



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

**MINUTES**

Thursday, October 14, 2021

7:00pm

3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200

Fairfax, VA 22031

Meeting conducted in person and Live Streamed via YouTube

**Call to Order**

Chair Randall

- ✓ Chair Randall called the meeting to order at 7:14pm.

**2. Roll Call**

Margaret Duker, Clerk

- ✓ Voting Members: Chair Randall; Councilmember Snyder (Remote Participant); Chairman McKay (Remote participant); Supervisor Franklin (for Chair Wheeler); Board Member Cristol; Mayor Wilson; Mayor Rishell; Mayor Davis-Younger; Mayor Meyer; Senator Boysko; Delegate Roem (joined 8:05PM); Ms. Hynes; Mr. Kolb.
- ✓ Non-Voting Members; Mr. Lynch; Ms. Mitchell.
- ✓ Staff: Monica Backmon (CEO); Michael Longhi (CFO); Erica Hawksworth (Communications and Public Affairs Manager); Margaret Duker (Board Clerk).
- ✓ Other Attendees: Daniel Robinson (Council of Counsel – Fairfax County), Joanna Anderson (Council of Council- City of Alexandria); Tracy Baynard (McGuire Woods Consulting LLC).

**2. Minutes of the September 9, 2021, Meeting**

*Recommended action: Approval [with abstentions from those who were not present]*

- ✓ Mayor Rishell motioned for the acceptance of the September 9, 2021, meeting minutes; seconded by Board Member Cristol. Motion passed with two abstentions from Supervisor Franklin and Mayor Meyer as they were not at the last meeting.

**Presentation**

**3. Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Concession Fee Projects Update**

Ms. Shaw,

Mega-Projects Manager, VDOT

- ✓ Ms. Shaw began her presentation with a video and commentary, highlighting the timeline and construction progress on the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Projects.
- ✓ She noted that the Route 28 at I-66 Interchange continues to take shape, with new ramps and connections added as construction advances.

- ✓ The Balls Ford Road Interchange and Commuter Parking Lot is under construction as are new express lanes connecting ramps.
- ✓ Ms. Shaw added that construction began on the western end of the I-66 Corridor with the University Boulevard Park and Ride Lot, which has 900 parking spaces and was completed in 2019.
- ✓ Also under construction is the Sudley Road Interchange, as work progresses, new overpasses like the Braddock/Walney Road Overpass have been added as well as a pedestrian trail which does not interact with traffic.
- ✓ Towards the East, bridges have been built on Stringfellow Road.
- ✓ To date, 13 bridges have been demolished with 4 more to go.
- ✓ Overall, the project is constructing 12 interchanges along the corridor.
- ✓ Another concession fee project is dividing lanes along the Jermantown Road Bridge into four lanes.
- ✓ At Vaden Drive, new lanes are connecting Vaden Drive to I-66. This would allow for traffic connectivity to the Vienna Metro Station.
- ✓ Also, two new ramps have recently been opened at the Nutley intersection.
- ✓ At the 495 Interchange, connections are being made to the 495 Express Lanes to keep traffic and Metro lanes moving.
- ✓ Delegate Watts inquired whether there have been problems from the increased cost in asphalt and steel etc.
- ✓ Ms. Shaw responded no and added the previously reduced traffic helped but now as traffic picks up coupled with more lane closures and supply chain issues across the industry, it presents different challenges for construction.
- ✓ Chair Randall asked whether the reduced traffic would enable them to stay on schedule.
- ✓ Ms. Shaw answered that they still anticipate opening the toll lanes in December of 2022.
- ✓ Mayor Meyer inquired about the safety record of the ongoing construction.
- ✓ Ms. Shaw responded that in terms of industry standards, the safety record is within standards as expected for any project with this magnitude. Nonetheless, a couple incidents have been experienced.
- ✓ Ms. Shaw continued with the Concession Fee Project updates noting that the requirements for projects are:
  - Should benefit the toll facility use per Virginia Code
  - Be federally eligible
  - Meet one of the project improvement goals
  - Be selected and recommended by NVTVA
  - Be approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)
- ✓ Ms. Shaw elaborated on the various project categories and status highlighting the following:
  - Projects within Transform 66 project construction limits (4 in all):
    - Widen Poplar Tree Road Bridge to 4 lanes: Opened to traffic in November 2020.

- Expand I-66 Median Replace I-66 Bridge over US 29: Construction underway, traffic shifted to new bridges.
- Widen Jermantown Road Bridge to 4 lanes: Construction underway. Traffic shifted to new bridge.
- Widen Monument Drive Bridge to add pedestrian facility: Design underway.
- Transit Improvement Projects:
  - Commuter Parking Garage and Transit Station at Fairfax Corner: Design-Build procurement underway.
  - East Falls Church Metrorail Station Bus Bay Expansion: Design is underway. Construction in 2022.
  - PRTC Western Bus Maintenance and Storage Facility: Project complete. Facility began operations in 2021.
  - VRE Manassas Line Capacity Expansion and real-time traveler information project: 5 Distinct project components, in various stages of development. Project completion date in 2025. Rail cars ordered, delivery in 2025.
- Pedestrian Improvement Projects:
  - Nutley Street SW Mixed -use Trail from Marshall Road to Tapawingo Road: Final design underway.
  - George Snyder Trail from Route 50 at Draper Drive: Construction plan to begin fall 2023.
  - Lee Highway Sidewalk Improvements from Nutley Street to Vaden Drive: Right of way underway, construction in 2022.
- Roadway Projects:
  - Route 234 at Balls Ford Road Interchange with Balls Ford Road improvements: Design-Build project, construction underway. Project on schedule to open to traffic in late 2022.
  - Devlin Road Widening, Balls Ford to University Boulevard: Design underway.
  - Balls Ford Road widening from Groveton Road to Route 234 Business: Construction contract awarded 8/3/2021.
  - US 50 and Waples Mill Road intersection improvements: Right of Way acquisition initiated. Final design underway.
  - Route 29 Widen 1.5 miles: Design underway. Right of Way acquisition underway. Construction starts in 2024.
- ✓ Also, new I-66 Bridges over Route 29 Centreville are being lengthened, widened, and raised for the new I-66 Express Lanes and will provide room for future mass transit along I-66 and future widening of Route 29.
- ✓ Also, a new Prince William PRTC Western Bus Maintenance and Storage Facility is now opened and in operation.
- ✓ Ms. Shaw noted that out of the \$500 million concession funding, a little over \$100 million has been drawn down.

- ✓ Ms. Backmon informed the Authority that few localities have been in discussions with her regarding the need for additional concession funding from the balance due to the rising cost of project materials. She noted that once final estimates are presented, she will work with the RJACC, coordinate with Ms. Hynes, and bring any additional funding recommendations to the Authority for consideration.

### **Action Items**

**4. Approval of Forward Appropriation - Widen Route 1(Fraley Boulevard) to Six Lanes between Brady’s Hill Road and Dumfries Road (2018-053-2)** Mr. Longhi, CFO

*Recommended Action: Approval of Forward Appropriation*

- ✓ By way of background, Mr. Longhi informed Authority Members that in March of this year, the Authority took action to transfer this project from the Town to the County by cancelling the existing Standard Project Agreement (SPA) with the Town of Dumfries, and approving a new SPA with Prince William.
- ✓ Mr. Longhi noted that this was by reason of a mutual agreement where the Town of Dumfries and Prince William County agreed to transfer the management of the overall project from the Town to the County.
- ✓ Noting that the purpose of this transfer was to take advantage of the County’s extensive experience in widening and improving parts of the Route 1 Corridor and leverage that to the Dumfries project.
- ✓ County staff reported that they have been able to advance the project but need funds in FY2022 to maintain the positive momentum.
- ✓ Mr. Longhi noted the appropriation of \$44.8 million, would not cause any financial concerns.
- ✓ He noted that NVTa staff are in support of this out of cycle appropriation and the Finance Committee unanimously recommend Authority approval.
- ✓ Supervisor Franklin moved Authority approval of the FY2022 Regional Revenue Fund appropriation of \$44,860,000 for the Widen Route 1- Fraley Boulevard to Brady’s Hill and Dumfries Road Project; 2018-053-2; seconded by Mayor Davis-Younger. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. Approval of Prince William County – Widen Route 1(Fraley Boulevard) to Six Lanes between Brady’s Hill Road and Dumfries Road (Rt 234) Regional Standard Project Agreement – 2018-053-2** Mr. Longhi, CFO

*Recommended Action: Approval of Forward Appropriation*

- ✓ Mr. Longhi further noted that the SPA presented by Prince William County is consistent with the project previously submitted by Town of Dumfries and approved by the Authority.
- ✓ Same SPA has been reviewed by the Council of Counsels, who have noted that it presents no legal issues.
- ✓ Supervisor Franklin moved approval of the proposed Standard Project Agreement 2018-053-2, Prince William County (Widen Route 1 (Fraley Boulevard) to six lanes between Brady’s Hill Road and Dumfries Road (RT234), in accordance with

NVTA's approved Project Description Sheet as appended to the Standard Project Agreement; and authorize the Chief Executive Officer to sign on behalf of the Authority; seconded by Mayor Davis-Younger. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. Approval of Town of Vienna Additional Concessionaire Funding Recommendation**

Ms. Backmon, CEO

*Recommended Action: Approval of Funding Request*

- ✓ Ms. Backmon informed the Authority that the Town of Vienna is seeking an additional \$200,000 of Transform I-66 Concession Payment Funds for the Nutley Street Shared Use Path: Virginia Center Boulevard to Tapawingo Road (UPC 112818) project.
- ✓ She noted that the Nutley Street Shared Use Path is part of the list of projects recommended by the Authority and endorsed by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) on December 6, 2017.
- ✓ She further added that additional funding is needed to accommodate the increased construction cost estimate at the 30% design level. There is available funding in the Concession Payment account to accommodate this request.
- ✓ Adding that with Authority endorsement, this would go to the CTB, which is ultimately responsible for the final allocation and programming of the Concession Payment funds.
- ✓ Also, at the September 23, 2021, meeting, the Regional Jurisdiction and Agency Coordinating Committee (RJACC), recommended approval of this request.
- ✓ Chairman McKay moved Authority recommendation to the Commonwealth Transportation Board, to allocate an additional \$200,000 in I-66 Concession funds to Nutley Street Shared Use Path: Virginia Center Boulevard to Tapawingo Road (UPC 112818) project; seconded by Mayor Meyer. Motion passed unanimously.

**7. Approval of Call for Projects for FY2028 CMAQ/RSTP**

Ms. Backmon, CEO

*Recommended Action: Approval of Call for Projects*

- ✓ Ms. Backmon addressed Members, noting that it is once again time for the Authority to approve the issuance of the Call for Projects for the FY2028 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Funds.
- ✓ Adding that in conjunction with the RJACC, NVTA annually coordinates Northern Virginia's annual programming recommendation of \$80 million in federal CMAQ and RSTP funds, as part of the transportation funding which is available to the region of which the CTB approves.
- ✓ She added that application submissions are due January 14, 2022, and upon Authority approval, the recommended projects will be submitted to the CTB for funding consideration.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon further noted that the TEEM worksheet submittal and the Resolution of support are due on January 28, 2022.

- ✓ Adding that she anticipates coming to the Authority in February or March of next year for endorsement of the FY2028 CMAQ and RSTP programming recommendations for CTB approval and programming.
- ✓ Mayor Wilson moved Authority approval of the issuance of the Call for Projects for the FY2028 CMAQ and RSTP Funds; seconded by Mr. Kolb. Motion passed unanimously.

**8. Approval of Chief Executive Officer’s Position Description** Chair Randall, Chair  
*Recommended Action: Approval of Position Description*

- ✓ Chair Randall moved Authority approval of the attached draft Chief Executive Officer Position Description, seconded by Ms. Hynes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/Information Items**

**9. 2021 Joint Commission on Transportation Accountability Annual Report**

Ms. Backmon, CEO

- ✓ Ms. Backmon informed Members that the Authority is required to file an annual report to the Joint Commission on Transportation Accountability (JCTA), detailing the usage of funding pursuant to the provisions of Title 33.2-2500 (Code of Virginia).
- ✓ Details in the report to the JCTA entails allocations of the 70% Regional Revenue Funds for FY2022-2025 as well as the 30% Local Distribution Revenue Funds for FY2014 to FY2021.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon noted that this report is always filed on time after the November Authority meeting and before the November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. However, since the Authority meets November 18<sup>th</sup> instead of November 11<sup>th</sup> due to Veteran's Day, the report has been prepared and would be filed after this meeting.
- ✓ She added that the report also has a list showing how localities are utilizing their 30% funding.
- ✓ Chair Randall asked Ms. Backmon whether the congestion relief relative to cost is applicable to the 30% local distribution funds.  
 Ms. Backmon responded no, the 30% funds are not subjected to this requirement.

**10. Governance and Personnel Committee Report**

Chair Randall, Chair

**2022 Draft Legislative Program** Ms. Backmon, CEO

Ms. Baynard, McGuire Woods Consulting, LLC.

- ✓ Ms. Baynard proceeded with an update of items being considered for the 2022 Legislative Program.
- ✓ With regards to rebates on electric vehicles, Ms. Baynard noted that there is a cap of \$5,000 on new vehicles and a \$2,500 on used vehicles, which are less than two years old.

- ✓ She also added that a base cap of \$2,500 is awarded for buying or leasing a used vehicle however, a head of household with lesser income receives an additional \$2,500 in rebate.
- ✓ Chair Randall mentioned that at the Governance and Personnel (GPC) meeting earlier, there was a question regarding whether there was going to be any money coming from the Infrastructure Bill.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard responded that when the various agencies proposed funding for spending for the American Rescue plan for the Special Session, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) had requested \$50 million for electric vehicle infrastructure. However, this did not make it into the Governor's Budget so she expects that there will be discussions on funding for electric vehicle infrastructure during the 2022 General Assembly Session.
- ✓ Chair Randall wanted to know what could happen differently based on the November 2 elections.
- ✓ Delegate Watts noted that the House worked on provisions for leased vehicles as well as the extra incentive for lower income buyers with a goal of getting more people into efficient vehicles. However, there is the issue of customer reluctance stemming from the unreliability of access to charging stations.
- ✓ Senator Boysko also noted that in regard to Chair Randall's question about what could happen differently, there is such enormous opportunity for economic development and expansion of charging station infrastructure. Adding that there are lots of businesses (both Automotive dealers and manufacturers alike) who want the support of the government in getting more infrastructure in place.
- ✓ Board Member Cristol wanted to know what the right balance is in this industry-is the expectation that this infrastructure would be publicly funded and operated or are they looking for investments in partnerships.
- ✓ Delegate Watts responded that the goal is to see where public dollars can be deployed towards providing critical mass charging infrastructure for all vehicles including heavy ones like construction trucks and school buses which may require overnight charging.
- ✓ She went on to add that the private sector has skin in this game as much as the public sector (mainly because of competition) as such, she expects that the private sector might pick up the infrastructure in later years.
- ✓ Mayor Meyer also shared that the City of Fairfax installed four charging stations in various parts of the city and these have become very popular. He added that now the City's Planners encourage builders to include chargers in plans for residential home garages, since these would make an impact in the long term.
- ✓ Ms. Hynes also shared that the CTB has been looking at rest areas but are precluded from installing charging stations in such places.
- ✓ Board Member Cristol remarked that there is such a great opportunity here for charging infrastructure at Metro stations and thinks there should be regional collaboration in this direction.

- ✓ Ms. Baynard continued to note that the Freedom of Information Advisory Council (FOIA) continues to have discussions on whether there could be further flexibility regarding electronic meetings.
- ✓ She added that as discussed at the GPC meeting earlier, this hybrid form of meetings needs to have two things:
  - Public bodies need to be able to make these decisions by themselves and not by the State.
  - Instead of limiting the number of electronic meetings, the default should be to have a certain minimum number of in-person meetings.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard noted that the Authority's Legislative Program will propose that these discussions continue with the default being in person meetings but should be more of the public bodies controlling the decision making versus the State.
- ✓ Board Member Cristol added that she believes there should be separate standards for elected bodies versus those appointed or volunteering.
- ✓ Delegate Roem added that the current standard required now is for a person to be in person to be able to cast a vote on an action item instead of doing so virtually.
- ✓ Mayor Rishell remarked that electronic meetings are very important but wants the Authority to be mindful of the importance of real time meetings and human contact as that is very beneficial, citing an example from a (PRTC) meeting and how important it was to hear people talk in real time about issues which impacted their lives. As such, she recommends attaching a qualifier to the in-person meetings.
- ✓ Senator Boysko noted her agreement but further added that there will be the need to strike a balance. She explained that being a member of a number of commissions and boards, there have been occasions when important meetings have had to be canceled due to the inability to assemble a physical quorum for those meetings. As such, careful consideration should be given to how this is presented in the legislative program.
- ✓ Chair Randall asked whether there are challenges with the General Assembly sub-committees in assembling a quorum.
- ✓ Delegate Watts added that there are a number of issues still being resolved and travelling long distances to be present at meetings is one of those but hopes that the standard will continue to be that a quorum is assembled for all meetings.
- ✓ Ms. Hynes asked a question about public hearings, noting that she observed there was better participation when people were allowed to participate remotely and hopes there will not be a requirement for people to be in person in order to provide public testimonies.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard affirmed that public participation was great when people were allowed to participate remotely during the pandemic and those provisions for remote participation would still continue.
- ✓ Chair Randall commented that she appreciates the importance of having in person meetings as that human contact and language is very helpful but also noted that throughout the pandemic, the Authority did not miss meetings and



continued to have quorums at every meeting throughout. As such, there cannot be a 'one size fits' all approach but rather jurisdictions should have opportunity to have a say regarding what minimum number of meetings they can have electronically.

- 11. Finance Committee Report** Mayor Rishell, Chair
- ✓ No verbal report given.
- i. Investment Portfolio Report** Mr. Longhi, CFO
- ✓ No verbal report given.
- ii. Monthly Revenue Report** Mr. Longhi, CFO
- ✓ No verbal report given.
- iii. Operating Budget Report** Mr. Longhi, CFO
- ✓ No verbal report given.
- 12. Planning and Programming Committee Report** Mayor Wilson, Chair
- ✓ Mayor Wilson informed the Authority that the Planning and Programming Committee met on October 4<sup>th</sup> and had a lot of input discussing the public engagement activities as well as the goals, objectives, and measures for TransAction.
  - ✓ He noted that they will continue the discussion at their next meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.
- 13. Planning Coordination Advisory Committee Report** Mayor Colbert, Chair
- ✓ No verbal report given.
- 14. Technical Advisory Committee Report** Mr. Boice, Chair
- ✓ No verbal report given.
- 15. Chief Executive Officer's Report** Ms. Backmon, CEO
- ✓ Ms. Backmon noted that deadline for applications for the FY2022-2027 Six Year Program was October 1, 2021.
  - ✓ 27 applications requesting \$1.3 billion, were received and currently being reviewed for completeness and eligibility.
  - ✓ She added that the deadline for submitting supporting resolutions is December 3, 2021, noting that failure to submit support resolutions disqualifies an application.
  - ✓ Ms. Backmon further added that Mr. Boice, the Chairman for the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will be joining the November Authority meeting to answer any questions from the Authority.
  - ✓ Mayor Colbert, Chair of the Planning Coordination and Advisory Committee (PCAC) is also planning to be present during the December Authority meeting.

**16. Chair's Comments:**

- ✓ Chair Randall thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.

**17. Adjournment**

- ✓ The meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.

**Next Meeting: November 18, 2021, at 7:00pm**

**NVTA Offices**