



# Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

*The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia*

## PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Monday, March 25, 2021, 5:00 pm

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

**ELECTRONIC MEETING**

with livestreaming on YouTube

### SUMMARY NOTES

#### I. Call to Order/Welcome

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

### Action

#### II. Resolution finding need to conduct meeting electronically

- Chairman Wilson noted that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic 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 1, 2021 Meeting

- The March 1, 2021 Planning and Programming Committee meeting summary was approved unanimously.

## Discussion/Information

### IV. **TransAction Technology Strategic Plan – Action Plan**

- Mr. Jasper presented on NVTA’s draft Transportation Technology Strategic Plan (TTSP) Action Plan, providing the background of the Strategic Plan, its evolution from December 2020, and its relationship to the long range transportation plan, TransAction.
- Ms. Love presented a summary of the feedback received so far from the Committee members:
  - Emphasis that the TTSP will take a needs-driven approach,
  - Stress that investments should be made smartly, so as to avoid obsolescence,
  - Request to clarify how TTSP will be actualized, and to provide more detail regarding how it will interact with TransAction, and
  - Recommendations to allow for flexibility in setting expectations and goals (as technology and innovative approaches are constantly evolving and being used in new ways)
- Ms. Love presented feedback received from 6<sup>th</sup> Northern Virginia Transportation Roundtable:
  - Innovative approaches that can improve transportation equity in Northern Virginia include effective and meaningful engagement; listening; providing more service and access to multiple modes; improving safety through infrastructure; reduced or free fares/trips; and provision of reliable and real-time data to the public,
  - Safety needs emerging technology could address include distracted or impaired driving; using data to target investments; and encouraging connectivity between modes
- Ms. Love presented feedback from Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Transportation Technology Committee (TTC) that focused on rewording of strategies
  - “Reduce congestion” to “reduce congestion and increase throughput”
  - “Maximize cybersecurity and maximize privacy for members of the public” to “Maximize cybersecurity and privacy for members of the public”
  - Minimize potential for zero occupancy vehicles” to “minimize potential for zero occupancy passenger vehicles”
  - “create a network of charging infrastructure, for use by private and fleet vehicles” to “advance decarbonization of the transportation system”
- In response to Chair Wheeler’s question on what mode is covered under decarbonization, Ms. Love explained that it covers all modes and infrastructure.
- Mayor Rishell stressed that the technology should address all transportation infrastructure, current and future.
- Mayor Meyer noted that solar-powered auto was recently introduced in California, which could be considered as an example of decarbonization strategy.
- Ms. Love presented the details of the Action Plan including its structure
  - Introduction
  - Strategy-specific summaries (overview, assumptions, Action Plan)
  - Consolidated actions table
  - Next steps (monitoring progress/update cycle, review/update process)

- Mr. Jasper presented potential outcomes of the Action Plan which included development of TransAction scenario (sensitivity) analysis, outreach/education, potential addition to NVTA’s legislative program, refinements to future Six Year Program project selection process, funding projects, and develop white papers identifying potential topics for future regional transportation policy.
- Mr. Jasper noted the anticipated recommendations that include approval of eight strategies and approval to begin implementation of the Action Plan. Once approved, staff will provide updates every six months and add TTSP/Action Plan in public engagement around TransAction update.
- In response to Chair Wheeler’s question on explaining the details in the report to citizens, Mr. Jasper noted that the public engagement around TransAction led by consultant experts will ensure translating the key technical aspects to a language that can be understood more easily.
- Council Member Snyder suggested, and Mayor Rishell agreed, to take one particular technology and apply it to TransAction to demonstrate real-world applications – how this applies to the long range planning and project selection. He added that these need to be presented in the context of three core values of equity, safety, and sustainability. Ms. Backmon and Mr. Jasper agreed and noted that the details are expected to be developed as part of TransAction update including scenario analysis. Ms. Backmon added that the staff can take examples of technology and how it applies to the region in the context of state and federal funding and useful life of infrastructure funded.

**V. TransAction Update**

- Mr. Jasper informed the Committee that the consultants and NVTA staff are preparing for kick-off meeting.

**VI. NVTA Update**

- Ms. Backmon noted that the Authority, at its April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, will receive a presentation on economic impact analysis of NVTA’s investments. She noted that the primary action items include budget approvals for FY2022 70% regional revenue funds, 30% local funds, and operating budget, which were unanimously approved by the Finance Committee, and approval of FY2027 CMAQ/RSTP funding recommendations to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB).

**Adjournment**

**VII. Adjourn**

- The next meeting is planned for May 3, 2021. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.