



## MINUTES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

7:00pm

3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200

Fairfax, VA 22031

Meeting conducted on WebEx and Live Streamed via YouTube

1. **Call to Order** Chair Randall
  - ✓ Chair Randall called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
2. **Roll Call** Margaret Duker, Clerk
  - ✓ Voting Members: Chair Randall; Council Member Snyder; Chairman McKay; Chair Wheeler; Board Member Cristol; Mayor Wilson; Mayor Rishell; Mayor Meyer; Senator Boysko; Delegate Watts; Delegate Roem; Ms. Hynes; Mr. Kolb.
  - ✓ Non-Voting Members; Mayor Burk; Ms. Sinner (on behalf of Acting DA Mr. Lynch); Mr. Horsley.
  - ✓ Mayor Davis-Younger joined at 7:57pm.
  - ✓ Staff: Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Michael Longhi (CFO); Keith Jasper (Principal, Planning and Programming); Sree Nampoothiri (Senior Transportation Planner); Mackenzie Love (Regional Transportation Planner); Dev Sen (Financial Analyst); Margaret Duker (Board Clerk).
  - ✓ Other Attendees: Rob Dickerson (Council of Counsels); Joanna Anderson (Council of Counsels); Daniel Robinson (Council of Counsels); MinhChau Corr (Council of Counsels); Tracy Baynard (McGuire Woods Consulting LLC).
3. **Adoption of Resolution 21-05 to Find Need to Conduct Meeting by Electronic Communication Means during Governor's declared State of Emergency during COVID-19 Pandemic** Chair Randall

*Recommended action: Adoption of Resolution 21-05 for Electronic Meetings During COVID-19 Pandemic*

  - ✓ Chair Randall made the motion to adopt Resolution 21-05 to Find Need to Conduct a Meeting by Electronic Communication Means during Governor's declared State of Emergency during COVID-19 Pandemic; seconded by Chairman McKay. Motion passed by 13-0-1 as one Member was yet to join the meeting.
4. **Minutes of the April 8, 2021 Meeting**

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

  - ✓ Mayor Wilson moved for the acceptance of the April 8, 2021 meeting minutes; seconded by Senator Boysko. Motion passed by 13-0-1 as one Member was yet to join the meeting.

## Presentation

### 5. **Transportation Technology Strategic Plan and Action Plan**

Councilmember Snyder, Chair, Transportation Technology Committee

Mr. Keith Jasper, Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming

Ms. Mackenzie Love, Regional Transportation Planner

- ✓ Councilmember Snyder, Chairman of the Transportation Technology Committee (TTC), commenced the presentation noting that under the excellent leadership of Ms. Backmon, the Transportation Technology Committee was created. Councilmember Snyder thanked the Authority members that serve on the TTC, Mayor Rishell, Mr. Kolb.
- ✓ As Chairman of the Committee, Councilmember Snyder noted the TTC includes an elected official from Fairfax County Board—Supervisor Foust, renowned technology company executives and consultants from both the public and Private sectors in the region.
- ✓ He noted that with equity, safety and sustainability as its major goals, the TTC was tasked with looking at how best to maximize the use of technology to boost transportation in the region.
- ✓ This culminated in the Transportation Technology Strategic Plan (TTSP) and Action Plan, a report which lays out tools for the region to use in conducting regional analysis, regional coordination and regional implementation of technology in a way that maximizes the transportation system and services for the benefit of the people in the region.
- ✓ With that, Mr. Jasper, Principal, Transportation, Planning and Programming of NVTA, took over the presentation, with a special thanks to the TTC members who worked diligently over a two-year period to make the TTSP a reality.
- ✓ Mr. Jasper reviewed the timeline of certain notable world innovations like how Apple evolved with the introduction of the iPhone, Apps; and how ecommerce emerged with Amazon; and how webinars evolved through apps like Zoom and WebEx among others.
- ✓ Mr. Jasper highlighted that as with the ever-changing technology world, the region must also adapt and evolve and be ready for what is next.
- ✓ He added that the Transportation Technology Strategic Plan is a living document which will be updated as transportation technologies evolve.
- ✓ Mr. Jasper noted that the TTSP is a tool which will inform a proactive approach to the adoption of transportation technology in the region, noting this will be a needs-driven approach and not technology-driven approach.
- ✓ He also noted that the TTSP fits with NVTA's primary responsibilities regarding TransAction and funding transportation projects in the Six Year Program and the core values of equity, sustainability and safety.
- ✓ Some expected benefits of the TTSP include:
  - The ability to leverage transportation technologies that support NVTA's vision and mitigate those which do not, through planning, policy, advocacy, funding and other means.

- Support data-driven decision making by the Authority with regards to the TransAction update and the future project selection for funding programs.
  - Additionally, the TTSP will enable a consistent approach to NVTA's transportation technology investments, increasing synergies and maximizing return on investments and tax payer dollars.
  - Enhanced multimodal travel choices and better travel experiences for Northern Virginians, through coordinated planning, deployment and operations, enabled by secure, real time information.
  - A stronger regional approach to transportation technologies, through the open and regular exchange of ideas between NVTA staff and jurisdiction/agency staff.
- ✓ Further, he noted that the TTSP includes Eight Strategies and up to nine roles for each strategy and incorporates an Action Plan that enables NVTA to think big, start small and build momentum with respect to adoption of transportation technologies in the region.
  - ✓ To answer the question of how the TTSP will be used in the region, Ms. Love (NVTA Transportation Planner) took over the presentation and proceeded to highlight two examples demonstrating NVTA's approach to evaluating technologies, and potential actions that could follow using the Electric, Autonomous Transit Shuttle and the Personal, Electric Autonomous Auto.
  - ✓ She expanded on how the TTSP uses the core values and eight strategies to derive ratings, based on informed decisions or potential recommended actions which can be made regarding any technology.
  - ✓ Chair Randall commented on how enlightening the presentation was and invited Authority members to ask questions or provide feedback.
  - ✓ Board Member Cristol expressed her appreciation of the presentation, citing the example of when scooters started showing up on the streets, pointed out how important it is to be prepared for this era of emerging technology as it evolves so rapidly.
  - ✓ She noted that one of the things that her County had to quickly develop was a framework to evaluate whether the technology was a good thing to have or not. Board Member Cristol noted that with the TTSP, the framework is ready to apply to the rapidly changing technology like autonomous vehicles which will soon be on the roads in the not-too-distant future and that she noted she appreciates the work done.
  - ✓ Delegate Watts also expressed appreciation for the comprehensive presentation and its vision, noting the need to keep in mind what NVTA was created to do, that is the mission to reduce congestion and improve mobility, and the duties of planning and the allocation of funding.
  - ✓ Delegate Roem commented that as an outreach strategy, there could be public/private partnerships with local gas stations which have space available to establish a network of charging station infrastructure noted such models have worked great in different parts of the region.

- ✓ Ms. Hynes also lauded the presentation, and asked whether any aspect of it will require funding, keeping in mind what Delegate Watts had pointed out about NVTA's mission. She added that the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) has a fund through which projects can be piloted and tested for applicability and wondered whether that is possible in Northern Virginia also.
- ✓ Mr. Kolb thanked Ms. Love and the members of the TTC Committee for the great work that went into developing the TTSP, and Ms. Backmon for her foresight as well as Councilmember Snyder, for his leadership.
- ✓ Chair Randall also noted how fascinating the presentation was and very enlightening. With regards to the points raised by Delegate Watts and Ms. Hynes, Chair Randall noted that yes, the Authority always has to analyze all its activities through the lens of what it was ultimately created for - its mission.
- ✓ In response to Delegate Watts and Ms. Hynes comments, Ms. Backmon added that there are technology projects in TransAction, which have been funded previously by the Authority meeting the congestion reduction requirement. Adding that Authority staff understands that there are limitations to what the Authority can fund under its statutes which is why the TTC is comprised of people from both the private and public sector, the industry and the Commonwealth at large, because Committee members, jurisdictions and agencies can advocate and also help with the implementation of the Strategies and Action Plan in various ways.

### **Action Items**

#### **6. Adoption of the Eight Strategies and Implementation of the Action Plan in the Transportation Technology Strategic Plan**

Councilmember Snyder, Chair, Transportation Technology Committee

*Recommended Action: Adoption of the Eight Strategies and implementation of the Action Plan in the Transportation Technology Strategic Plan*

- ✓ Councilmember Snyder noted that the first strategy under the Eight Strategies in the Action Plan addresses Delegate Watt's point raised as it aims to reduce congestion and increase throughput in addition to the other strategies.
- ✓ Delegate Roem pointed out that she has no objection to voting for the adoption of the Action Plan so far as it did not have a contingency which requires NVTA funding to be allocated to it.
- ✓ Chair Randall noted that the motion at hand did not require any commitment of NVTA funds to it.
- ✓ Mayor Rishell added that she thoroughly enjoyed being part of the TTC, noting that her two motivating reasons for participating was:
  - Her primary concern for equity.
  - Her interest in technology and safety.
- ✓ She stated that technology has a tendency to widen the transportation divide thus the need to be vigilant in that regard, but overall noted that it was an absolute pleasure working with all the Committee members.

- ✓ Councilmember Snyder moved adoption of the Eight Strategies contained in the Transportation Technology Strategic Plan and implementation of the TTSP Action Plan; seconded by Mayor Rishell. Motion passed 13-0-1 as one member had not yet joined the meeting.

**7. Approval of the Reallocation of Regional Surface Transportation Program Funds for Prince William County** Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

*Recommended Action: Approval of Reallocation*

- ✓ Ms. Backmon informed the Authority that Prince William County is seeking approval to transfer \$200,000 from the Route 28 Phase I Project to the Gemini Way Pedestrian Improvement Project in Prince William County.
- ✓ She noted that the Route 28 Phase I Project is completed and has residual funds which can cover the increased cost of the Gemini Way Project and help keep it on schedule for construction advertisement in the Spring.
- ✓ Chair Wheeler added that the recipient project has federal funding on it for sidewalk improvements and thus this transfer will help to keep it on schedule.
- ✓ Delegate Roem also noted that this transfer is not about defunding a project but rather transferring funds from a project which came in under budget, to another project which would benefit from the remaining federal funds.
- ✓ Chair Wheeler moved approval of the transfer of \$200,000 in RSTP funds from Route 28 Phase I (UPC 92080) to Gemini Way Pedestrian Improvement Project (UPC 113609), in Prince William County; seconded by Delegate Roem. Motion passed by 13-0-1 as one member had not yet joined the meeting.

**8. Approval of the Reallocation of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program Funds for VDOT** Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

*Recommended Action: Approval of Reallocation*

- ✓ Ms. Backmon informed the Authority that VDOT has some donor projects which are complete and have leftover CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) program funds.
- ✓ She added that the recipient projects which are Northern Virginia emissions reduction-projects, are in need of the additional funds and per Authority approval, VDOT would seek to transfer the remaining CMAQ funds to the recipient projects.
- ✓ Senator Boysko moved approval of the transfer of \$39,741 in CMAQ funds from Commuter Connections Operations Center FY1999-2018 (UPC 52726) and \$884,563 from Commuter Connections and Endzone Partners (UPC 52724) to the Northern Virginia TERMS – FY2019-2023 (UPC 106474) as requested by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT); seconded by Board Member Cristol. Motion passed by 13-0-1 as one member had not yet joined the meeting.

**9. Appointment of MinhChau Corr, Acting County Attorney for Arlington County to the Council of Counsels** Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

*Recommended action: Appointment of Ms. Corr to the Council of Counsels*

- ✓ Board Member Cristol informed the Authority that this appointment was necessitated by the transitioning of Council of Counsels member, Mr. Steve Maclsaac, from Arlington County to Virginia Railway Express (VRE) at the end of the month.
- ✓ She added that Mr. Maclsaac has been with Arlington County for 21 years and worked with the Authority since its creation.
- ✓ She noted that Mr. Maclsaac also helped form the Council of Counsels and NVTA has benefited from his counsel, time, expertise and passion over the years and he will be greatly missed on the team.
- ✓ Board Member Cristol moved approval of the appointment of MinhChau Corr, Acting County Attorney for Arlington County, to the NVTA Council of Counsels; seconded by Mayor Meyer. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Discussion/Information Items**

#### **10. Governance and Personnel Committee Report**

Chair Randall, Chair

- ✓ Chair Randall provided an update of the GPC meeting noting that one of the main discussions was the assessment and evaluation of Ms. Backmon, Executive Director of NVTA. She pointed that it has come to light that the title of Ms. Backmon will need to be corrected and will defer to Mr. Longhi to provide more details about that.
- ✓ Mr. Longhi explained to Authority Members that the Code of Virginia stipulates that the Authority shall have a ‘Chief Executive Officer’, however NVTA’s Bylaws refers to the position as ‘Executive Officer’.
- ✓ As agreed at the GPC meeting, Mr. Longhi noted that changing the bylaws requires two readings prior to a vote. Based on GPC guidance these readings will occur in June and July. Action can then be taken at the July meeting if the Authority desires.
- ✓ Chair Randall continued to update Authority Members that feedback is being requested from everyone for the annual performance evaluation of Ms. Backmon and directed all to send their input by May 30<sup>th</sup> to Mr. Longhi who will consolidate everything for review by the Governance and Personnel Committee.
- ✓ Chair Randall also informed Members that along with doing the compensation review, the Authority would also like to conduct a position assessment to determine whether the current role of the Executive Director need any changes.
- ✓ The changes would be discussed in the June and July meetings with any changes going into effect from July.

#### **11. Planning and Programming Committee Report**

Mayor Wilson, Chair

- ✓ Mayor Wilson noted that Members of the PPC were also briefed on the TTSP and it was a great presentation.

#### **12. Planning Coordination Advisory Committee Report**

Councilwoman Miles, Vice-Chair

- ✓ No verbal report given.

**13. Technical Advisory Committee Report**

Mr. Boice, Chair

- ✓ No verbal report given.

**14. Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

- ✓ Ms. Backmon informed the Authority that the region will be receiving some HIP (Highway Infrastructure Program) funding and federal stimulus CRRSAA funds (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Apportionments and Allocations) funding and will be working with the RJACC to develop recommendations for the programming of those funds for Authority consideration at the June Authority meeting.
- ✓ Ms. Sinner noted that there is an estimated \$20 million to be programmed.

**15. Chair's Comments**

- ✓ Chair Randall informed members that Delegate Roem requested to share some information before close of the meeting.
- ✓ Delegate Roem shared with Members that OmniRide is still experiencing the effects of the pandemic on its ridership.
- ✓ However, with things gradually getting back to normal, it will be helpful for members and regional leaders to communicate with the public about the safety of riding public transit again. She also noted that OmniRide is embarking on various messaging campaigns in this regard.

**16. Adjournment**

- ✓ The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

**Next Meeting: June 10, 2021 at 7:00pm**

**NVTA Offices**