



here are a lot of words to describe 2020, but if we had to choose just one, it would be disruptive. No one could have predicted the challenges that the year would bring. The COVID-19 pandemic created a new reality; requiring a sudden shift in the way business would be conducted and an adaption to the region's changing needs. That's why this year's Northern Virginia Transportation Authority Annual Report is themed **Planning for Evolving Needs.**



Authority

VOTING MEMBERS



CHAIR Phyllis J. Randall Loudoun County



VICE CHAIR Harry J. "Hal" Parrish, II City of Manassas



Jennifer Boysko Virginia Senate



Katie Cristol
Arlington County



Mary Hynes Gubernatorial Appointee, Commonwealth Transportation Board Member



Jim Kolb Gubernatorial Appointee



Jeffrey C. McKay Fairfax County



David L. Meyer City of Fairfax



Jeanette Rishell City of Manassas Park



Danica Roem Virginia House of Delegates



David Snyder City of Falls Church



Vivian Watts Virginia House of Delegates



Ann Wheeler Prince William County



Justin Wilson City of Alexandria

NON-VOTING MEMBERS



Derrick R. Wood Town of Dumfries



Helen Cuervo Virginia Department of Transportation



Jennifer Mitchell
Virginia Department
of Rail and Public
Transportation

AUTHORITY STRUCTURE

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NORTHERN VIRGINIA MEMBER JURISDICTIONS:

VIEWBER JURISDICTIONS

ARLINGTON COUNTY

FAIRFAX COUNTY

LOUDOUN COUNTY

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

CITY OF FAIRFAX

CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

CITY OF MANASSAS

CITY OF MANASSAS PARK

1

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TOWN (WITH A POPULATION OF 3,500 OR MORE)

1

STATE SENATOR

2

MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

2

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTEES
(1 COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION
BOARD MEMBER AND 1 CITIZEN)

2

COMMONWEALTH AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES



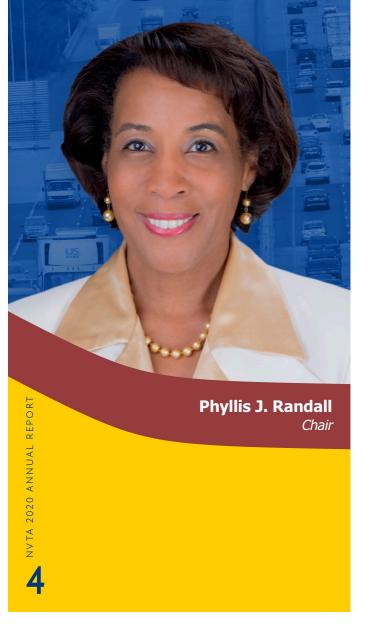
PLANNING AND PRIORITIZING FOR THE REGION

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Develop** and **update** long-range transportation plan, TransAction
- ▶ **Prioritize** and **fund** regional transportation projects Six Year Program
- Project Selection Congestion Reduction Relative to Cost and Qualitative Considerations (modal/geographical balance, cost sharing, etc.)
- **Work** on consensus basis
- ► Collaborate with Authority's regional partners
- ▶ Reduce congestion in most cost-effective manner
 - **5** Funding Programs
 - 106 NVTA-Funded Regional Multimodal Projects
 - Totaling nearly \$2.5 Billion
 - Across 7 Modes of Transportation

PLANNING FOR EVOLVING NEEDS

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Letter from the Chair

hen I took over the helm of the Authority in January 2020, I never could have predicted this would be a year to go down in the history books! But, despite the challenges COVID-19 presented, including a State of Emergency, the Authority virtually came out unscathed. In fact, during the peak of the pandemic, the Authority adopted the FY2020-2025 Six Year Program Update, investing \$539 million in regional revenue funds on 21 regionally significant multimodal transportation projects across Northern Virginia. To ensure the safety of Northern Virginian residents, staff and Authority members, since the declaration of a State of Emergency, the Authority has held an array of virtual engagements, including electronic Authority business and committee meetings and a Public Hearing broadcast on Facebook Live where citizens were able to call in their testimony on the draft Six Year Funding Program.

The adoption of the Six Year Program Update demonstrates an ongoing commitment to a multimodal approach that addresses Northern Virginians' mobility needs and challenges, and supports the region's economic vitality, while providing a much-needed economic stimulus to the region's economy.



Phyllis J. Randall calls the Authority Meeting to order for the first time as Chair.

The regional collaboration and ability to look beyond jurisdictional lines is truly remarkable and a benefit to all Northern Virginians, as well as those traveling through the D.C. metropolitan area.

As our focus remains on keeping the region moving and long-term planning through this pandemic and beyond, we will take lessons learned from analysis on the pandemic's impacts on transportation, and re-evaluate priorities that will best fit the region's ever-evolving needs. I have no doubt brighter days are on the horizon, and we will get through these challenging times together.

Phyllis J. Randall

Chair, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

Letter from the Executive Director

hat a year it has been! When I reflect on 2020, regional collaboration comes top of mind. Everything from determining how to best conduct public meetings electronically to facilitating important transportation discussions at a safe social distance, the Authority's members, NVTA staff, member localities and agencies, stakeholders, and partners, quickly came together to address new obstacles faced in the era of COVID, without missing a step in continued transportation planning and prioritizing for the region.

Despite the pandemic, this year we hit a key milestone at the Authority, with the adoption of our fifth Funding Program. This would not have been possible without the collaboration between elected officials and staff from each member jurisdiction, agency and applicant, as well as public participation. I could not be more appreciative of everyone's hard work and achievement.

Early on, there was no doubt in our minds that COVID-19 would have significant impacts on the region's transportation network. That's why we decided to jump in and conduct ongoing COVID analysis, while also examining how NVTA's approach to long-term transportation planning will be affected.

We continue to plan for the region's evolving needs, as we invest in a sustainable and integrated multimodal transportation system. As part of the TransAction Update, it is our goal to increase accessibility, improve mobility and build resiliency in our transportation network.

Lastly, I am proud that we developed and launched the NoVA Gateway, a new tool that allows for easy project status searchability by corridor segment, location, transportation mode, and more.

I am extremely grateful for what was accomplished in what turned out to be a whirlwind of a year, and I look forward to working closely with the region on addressing evolving transportation needs and any new challenges ahead.

Monica N. Backmon

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Executive Director, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority



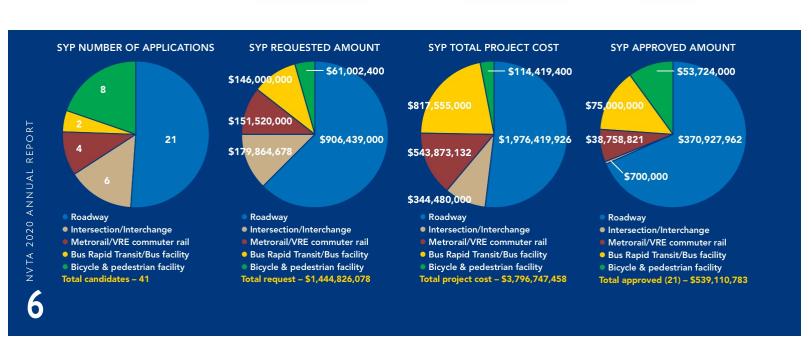
FY2020-2025 Six Year Program (SYP)

Planning and Prioritizing for the Region

- Adopted July 9, 2020
- Authority's 5th Funding Program and most competitive to date







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| PRIMARY MODE | APPLICATIONS (#) | REQUESTED AMOUNT (\$) | SHARE OF TOTAL REQUEST | RECOMMENDED PROJECTS (#) | RECOMMENDED AMOUNT (\$) | SHARE OF TOTAL RECOMMENDATION |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ROAD/ INTERSECTION | 27 | \$1,086,303,678 | 75% | 12 | \$371,627,962 | 69% |
| TRANSIT (RAIL, BUS, BRT) | 6 | \$297,520,000 | 21% | 3 | \$113,758,821 | 21% |
| BICYCLE/ PEDESTRIAN | 8 | \$61,002,400 | 4% | 6 | \$53,724,000 | 10% |
| TOTAL | 41 | \$1,444,826,078 | 100% | 21 | \$539,110,783 | 100% |



- **\$539 Million** in Regional Revenues programmed on
 - **21** multimodal transportation projects
 - 9 projects previously funded
 - Modally and geographically balanced
 - \$45 Million+ where the primary mode is bike and pedestrian

SEE FOLDOUT MAP IN BACK POCKET FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS, INCLUDING THE ADOPTED PROJECTS LIST.

FY2020-2025 Six Year Program

PHASES

July 1, 2019 – September 27, 2019

September 30, 2019 -Early December 2019 November 2019 -February 2020

March 13, 2020 -

Summer and Fall 2020

- July 1, 2019 September 27, 2019: Call for Regional Transportation Projects
- Spring 2020:

NVTA staff shared initial findings from quantitative and qualitative evaluations with three NVTA committees involved in the recommendation process:

- Technical Advisory Committee
- Planning Coordination Advisory Committee
- Planning and Programming Committee

March 13, 2020 – May 24, 2020:

Public Comment Period

- May 14, 2020:
 - Authority hosts Public Hearing virtually for the first time, due to COVID-19 precautions and Governor Northam's Stay at Home Order
 - 27 people provided testimony, with all but one over the phone, on 15 projects during the Public Hearing
- 1,000 public comments reviewed and summarized





One Northern Virginia resident provided testimony in-person during the Authority's Virtual Public Hearing.

Four Components of Project Selection Process

- Eligibility
- Quantitative Analysis
- Qualitative Considerations
- Public Comment

NVTA Firsts

- ➤ Video Series on Funding Program Updates
- ➤ Virtual Public Hearing
- Streamlined Process via Online Application Portal
- One-on-One Consultations with Applicants
- Virtual Press Briefing on Funding Program Adoption

> Spring/Summer 2020:

NVTA Staff Recommendations and Project Selection Process

- A summary document of the project selection process is available at thenovaauthority.org/fy2024-2025-sixyear-program-update/
- Overview of NVTA Staff Recommendations

Fall 2020:

NVTA staff prepared a final report on the FY2020-2025 SYP, including a schedule for appropriating funds to each project.

▶ 40+ media placements on SYP Adoption secured through regional collaboration

REGIONAL IMPACT. MULTIMODAL APPROACH. MODAL BALANCE. Continued emphasis on road/rail/transit in the Route 1/VRE Fredericksburg Line corridor PLANNING FOR EVOLVING NEEDS Continued emphasis on Fairfax County Parkway corridor Continued emphasis on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) solutions Synergies in Crystal City and Western Falls Church Increased focus on grid network solutions Increased focus on active transportation solutions, such as bike/pedestrian facilities



RESILIENCY

- Despite a projected \$240M revenue reduction due to COVID-19 for FY2020-23, the Authority was able to:
 - Navigate this unprecedented challenge while preserving all prior project funding programs and commitments, and;
 - Adopt a Two-Year Update (FY2024-25) to the Six Year Program, with \$539M in regional multimodal project investments in Northern Virginia.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY FUNDING ACTION AND THE PANDEMIC

2020 GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

- Virginia Governor Ralph Northam signs the Omnibus Transportation Bill (House Bill 1414/ Senate Bill 890) approved by the General Assembly during the 2020 Session
 - Encompassed in HB1414/SB890
 - Returns to NVTA a portion of the Northern Virginia-based Grantor's Tax diverted in 2018 (HB1539/SB856)
 - Includes fixed amount annual transfer to NVTA of \$20M
 - 2019 and 2020 General Assembly actions, when fully implemented, estimated by the Commonwealth to return to NVTA \$70M of the \$102M diverted to WMATA in 2018

NVTA LEGISLATIVE PRIORTIES: LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 2021 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

- ▶ Maintain General Assembly awareness of the need to fully restore funding to the Authority to pre-2018 levels
- ▶ Protect the dedicated revenue sources and powers of the Authority
- ▶ Advocate for COVID-19 federal relief funding for transit agencies
- Work with the General Assembly and member localities to achieve permanent flexibility for public bodies to hold meetings electronically that are accessible to the public when health and safety concerns are present





IMPACTS ON NVTA OPERATIONS AND MEETINGS

- ► Keeping safety top of mind, NVTA began working remotely beginning mid-March
- Countless business meetings and events held electronically
- Live streams on Facebook Live and YouTube established for all public meetings



▶ Public Comment Period and Public Hearing for new Six-Year Funding Program conducted virtually for the first time

COVID-19 ANALYSIS

- Conducted "COVID-19: Transportation Impacts and Opportunities" analysis and updates with AECOM
 - Goal: Explore impacts to operating conditions and future transportation project investment considerations
 - Monitor pre-pandemic and COVID era travel trends and changes in travel behavior
 - Analyze plausible possible future scenarios
 - Potential pivot: Regional priorities ever-evolving

ANALYSIS FINDINGS

- ➤ The current road traffic trends follow NVTA's Quick Recovery and Active Transportation scenarios (close to pre-COVID level conditions and/or an increase in active transportation modes), while transit is way behind all scenario predictions.
- ➤ Transit rail ridership has seen sharp declines (about 80%) from pre-COVID levels across Metrorail and commuter rail. Bus ridership has seen a better rebound than the rail ridership.
- During the initial shutdown, average share of employees who teleworked increased from 36% to 82% in the Washington, D.C. metro region.



Authority Impact

AUTHORITY'S TRAVEL TIME IMPACT











MONETARY SAVINGS FOR

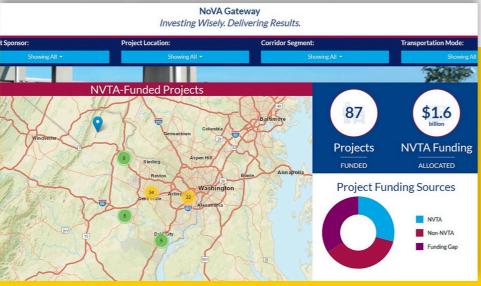
TAXPAYERS BY 2030

INVESTMENT

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION **PROJECTS INVESTMENTS**

HOURS OF

TRAVEL TIME SAVED



NOVA GATEWAY

- ▶ Unveiled the NoVA Gateway, a new tool providing real-time information on the status of ongoing and completed NVTA regionally-funded projects, allowing for easy searchability by location, transportation mode, and more.
- ▶ Phyllis J. Randall, Chair of the Authority and Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, called for all member jurisdictions and agencies to include on their websites as a regional tool that can be easily accessed by citizens, with just a click of a button.

NVTA 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrations and Milestones

CELEBRATING MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECT MILESTONES SPANNING ACROSS NORTHERN VIRGINIA





Karen Garcia

Nancy Jean-Louis

Bel O'Neill

Tara Houston

Cath C



March 11, 2020: NVTA hosts its 5th Annual Northern Virginia Transportation Roundtable: "A 2020 Vision and a Look Beyond." City of Falls Church Council Member, David Snyder, who is also a member of the Authority and Chair of NVTA's Transportation Technology Committee, participated as an expert panelist



NVTA'S INVOLVEMENT IN INITIATIVE DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE METROPOLITAN REGION



- NVTA, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), DRPT: Regional Multi-Modal Mobility Program (RM3P)
- ▶ Board of Trade: Connected DMV
- ► Greater Washington Partnership: Capital Region Rail Vision
- ➤ Washington Metropolitan Area Transit

 Authority (WMATA): Bus Transformation Study
- Virginia Secretary of Transportation's Sustainability Committee
- ➤ Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG)/Transportation Planning Board (TPB): Market Assessment and Technical Feasibility for VRE-MARC Run-Through Service
- ► WMATA: Blue, Orange, and Silver Capacity and Reliability Study
- ➤ Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT): I-495 American Legion Bridge Transit and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Study



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TRANSACTION UPDATE

- ▶ January 2020: Update to Northern Virginia's long-range transportation plan, TransAction, officially kicks off with an Open House and Listening Session, during which attendees were given the chance to weigh in on the future of transportation for NoVA
- ▶ TransAction updated every 5 years
- Fall 2022: Anticipated TransAction





REGIONAL MULTI-MODAL MOBILITY PROGRAM (RM3P)

- A collaborative initiative to improve mobility, accessibility, and safety for those traveling in Virginia
- ➤ Commonwealth's Office of the Secretary of Transportation, NVTA, VDOT and DRPT, continue to work with stakeholders across the Washington, D.C. region to capture expert insights and needs as the program is being developed



- Summer 2020: RM3P engaged with private industry through a request-forinformation (RFI) process and virtual meetings held
- ➤ Fall 2020: RM3P Stakeholder Focus
 Group and Summit meetings conducted
 - 67 people attended the four Focus Group meetings and more than 110 people attended the Summit
 - Representing federal, state and local governments; regional agencies and organizations; associations; transportation organizations; academia; military; public safety; and the private sector

LOOKING AHEAD

- ➤ RM3P development of Statements of Work (SOWs) for each Program Element
- Procurement activities begin 2021



TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

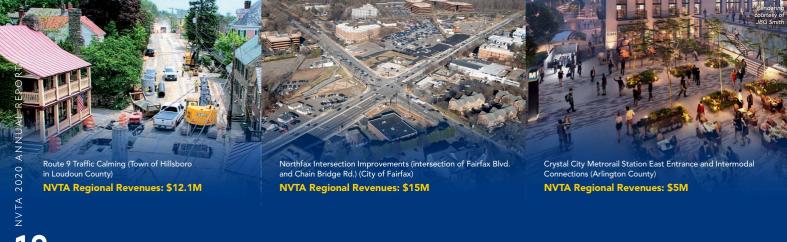
- ➤ Inaugural Transportation Technology Strategic Plan under development
 - Evolved from recommendations included in the current TransAction Plan adopted October 2017, and will be incorporated into the development of the TransAction Update
- To lay the groundwork for an informed approach to transportation innovation, that empowers the region to leverage technologies in addressing known needs
- Anticipated finalization: 2021

FOR EVOLVING NEEDS

A Look Around the Region

TAXPAYER DOLLARS HARD AT WORK: INVESTING IN REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT, MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS ACROSS NoVA





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THANK YOU

e recognize this year required a major pivot, and thank our Authority members and their staff, member localities, agencies and stakeholders for ongoing collaboration this challenging year...we made it! We also thank all Northern Virginians who took the time to offer feedback during our FY2020-2025 Six Year Program Public Comment Period. We couldn't have done any of it without you!

A special thanks to one of the Authority's original members, City of Manassas Mayor, Hal Parrish, who retired at the end of 2020, after his 27 years of public service to the City and 18 years of service on the Authority. We would also like to recognize Town of Dumfries Mayor, Derrick Wood, for his representation and engagement on the Authority. We cannot thank you both enough for your leadership and dedication to the Authority and region. You will be missed!

