



PLANNING COORDINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

6:30 p.m. EST

2600 Park Tower Drive, Suite 601

Vienna, VA 22180

This meeting was held in person and livestreamed via YouTube.

MEETING SUMMARY

I. Call to Order/Welcome

- Mayor Colbert (Town of Vienna), Chair of the Committee, welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
- Attendees:
 - **PCAC Members:** In-person - Mayor Colbert (Chair, Town of Vienna); Council Member Miles (Vice-chair, Town of Dumfries); Supervisor Glass (Loudoun County, arrived 7:25 p.m.); Council Member Underhill (City of Falls Church); Council Member Peterson (City of Fairfax); Council Member Smith (City of Manassas); Vice Mayor Hedrick (Town of Herndon).
Virtual – Council Member Aguirre (City of Alexandria, Personal)
 - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (Chief Executive Officer); Keith Jasper (Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming); Amanda Sink (Project Delivery/Grants Manager); Starla Couso (Planning and Programming Manager); Harun Rashid (Planning Analytics Manager).
 - **Other:** Jaleh Moslehi (Town of Herndon).

II. Action Items:

- A. Summary notes of June 25, 2025, meeting:** The meeting summary was approved unanimously, with abstention from members who were not present at the June 25 meeting.

III. Discussion/Information Items:

A. NVTA's Five-Year Strategic Plan Update:

- Ms. Sink updated committee members on the status to develop strategies in the 2025 Five-Year Strategic Plan (Plan). Since the Authority's approval of the Plan's Vision, Mission, Core Values, and Goals in May 2025, staff have begun drafting strategies under each of four goals. The presentation started with a brief outline of the Plan, followed by Approved Mission/Vision/Vision/Core Values and Goals; a set of draft strategies under each Goal; and next steps.
- The Plan will set the framework for various tasks and initiatives undertaken in the next five years. The overarching strategy will be to maintain and enhance performance for NVTA's primary responsibilities, while addressing other urgent and unmet regional transportation needs. On March 26, 2025, the PCAC was initially presented with the draft Vision statement, Mission statement, Core Values and four strategic goals to accomplish over the next five years.
- There are four goals in this Plan:
 - Lead the region's transportation initiatives,
 - Maximize public benefit through project selection and delivery,
 - Enhance regional planning through technical assistance and data-driven information, and
 - Safeguard and diversify NVTA revenue sources.
- Under each goal, there is a set of broad strategies. Ms. Sink stressed that these strategies are designed to be flexible and will serve as guide for NVTA's specific tasks and initiatives over the next five years. This Plan is anticipated to be adopted by the Authority in November.
- This presentation was followed by questions and comments from committee members.
- Council member Miles, Council member Smith – Thanked staff for the work done on Plan showing NVTA's leading role in transportation policymaking and advocacy in Northern Virginia. The Plan is flexible to address local jurisdictions' needs and priorities.
- Council member Peterson – Inquired about the role of the PCAC in drafting the Plan, asking if it is a top-down or bottom-up approach. Ms. Sink explained that this was a bottom-up approach, where staff presented the draft Plan to members of the Regional Jurisdiction and Agency Coordinating Committee (RJACC) first, and then to NVTA's committees, and finally to the Authority. Guided by principles in NVTA's enabling legislation, this iteration is based on the 2017 version. Ms. Backmon reminded the committee members that they had previously reviewed the vision/mission/core values of this Plan at the June 25 committee meeting.
- Council member Peterson asked if committee members will be more involved in drafting detailed metrics. Ms. Backmon and Ms. Sink explained

that after the Plan's adoption by the Authority, with recommendations from committee members, staff will work on its implementation through various tasks and initiatives. For example, the ongoing initiative on the Regional Approach to Funding Northern Virginia's Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure (later in the agenda), the Six Year Program update, and the upcoming update of TransAction, NVTA's long range transportation plan. NVTA staff will provide annual updates on progress to meet the goals set in this Plan.

- Council member Peterson inquired about environmental sustainability. Ms. Sink noted that environmental sustainability will be included as part of the long-range plan update. All strategies are guided by the Core Values of equity/safety/sustainability at the top of this Plan's schematic outline.
- Council member Underhill stated that Falls Church is interested in innovative solutions to transportation issues, for example, managed lanes, reducing Vehicle Miles of Travels (VMTs) to reduce Greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions, managing travel demands by widening roadways. She asked if these strategies will be covered in the Plan. Ms. Backmon noted that this Plan is the umbrella under which projects and initiatives will be undertaken and will produce metrics as noted by Council member Underhill. The strategies should be flexible, to accommodate all metrics deemed appropriate during each planning initiative such as the ten performance measures that are part of the current TransAction plan, with each weighted as determined by committee members.
- Council member Underhill inquired about the TransAction update timeline. Ms. Backmon noted that NVTA staff published the Request For Proposal (RFP) last month, which starts an approximately two-year process. Authority consideration for adoption is expected by the end of 2027. Within this project period, committee members will be duly engaged to determine a weighting scheme for performance measures.
- Mayor Colbert noted that she was part of the process of performance measure weighting scheme in 2022, stating that it was a very engaging process, which was eye-opening for her in the role of a committee member in NVTA's planning process. She added that experienced helped her understand the strategies in this Plan need to be flexible to allow committee members to be creative.

B. Regional Approach to Funding Northern Virginia's Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure:

- Ms. Couso provided project background and approach for this recent NVTA initiative. She stated that the goal is to develop recommendations of strategies and sources to fund Northern Virginia's planned bicycle and pedestrian network, as identified in a 2024 VDOT study that identified a bicycle-pedestrian network of 4000+ miles, with a planning level total project cost estimate of \$19 billion. Ms. Couso stated that the NVTA initiative is based on a four-tiered approach:
 - Research and review funding sources and strategies.

- Evaluate case study examples.
 - Coordinate with existing and ongoing efforts.
 - Engage with our regional coordination partners.
- Due to a constrained timeline to deliver findings to the House and Senate Transportation Committee Chairs, the project is limited in scope, and does not include the following items:
 - Project identification
 - Project prioritization
 - Feasibility study
 - Cost analysis
- Kick-off meeting was held in June. The project was in document development stage in September/October, with an anticipated consideration for approval by the Authority in November. There were two regional coordination meetings held in July and August. Project team is scheduled to submit a set of recommendations in January 2026.
- As described above, the first and foremost step in the process is to research and review funding sources. The project team identified existing funding sources, and future funding strategies. Existing funding sources include local, regional, state, and federal entities. The project team worked on the following tasks - researching the details and applicability of sources; discussing with Regional Coordination partners; and developing a funding source matrix.
- The regional stakeholder group consists of staff of local and regional governments and advocacy groups. The first regional coordination meeting was held on July 31, in-person at NVTA offices. This meeting was supplemented by an online survey. Major takeaways from this meeting:
 - maintenance projects are the most difficult to identify funding for.
 - construction and maintenance projects are the most difficult to secure funding for.
 - major funding sources are Transportation Alternatives (TA), VDOT Revenue Sharing, Smart Scale, NVTA Local/Regional funds.
- To explore future strategies for funding, the project team followed these five steps: identifying strategies, including taxes and fees; researching and evaluating strategies against select metrics (revenue magnitude, revenue growth potential, stability, pathway to implementation, tax/fee payer benefit, socioeconomic burden, and impact on business); discussion with regional coordination partners; conducting case studies; and identifying the most feasible set of strategies. In the last step, findings from SJ28 and DMVMoves initiatives, both transit-focused, will be integrated where applicable.
- The second regional coordination meeting was held virtually on August 27, and was focused on funding strategies. The following inputs were received in this meeting:

- *When asked how well the funding source summary captured what you do in your jurisdiction, Participants said the funding source summary was accurate (3.7/5, with five being very accurate).*
- *When asked how well do the strategies emerging as the highest benefit align with your thoughts and experiences, Participants said the strategies identified as the highest benefit aligned with their thoughts and experiences somewhat well (3.3/5).*
- *Participants said revenue magnitude and pathway to implementation were the most important evaluation criteria.*
- Forty-five strategies were evaluated against seven criteria. The strategies included personal property tax, corporate income tax, land value tax, etc. Staff will draft a shorter list to advance to next phase of analysis.
- This presentation was followed by a question from Council member Peterson, who asked if the *strategies will be categorized to meet certain project situations, for example, an educational campaign*. Ms. Couso and Ms. Backmon noted that this initiative will not address an educational program but the VDOT study contains a table that addresses safety education for active transportation modes. There are other funding programs that address this topic such as the CMAQ-RSTP, NVTC's Commuter Choice, and TPB's programs.

C. Six Year Program Update:

- Mr. Jasper updated committee members on recent activities in the FY2026-2031 funding program. Staff have completed initial eligibility checks of twenty-seven funding applications, with a total request of \$1.3 billion. The candidate projects are now being evaluated within an analytical framework that includes travel modeling and other analytical tool-based performance measures.
- Of these 27 candidate projects, 13 are bicycle/pedestrian, 6 are roadway capacity related, 3 each are intersection/interchange and bus/BRT, 1 is rail, and 1 is Transportation Technology. Of total funds requested, roadway and bus/BRT accounted for 37%, and bicycle/pedestrian for 19%.
- Staff anticipate bringing evaluation results to present to the committee in spring of next year. Mr. Jasper reminded members of one more deadline in this application cycle – governing body resolutions are due by October 31. With committee recommendations, anticipated adoption of this FY2026-2031 program by the Authority is in July 2026.

D. NVTA Update:

- Ms. Backmon mentioned that there will be a presentation on recent initiatives of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority, at the October Authority meeting. The State of the Region's Transportation Network, an annual event organized by NVTA, will be on October 22 this year, featuring Mayor Gaskins of the City of Alexandria, Clark Mercer, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments; Nuria Fernandez,

President/CEO, AMDC Consulting, LLC; and chairperson of the Authority, the Hon. Phyllis Randall.

- Council member Peterson inquired about next steps for *the NVTA BRT Action Plan*. Mr. Jasper noted that the Plan was discussed at the June PCAC meeting. With recommendations from this and the Technical Advisory Committee, the Action Plan was approved by the Authority in July. Further analysis of certain routes and services, as requested by stakeholders, will be carried out during the upcoming update of TransAction.

IV. Adjournment:

The next scheduled meeting for the PCAC is on October 22, 2025, in person, at the NVTA offices. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.