Bohner noted that 48% of respondents would be willing to consider utilizing BRT with the most basic level of BRT (BRT1), but that increases to 73% with BRT2 that provides amenities for faster travel times, and rises all the way to 81% with dedicated lanes and additional security features (BRT3).
- ✓ Mr. Jasper introduced David Miller with Four Square Integrated Transportation Planning, who discussed BRT types, density and possible corridors.
- ✓ Mr. Miller noted that the consultant team did not limit the corridors to Northern Virginia because people do not only travel within Northern Virginia.
- ✓ Mr. Miller pointed out that the team is looking at the present density, and five-year intervals into the future, as density may fill in on certain corridors, providing the necessary density to support the planned BRT corridors.
- ✓ Mr. Jasper introduced Dalia Levin with Cambridge Systematics.
- ✓ Ms. Levin stated that the team will be using the data to evaluate potential BRT routes. She stated that they will need to consider other things such as policies and conditions that could impact BRT and identify what is needed to support BRT implementation in order to develop the Preliminary Deployment Plan (PDP).
- ✓ She noted that the team will bring recommendations back in the spring, but she asked Authority members what goals they would like to see the system achieve.
- ✓ Mayor Wilson commented that BRT could drive economic development and provide alternative transportation choices.
- ✓ Chairman McKay stated that there needs to be a transit plan in place that will support the level of density needed for BRT. He stated that land use planning and transit need to speak the same language. Focusing on ridership numbers alone makes it difficult to be awarded federal funding. For Richmond Highway, it was ridership and density that allowed the project to be successful in receiving federal funding.
- ✓ Vice Chairman Snyder stated some areas will not have space for dedicated bus lanes, so there will need to be operational flexibility when designing the system.
- ✓ Chairman McKay noted when Route 1 was widened the public was made to understand that to get the transit options that they wanted, they needed the density to support the transit.
- ✓ Mr. Cuttler questioned how the maps fit into local government's land use plans. Mr. Jasper stated that in order for BRT to advance, there needs to be a tie into jurisdiction's comprehensive plans.
- ✓ Ms. Levin reviewed other methods of reducing the public's dependency on driving.

- ✓ Supervisor Saines agreed that looking at multiple options for commuters as well as getting the bus systems in sync is essential so that commuters don't have long waits between bus lines.
- ✓ Mayor Wilson agreed with Chairman McKay and Mr. Cuttler that the land use piece is critical. He stated that gathering the Right-of-Way for BRT as the properties re-develop along the corridors will be key.
- ✓ Chairman McKay stated that protecting affordable housing along BRT corridors is also an important part of the land use conversation.
- ✓ Senator Boysko stated that one of the challenges will be to keep this affordable and sustainable.
- ✓ Mr. Jasper stated that the team will be reaching out to the NVTB BRT Working Group to move forward with the next steps.

ACTION ITEMS

4. **Approval of June 13, 2024, Meeting Summary Minutes** Chair Randall
 - ✓ On a motion by Board Member de Ferranti, seconded by Mayor Wilson, the Summary Minutes of the June 13, 2024, Meeting were approved with Senator Boysko and Supervisor Saines abstaining.

5. **Adoption of the FY2024-2029 Six Year Program** Mayor Wilson, PPC Chair
 - ✓ Mayor Wilson stated that the Planning and Programming Committee (PPC) endorsed the staff recommendation with two changes:
 - ARL-023 CC2DCA Multimodal Connection project to be funded at \$11,600,000 (for construction phase) by transferring that amount from the NVTB staff-recommended ARL-022 Shirlington Bus Station Expansion project; and
 - CFX-019 Blenheim Boulevard Multimodal Improvements project to be funded for \$5,400,000 (for construction phase) by transferring that amount from the NVTB staff-recommended CFX-018 Northfax Network Improvements – Northfax East-West Road project.
 - ✓ Mayor Wilson made a motion, seconded by Board Member de Ferranti, to approve the FY2024-2029 Six Year Program as recommended by the PPC.
 - ✓ Board Member de Ferranti offered the following amendment to the motion, seconded by Mayor Read:
 - Restore NVTB staff recommended funding of \$11,600,000 to ARL-022 Shirlington Bus Station Expansion;
 - Transfer \$21,100,000 from previously NVTB approved project #142 Ballston-MU Metrorail Station West Entrance (original FY2015 SYP application ARL-004, SPA 2015-142-1; original FY2022-FY2027 SYP application ARL-021, SPA 2022-142-2), to fully fund ARL-023 CC2DCA Multimodal Connection;
 - Increase funding level for ARL-023 CC2DCA Multimodal Connection from the PPC- recommended \$11,600,000 to \$21,100,000.

- ✓ Supervisor Saines expressed concern that a locality could move funding from a previously approved project, then ask for NVTa to fund the project again at a later date.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon noted that NVTa was asked to do a swap previously, but the locality has been told not come back and ask for funding for the donor project.
- ✓ Board Member de Ferranti stated he would be happy to add an additional sentence to the motion to agree that Arlington County would not seek additional funding for the Ballston-MU Metrorail West Entrance Project.
- ✓ Mayor Olem questioned whether Arlington had sought other funding sources for the project to which Board Member de Ferranti responded that they had and will continue to.
- ✓ Mayor Rishell expressed concern about transferring money from a higher Congestion Reduction Relative to Cost (CRRC) rated project to a lower CRRC rated project. The ratings are an important part of the mandate for how NVTa funds are to be allocated. Board Member de Ferranti stated his belief that there are regional benefits for the CC2DCA project as the project benefits VRE and Metro. Mayor Rishell asked what CRRC rating Ballston received and Ms. Backmon responded 24 out of 26. Mayor Rishell responded that she did not know how a previous funding program rating could relate to the current one. Board Member de Ferranti stated they he wasn't sure how to compare ratings from two separate cycles and it's a fair concern. Mayor Rishell emphasized the point that the CRRC ratings between two separate funding programs could not be accurately evaluated.
- ✓ Mayor Davis-Younger asked Mayor Read about the City of Fairfax's swap and having the same concerns of needing even more funding. Mayor Read stated that the City of Fairfax had sought all other funding sources for their Northfax Network Improvements project and also engineered the project to reduce the funding gap by half. She stated that NVTa funding would help the project reach completion, and they would not come back to seek additional funding from NVTa.
- ✓ Chairman McKay questioned how much money NVTa has on the Ballston project. Ms. Backmon stated that NVTa approved \$12 million in 2015 and approved an additional \$80 million in the FY2022-2027 SYP. She stated she is unsure of exactly how much additional funding the project has from other sources. Chairman McKay expressed concern about protecting existing NVTa investment on the Ballston project and ensuring the project gets completed. He stated his concern for the Ballston project not being able to be completed because of lack of funding and asked if Arlington knew the funding gap. Board Member de Ferranti stated that the Ballston project has to go through the RFP/RFQ process so he does not know what the precise dollar amount of gap for the project would be. Board Member de Ferranti stated that Ballston has a longer timeframe to complete the project compared to the shorter timeline of CC2DCA but stated the Arlington Board is committed to completing the Ballston project.
- ✓ Chairman McKay stated he appreciates what Board Member de Ferranti is trying to do but feels that it is important to protect NVTa and the scoring process, and NVTa funding that has already been invested in a project. He requested that an amendment be made that includes a timeline to develop a policy to deal with this issue.

- ✓ Board Member de Ferranti repeated the motion for clarity with the additional fourth point. Mayor Read continued to second:
 - Restore NVTa staff recommended funding of \$11,600,000 to ARL-022 Shirlington Bus Station Expansion;
 - Transfer \$21,100,000 from previously NVTa approved project #142 Ballston-MU Metrorail Station West Entrance (original FY2015 SYP application ARL-004, SPA 2015-142-1; original FY2022-FY2027 SYP application ARL-021, SPA 2022-142-2), to fully fund ARL-023 CC2DCA Multimodal Connection;
 - Increase funding level for ARL-023 CC2DCA Multimodal Connection from the PPC- recommended \$11,600,000 to \$21,100,000.
 - Arlington County agrees to not seek additional funding for the Ballston-MU Metrorail West Entrance Project.
- ✓ The amendment was approved with Mayor Rishell reiterating her point about moving a lower CRRC rated project forward over a higher rated project before abstaining, and Senator Boysko voting nay.
- ✓ Chairman McKay then made the following motion, seconded by Mayor Wilson:
 - For NVTa staff to return to the Authority with a proposal to set in place a policy to deal with resubmitted projects that have experienced a cost increase by the end of the calendar year. The amendment was approved unanimously.
- ✓ The original motion to approve the FY2024-2029 Six Year Program was approved, as amended, unanimously.

6. Approval of Recommendation to Reallocate Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Funds for Prince William County

Ms. Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

- ✓ Chair Jefferson made a motion to approve the reallocation of Regional Surface Transportation Program funds for Prince William County. The motion was seconded by Mayor Davis-Younger and approved unanimously.

7. Approval of Recommendation to Allocate \$3 Million in Transform I-66 Outside the Beltway Concessionaire Funding for the City of Fairfax

Ms. Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

- ✓ Mayor Read made a motion to recommend allocation of \$3 million in Transform I-66 Outside the Beltway Concessionaire Funding for the City of Fairfax. The motion was seconded by Chairman McKay and approved unanimously.

Blue Sheet Item – Approval of Letter of Endorsement for City of Alexandria’s 2024 Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Round 2 Application

Ms. Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

- ✓ Mayor Wilson made a motion to approve the Letter of Endorsement for the City of Alexandria’s Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Round 2 Application. He apologized for the late addition of the item, explaining that the City’s staff mistakenly

thought that the Authority would meet in August. The motion was seconded by Board Member de Ferranti and approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

- 8. Planning and Programming Committee Report** Mayor Wilson, PPC Chair
 - ✓ Mayor Wilson noted that the Planning and Programming Committee Report was provided in the packet.
- 9. Technical Advisory Committee Report** Randy Boice, TAC Chair
 - ✓ Ms. Backmon noted that there were no changes to the report provided in the packet by Chair Boice.
- 10. Planning Coordination Advisory Committee** Mayor Colbert, PCAC Chair
 - ✓ Ms. Backmon noted that there were no changes to the report provided in the packet by Mayor Colbert.
- 11. Chief Executive Officer's Report** Ms. Backmon, Chief Executive Officer
 - ✓ Ms. Backmon noted that Zach Trogdon has been named as the Acting Director of the Department Rail and Public Transportation until a permanent replacement for Jennifer DeBruhl is named.
 - ✓ Ms. Backmon also noted that Jim Kolb has received notice by the Governor's office that his term on NVTA has been completed and thanked him for his service. NVTA is awaiting notification of a new appointment.
 - ✓ Ms. Backmon reminded everyone of NVTA's State of the Region's Transportation event to be held on October 30, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at the 2600 Park Tower address in Vienna.
 - ✓ Ms. Backmon reminded everyone of the Crystal City East groundbreaking event to be held tomorrow.
- 12. Chair's Comments**
 - ✓ Vice Chair Snyder thanked everyone for their comments and the dedication to regional collaboration. He also noted that Virginia was ranked number one as the state that is the most business friendly
 - ✓ Mayor Olem stated that many people in the Town of Herndon have commented that they are saving a lot of time with the improvements to Route 7 and have another option besides the toll roads.
- 13. Adjournment**
 - ✓ There being no further business before the Authority, Vice Chair Snyder adjourned the meeting at 8:56 PM.