



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Monday, June 1, 2020, 5:00 pm

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

ELECTRONIC MEETING

with livestreaming on YouTube

SUMMARY NOTES

I. Call to Order/Welcome

- Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.
- Attendees:
 - **PPC Members:** Mayor Wilson (City of Alexandria); Mayor Rishell (City of Manassas Park); Council Member Snyder (City of Falls Church); Chair Wheeler (Prince William County); Mayor Meyer (City of Fairfax).
 - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Mike Longhi (CFO); Keith Jasper (Principal); Sree Nampoothiri (Senior Transportation Planner).
 - **Council of Counsels:** Ellen Posner, Robert Dickerson
 - **Jurisdiction/Agency Staff:** None on the WebEx. Several staff members followed the proceedings on livestreaming on YouTube Live.

Action

II. Resolution finding need to conduct meeting electronically

- Chair Wilson noted that as a result of the COVID-19 and Governor Northam's declaration of a State of Emergency, the Authority's Planning and Programming Committee Meeting was being held electronically. He noted that the passage of the amendments to HB 29 (the FOIA Bill) allowed regional bodies such as the Authority, and their committees to conduct business meetings electronically. He added that the meeting by electronic means is authorized because the items on the Committee Meeting Agenda are statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the Authority. The resolution was approved unanimously.

III. Summary Notes of March 2, 2020 Meeting

- The March 2, 2020 Planning and Programming Committee meeting summary was approved unanimously with abstentions from members not present at the March 2nd meeting.

Discussion/Information

IV. FY2020-2025 Six Year Program Update

- Mr. Jasper gave a brief overview of the status of the Six Year Program (SYP) update process:
 - Public engagement period started on March 13th and ended on May 24th;
 - Public Hearing was held on May 14th;
 - Initial NVTA staff recommendations are expected to be released on June 9th;
 - Staff recommendations to be shared with Planning Coordination Advisory Committee (PCAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at their meetings on June 17th and these committees are expected to develop their recommendations to the Authority at these meetings;
 - NVTA staff recommendations and the committee recommendations will be presented to the Planning and Programming Committee (PPC) at their June 19th meeting, which is expected to develop a final recommendation to the Authority;
 - NVTA staff will post these recommendations on the NVTA website by June 24th, following code requirements that NVTA publish recommendations at least 15 days prior to the Authority meeting in which the program is expected to be adopted; and,
 - Authority is expected to adopt the FY2020-2025 Six Year Program at its July 9th meeting.
- Mr. Jasper noted that a formal summary of public comments will be shared to the Authority in the meeting packet for the June 11th Authority meeting.
- Mr. Nampoothiri gave a brief summary of public comments received.
 - Public engagement period started on March 13th and ended on May 24th;
 - Public Hearing was held on May 14th at which 26 people provided testimony over the phone and one person gave testimony in person.
 - Received close to 1,050 comments in total on all projects, ranging from zero comments to more than 300 comments for each project.
 - Four out of 41 candidate projects received large number of comments.
 - Arlington W&OD Trail Enhancements (NOV-003) received more than 300 comments of which approximately two thirds were supportive and the rest opposing. Main supporting factors included reducing safety and crowding issues on the trail while opposing factors included negative impacts to the environment.
 - Van Buren Road North Extension (PWC-025) received more than 250 comments, more or less equally divided into supporting and opposing the project. Main supporting arguments included reduction of safety hazards and cut through traffic on one neighborhood while the main opposing arguments included increase of these factors in another neighborhood near the proposed extension.
 - West Falls Church Access to Transit & Multimodal Connectivity (CFC-006) received more than 200 comments overwhelmingly supportive of the project.
 - Downtown Falls Church Multimodal Improvements (CFC-005) received approximately 50 supportive comments.

- NVTA staff is still working on the compilation and quality checking before finalizing and sharing with the Authority, committees, and the public,
- Ms. Backmon added that several comments were received after the deadline and the staff will process and provide these comments to the Authority but current focus is on the comments received before the deadline.
- Council Member Snyder asked if the staff plan to share the project-specific comments, especially for those projects with negative comments, to the concerned jurisdictions and ask them to take any actions required and come back to the Authority. Mr. Jasper noted that NVTA staff will summarize the nature of support and opposition for the projects and provide to the Authority and committees, as well as jurisdiction and agency staff. He reminded that public comment is one of multiple components in the project selection process. He added that the comments will be shared with all.
- Council Member Snyder suggested that NVTA should pass on the comments to the jurisdictions and let them work with the communities to resolve any issues.
- Mayor Wilson noted that the W&OD Trail project is submitted by NOVA Parks but in Arlington County and therefore, all parties need to be included in the follow up.
- Ms. Backmon noted that NVTA staff work closely with the applicants and will continue to be transparent in sharing information and following up.
- Council Member Snyder asked if the staff expect any changes in the project rankings published earlier. Ms. Backmon replied that there may be changes depending on the additional information and updates provided by the applicants and NVTA staff recommendations will be released to the Authority members and the public by next week.

V. TransAction Update

- Mr. Jasper reminded that the Authority has two primary responsibilities: planning and programming/funding. The current TransAction Plan was adopted in October 2017 and the five-year update cycle kicked off at the January 2020 Authority meeting through the TransAction Listening Session. The final adoption is expected at the end of 2022.
- Mr. Jasper noted that the staff is working with jurisdictional staff on several TransAction-related items including revisiting the Plan's vision and goals. He added that the Transportation Technology Committee (TTC) is preparing a strategic plan that will provide inputs to the TransAction update.
- Mr. Jasper informed that a modeling analysis is underway regarding the impact of COVID-19 on transportation, which also will provide inputs to TransAction update.

VI. NVTA Update

- Ms. Backmon informed the members that the next PPC meeting on June 19th is expected to prepare a final recommendation to the Authority meeting, which is scheduled for July 9th. The early meeting is to adhere to the code requirements that NVTA publish recommendations at least 15 days prior to the Authority meeting in which the program is expected to be adopted.
- Ms. Backmon added that she is working with the applicants about any project updates in preparation of finalizing staff recommendations.

- Ms. Backmon noted that Delegate Vivian Watts and Delegate Danica Roem have been appointed by the Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates to the Authority and yet to hear about the Senate appointee.
- June 11th Authority meeting also will be an electronic meeting due to COVID-19 public gathering restrictions. The location and manner of July 9th Authority meeting will be decided depending on the situation with COVID-19 and restrictions nearer that time.

Adjournment

VII. Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.