



**Northern Virginia Transportation Authority**  
*The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia*

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

Thursday, March 14, 2024

7PM, EST.

3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200

Fairfax, VA 22031

*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 7:05PM.

**2. Roll Call**

Ms. Henderson, Board Secretary

- ✓ **Membership: Attendees** Vice Chair David Snyder, Supervisor James Walkinshaw, Chair Deshundra Jefferson, Mayor Justin Wilson, Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger, Mayor Catherine Read, Senator Jennifer Boysko, Supervisor Patrick Herrity, Mayor Sheila Olem, Mr. Anthony Bedell, Ms. Mary Hynes (Remote - Medical) , Mr. Jim Kolb, and Mr. Todd Horsley. **Non-Attendees** Chair Phyllis Randall, Board Member Matt deFerranti, Mayor Jeanette Rishell, and Mr. Bill Cutler.
- ✓ **Staff Attendees:** Chief Executive Officer Monica Backmon, Chief Financial Officer Michael Longhi, Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming Keith Jasper, Communications and Public Affairs Manager Abigail Hillerich, Strategic Communications Specialist Sharara Faisal, Deputy Chief Financial Officer Peggy Teal, Senior Manager, Transportation Planning Sree Nampoothiri, Planning Analytics Manager Harun Rashid, Regional Transportation Planners Ian Newman and Hannah Pajewski, Executive Assistant to the CEO Amanda Sink and Board Secretary Lee Ann Henderson.
- ✓ **Council of Counsel Attendees:** Mr. Daniel Robinson-Fairfax County and Ms. Christina Zechman Brown-City of Alexandria.
- ✓ **Other Attendees:** Sr. Vice President Tracy Baynard, McGuire Woods Consulting LLC.

*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. Travel Trends Update**

Mr. Rashid, Planning Analytics Manager

- ✓ Mr. Rashid gave an update on the national trends in highway travel demand and transit ridership.
- ✓ Mr. Rashid noted that for the first time since 2019, the Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT) were higher than before the pandemic and transit ridership has recovered to more than 77 percent of pre-pandemic levels.

## DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

### **9. Governance and Personnel Committee Report – Update on 2024 General Assembly**

#### **Session**

Chair Randall, Chair

- ✓ Tracy Baynard stated that Senate Bill 158 giving clarity for the Technical Advisory Committee appointments passed.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard stated that the conference budget included that the State will match local contributions for FY2025 and FY2026 for WMATA out of the General Fund. There is also a two-year temporary lift of the 3% cap on subsidy increase. Language was included for WMATA to conduct a comparison of overhead costs comparing them with other transit providers. The budget also included toll relief for Hampton Roads and some funds for I-81 projects. There is also a two-year study to be conducted on transit in Northern Virginia, focusing heavily on WMATA in the first year. NVTA will serve on the Technical Advisory group for this study.
- ✓ She noted that House Bill 1071 passed allowing localities to reduce speeds below 25, but not less than 15 mph in certain areas.
- ✓ Senator Boysko noted that the message around pedestrian and bicycle safety is of great concern in the General Assembly and will continue to be discussed moving forward as legislators explore ways to increase safety measures. Senator Boysko recapped some activities of the General Assembly and noted that NVTA member phone calls to lawmakers were of great assistance in getting some laws passed.
- ✓ Vice Chair Snyder thanked Senator Boysko for her efforts in Richmond.

## ACTION ITEMS

### **4. Approval of February 8, 2024, Meeting Summary Minutes**

Chair Randall

- ✓ Supervisor Walkinshaw made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Chair Jefferson. The motion passed unanimously, with Senator Boysko and Mr. Kolb abstaining.

### **5. Approval of May 9, 2024, as the Public Hearing Date for the FY2024-2029 Six Year Program (SYP)**

Ms. Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

- ✓ Ms. Backmon stated that the public hearing would be held immediately prior to the regularly scheduled Authority meeting on May 9, 2024.
- ✓ The 24 regional candidate transportation projects have been evaluated and are now ready for formal public comment.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon stated that for the first time, projects have been evaluated for alignment with NVTA's Core Values of Equity, Safety, and Sustainability.
- ✓ Chair Jefferson made a motion, seconded by Mayor Davis-Younger to approve May 9, 2024, as the Public Hearing date for the FY2024-2029 Six Year Program (SYP). The motion was approved unanimously.

**6. Approval of the FY2030 CMAQ/RSTP Funding Recommendations to the Commonwealth Transportation Board**

Dr. Nampoothiri, Senior Manager, Transportation Planning and Programming

- ✓ Ms. Backmon stated that the estimated amount available for distribution in FY2030 is estimated to be \$90 million to be matched by the Virginia Department of Transportation.
- ✓ She stated that it is anticipated that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) will take action at their June meeting on these recommendations.
- ✓ Senator Boysko made a motion, seconded by Mayor Read, to approve the FY2030 CMAQ/RSTP Funding Recommendations to the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The motion was approved unanimously.

**7. Approval of Prince William County's Van Buren Road North Extension: Route 234 to Cardinal Drive Standard Project Agreement (SPA) 2022-319-1**

Ms. Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

- ✓ Ms. Backmon stated that this project was included in the most recent Six Year Program (SYP) FY2022-FY2027 and Prince William County is ready to move forward with this project.
- ✓ Chair Jefferson made a motion to approve the Standard Project Agreement for Prince William County's Van Buren Road North Extension: Route 234 to Cardinal Drive. The motion was seconded by Mayor Davis-Younger and approved unanimously.

**8. Approval of Letter of Endorsement for Town of Herndon's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program Grant Application**

Ms. Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

- ✓ Ms. Backmon stated the Town of Herndon is seeking to develop a Safety Action Plan.
- ✓ Senator Boysko made a motion to approve the Letter of Endorsement for the Town of Herndon's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program Grant Application. The motion was seconded by Chair Jefferson and approved unanimously.

**Discussion/Information Items**

**10. Finance Committee Update**

Mayor Rishell, Committee Chair

- ✓ Mr. Longhi stated that the proposed FY2025 operating budget, the 30% budget, and the 70% budget will be presented to the full Authority at the April meeting.
- ✓ He stated revenues are trending positively, interest rates are currently in the Authority's favor and there are no issues with the operating budget.

**11. Planning Coordination Advisory Committee (PCAC) Report** Mayor Colbert, Committee, Chair

- ✓ Ms. Backmon stated the PCAC met for the first time since 2022 and the report is provided in the packet.

**12. Technical Advisory Committee**

Mr. Boice, Committee Chair

- ✓ Ms. Backmon stated the TAC met for the first time since 2022 and the report is provided in the packet.

**13. Chief Executive Officer's Report**

Ms. Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

- ✓ Ms. Backmon noted that NVTVA is moving to 2600 Park Tower Drive, Vienna, Virginia, directly across from the Dunn Loring Metro Station. She stated that staff will be in temporary offices in the building while work is being done on the permanent space on the sixth floor.
- ✓ She stated that the Authority plans to submit a SMART SCALE application on behalf of the City of Alexandria/Arlington County for the I-395/Shirlington Rotary interchange impairment project.
- ✓ She noted that NVTVA has held four virtual focus groups with NoVA residents related to the willingness to use a regional bus rapid transit (BRT) system. Keith Jasper, Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming, stated the focus groups were structured so that they could get perspectives from both transit users and non-transit users.

**14. Adjournment**

- ✓ There being no further business before the Authority, Vice Chair Snyder adjourned the meeting at 7:57PM.