

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Chairman Martin E. Nohe and Members
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

FROM: Monica Backmon, Executive Director

SUBJECT: NVTa Endorsement of BUILD Project Applications

DATE: June 8, 2018

- 1. Recommendation:** Endorsement of project applications for the FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants Program.
- 2. Suggested Motion:** *I move Authority Endorsement of the City of Alexandria, Fairfax County and the Virginia Railway Express BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants applications.*
- 3. Background:**
 - a. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to apply for \$1.5 billion in discretionary grant funding through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.
 - b. BUILD Transportation grants replace the pre-existing Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program. FY 2018 BUILD Transportation grants are for investments in surface transportation infrastructure and are to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. BUILD funding can support roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports or intermodal transportation.
 - c. Projects for BUILD will be evaluated based on merit criteria that include safety, economic competitiveness, quality of life, environmental protection, state of good repair, innovation, partnership, and additional non-Federal revenue for future transportation infrastructure investments.
 - d. Eligible Applicants for BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants are State, local and tribal governments, including U.S. territories, transit agencies, port authorities, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and other political subdivisions of State or local governments.
 - e. Multiple States or jurisdictions may submit a joint application and must identify a lead applicant as the primary point of contact, and identify the primary recipient of the award. Each applicant in a joint application must be an Eligible Applicant. Joint

applications must include a description of the roles and responsibilities of each applicant and must be signed by each applicant.

- f. Eligible projects for BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants are capital projects that include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. road or bridge projects eligible under title 23, United States Code;
 - 2. public transportation projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code;
 - 3. passenger and freight rail transportation projects;
 - 4. port infrastructure investments (including inland port infrastructure and land ports of entry); and intermodal projects.
- g. For projects located in urban areas, the minimum award is \$5 million. Please note that the minimum total project cost for a project located in an urban area must be \$6.25 million to meet match requirements.
- h. For projects located in rural areas, the minimum award is \$1 million.
- i. The maximum award for all projects is \$25 million. Not more than \$150 million can be awarded to a single State.
- j. For this round of BUILD Transportation grants, the maximum grant award is \$25 million, and no more than \$150 million can be awarded to a single State, as specified in the FY 2018 Appropriations Act.
- k. At least 30 percent of funds must be awarded to projects located in rural areas.
- l. At the May 24, 2018 RJACC meeting, Northern Virginia localities and Transportation Agencies were advised to submit BUILD project endorsement requests for NVTAA action at the June 14, 2018.
- m. Four requests for endorsements were received:
 - 1. City of Alexandria requests endorsement for the West End Transitway Project.
 - 2. Virginia Railway Express requests endorsement for the L'Enfant Station Improvements.
 - 3. Fairfax County requests endorsement of the Frontier Drive Extension and Intersection Improvements
 - 4. Loudoun County requests endorsement for Route 15 Whites Ferry Road to Maryland State Line, Route 9 West Virginia State Line to Route 7, Roundabouts on Braddock Road at Trailhead Drive and Route 15.

4. Next Steps:

- n. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 made available \$1.5 billion for National Infrastructure Investments, otherwise known as BUILD Transportation Discretionary grants, through **September 30, 2020**.
- o. The deadline to submit an application for the FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program is **July 19, 2018**.

Attachments

- A. City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, Loudoun County and VRE request for BUILD application endorsement
- B. NVTAA Endorsement of the City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, Loudoun County and VRE BUILD Grant Applications



**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**P.O. Box 178 - City Hall
Alexandria, Virginia 22313
703.746.4025**

alexandriava.gov

May 30, 2018

Monica Backmon,
Executive Director
C/o NVT Authority Members
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200
Fairfax, VA 22031

RE: NVTA support of the City of Alexandria's BUILD Project

Dear NVTA Authority Members,

The City of Alexandria appreciates the time and effort that NVTA members and staff have put into the distribution of regional funding and are grateful for the opportunity to participate. The City plans to apply for funds from the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) for National Infrastructure Investments. This request stems from the program funded and implemented pursuant to the American Recover and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This program was previously known as the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER Discretionary Grants) program and is now known as the **Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development or (BUILD)** Transportation Discretionary Grants Transportation program.

The City requests NVTA endorsement and support of the following grant application:

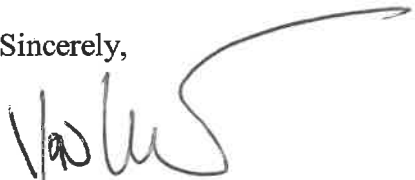
- West End Transitway Corridor Investments – **up to \$25,000,000** – The project provides for reliable, frequent Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service along the Van Dorn, Beauregard, and I-395 Corridors (a corridor of statewide significance) and between major activity centers. Funds will be used to complete design as needed, purchase rolling stock, and construction. The transitway and associated BRT service connects residents, visitors and employees to major transit centers along the corridor including the Pentagon Transit Center and Metrorail station, Shirlington Bus Station,

Mark Center Transit Center, the Van Dorn Metrorail station and two other transit hubs in Alexandria – Landmark Mall and Southern Towers.

To date, the Authority has awarded \$2.4 million in the project through the FY15/16 program, with a staff recommendation of \$2.2 million in the FY 2018 - 2023 SYP. At its May 16, 2018 meeting, the City Council appointed Transportation Commission voted to endorse the staff-recommended project to seek grant funding of up to \$25,000,000 in the FY 2018 BUILD program. Providing high capacity Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) between the Pentagon in Arlington County and the Van Dorn Metrorail station in Alexandria will connect major employment centers, residential neighborhoods, and transit hubs to the entire metropolitan area.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss these issues further, please contact me at 703-746-4025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yon Lambert', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Yon Lambert

Director, Transportation and Environmental Services

cc:

Allison Silberberg, Mayor, City of Alexandria

Mark Jinks, City Manager, City of Alexandria

Sarah Taylor, Legislative Director

Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, Transportation & Environmental Services

Allan Fye, Division Chief of Transit Services, Transportation & Environmental Services



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

June 7, 2018

Monica Backmon
Executive Director
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
3040 Williams Dr., Suite 200
Fairfax, VA 22031

Dear Ms. Backmon:

I would like to request the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) endorse the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) application for a USDOT Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) planning grant for final design for the VRE L'Enfant Station Improvements and Fourth Track. The final design cost is estimated at \$6.3 million; a BUILD grant request for \$3.15 million is proposed with a non-federal match of \$3.15 million from VRE funds.

The L'Enfant Station Improvements include the reconstruction of the station platform with two track edges, or an "island" configuration, serving existing track and the addition of a 4th track in this segment of the railroad corridor between the L'Enfant (LE) and Virginia Ave. (VA AVE) rail crossovers. The L'Enfant station and track improvements are included in the NVTA TransAction plan as part of the VRE Alexandria-DC Rail Capacity Improvements. That overall project addresses railroad infrastructure improvements between Alexandria and L'Enfant stations that expand railroad capacity to support long-term expansion of VRE service and other rail service in the corridor. Related to the L'Enfant station and track improvements, also included in TransAction, is a project to widen the Long Bridge over the Potomac River to expand railroad capacity at the river crossing.

The BUILD grant application is due July 19, 2018. VRE identified final design for the VRE Crystal City Station Improvements as an additional component of the BUILD planning grant application prior to NVTA releasing its recommended Six Year Program (SYP), which recommends NVTA funding for final design of the Crystal City project. Pending NVTA approval of its SYP, VRE has assumed the NVTA funding would satisfy the funding requirements for the Crystal City project and will not include any funding request for Crystal City in the BUILD application.

Please let me know if you have questions regarding this request or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Doug Allen
Chief Executive Officer



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

June 14, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
 Secretary of Transportation
 U.S. Department of Transportation
 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
 Washington, DC 20590

Reference: Loudoun County's FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants Program Applications.

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express the support of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for Loudoun County's applications under the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants Program for Loudoun County's Route 15 – Whites Ferry Road to Maryland State Line, Route 9 – West Virginia State Line to Route 7, Roundabouts on Braddock Road at Trailhead Drive and Route 15 Project. A BUILD grant would greatly facilitate the advancement of these projects.

Project 1: Route 15 – Whites Ferry Road to Maryland State Line

- This project is being recommended for consideration under the "Planning" requirements for BUILD.
- The Planning Grant would be for the preparation of the NEPA documentation.
- Considered as Phase 2 of the Route 15 project from Leesburg to Maryland. Phase 1 is the portion being funded by the County, from Battlefield Parkway to Montresor.
- The Phase 2 portion is completely in a rural area where BUILD is focusing its priorities.
- Preliminary cost estimate for the study is \$1,500,000.

Project 2: Route 9 – West Virginia State Line to Route 7

- This project is being recommended for consideration under the "Planning" requirements for BUILD.
- The Planning Grant would be for the preparation of a corridor operations and safety study for one of the Primary Rural Routes in Loudoun County.
- This was one of the Board's requests from the Transportation Summit held in 2017.
- Preliminary cost estimate for the study is \$900,000.

Project 3:– Roundabouts on Braddock Road at Trailhead Drive and Route 15

- These projects are being considered as two components of the same project, for construction funding.
- CIP estimated cost is \$21.5 million.
- Both are in the rural area where BUILD is focusing its priorities.
- The roundabout at Trailhead Drive will address traffic concerns related to the development of the HS 9 School site in this location.
- Braddock Road is a major east west corridor for County, especially in the areas developed south of US 50.

The NVTa includes the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park. The NVTa is responsible for setting regional transportation policies and priorities, and allocating regional funding based on those priorities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Martin E. Nohe
Chairman



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

June 14, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
 Secretary of Transportation
 U.S. Department of Transportation
 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
 Washington, DC 20590

Reference: Virginia Railway Express FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants Program Application.

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express the support of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa) for the City of Alexandria's application under the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants Program for the Virginia Railway Express' VRE L'Enfant Station Improvements and LE to VA AVE 4th Track Project. A BUILD grant would greatly facilitate the advancement of the project.

L'Enfant Station Improvements and LE to VA AVE 4th Track Project (\$3.15Million) The L'Enfant Station Improvements include the reconstruction of the station platform with two track edges, or an "island" configuration, serving existing track and the addition of a 4th track in this segment of the railroad corridor between the L'Enfant (LE) and Virginia Ave. (VA AVE) rail crossovers. The L'Enfant station and track improvements are included in the NVTa TransAction plan as part of the VRE Alexandria-DC Rail Capacity Improvements. That overall project addresses railroad infrastructure improvements between Alexandria and L'Enfant stations that expand railroad capacity to support long-term expansion of VRE service and other rail service in the corridor. Related to the L'Enfant station and track improvements, and also included in TransAction, is a project to widen the Long Bridge over the Potomac River to expand railroad capacity at the river crossing.

The NVTa includes the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park. The NVTa is responsible for setting regional transportation policies and priorities, and allocating regional funding based on those priorities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Martin E. Nohe
Chairman



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

June 14, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Reference: City of Alexandria's FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants Program Application.

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express the support of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for the City of Alexandria's application under the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants Program for the City of Alexandria's West End Transitway Project. A BUILD grant would greatly facilitate the advancement of the project.

West End Transitway Corridor Investments (up to \$25 Million)

West End Transitway provides for reliable, frequent Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service along the Van Dorn, Beauregard, and I-395 Corridors (a Corridor of Statewide Significance) and between major activity centers. If awarded, the BUILD grant will be used to complete design as needed, purchase rolling stock, and construction.

The Transitway and associated BRT service connects residents, visitors and employees to major transit centers along the corridor including the Pentagon Transit Center and Metrorail Station, Shirlington Bus Station, Mark Center Transit Center, the Van Dorn Metrorail Station and two other transit hubs in Alexandria-Landmark Mall and Southern Towers.

Providing high capacity BRT between the Pentagon in Arlington County and the Van Dorn Metrorail station in Alexandria will connect major employment centers, residential neighborhoods, and transit hubs to the entire metropolitan area.

To date, the Authority has awarded \$2.4 million on the project through its FY 2015-2016 Program, with the project currently being considered for additional Authority funding through its FY 2018-2023 Six Year Program.

The NVTa includes the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park. The NVTa is responsible for setting regional transportation policies and priorities, and allocating regional funding based on those priorities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Martin E. Nohe
Chairman



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

June 14, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
 Secretary of Transportation
 U.S. Department of Transportation
 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
 Washington, DC 20590

Reference: Fairfax County FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants Program Application.

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express the support of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa) for the City of Alexandria's application under the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants Program for Fairfax County's Frontier Drive Extension Project. A BUILD grant would greatly facilitate the advancement of the project.

Frontier Drive Extension - \$25.0 million

The Frontier Drive Extension from Franconia-Springfield Parkway to Loisdale Road provides greater mobility between Loisdale Road, the Medical Campus at Northern Virginia Community College, and the Franconia-Springfield Transit Center. The project makes improvements to the circulatory system around the Franconia-Springfield Transit Center, which provides improved access to both the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Metrorail System and Virginia Railway Express commuter rail service. It also modifies the ramps of Franconia-Springfield Interchange in Springfield, thereby reducing congestion on Loisdale Drive. It provides on-street parking along Frontier Drive, as well as pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The project is critical for the upcoming relocation of the Transportation Security Administration headquarters.

The total project estimate for this project is \$116.1 million. The Authority has previously provided \$2 million for the Frontier Drive Extension and its Planning and Programming Committee has also recommended an additional \$25 million through NVTa's FY 2018-2023 Six Year Program to further advance the project.

The NVTa includes the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park. The NVTa is responsible for setting regional transportation policies and priorities, and allocating regional funding based on those priorities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Martin E. Nohe
Chairman



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

June 11, 2018

Ms. Monica Backmon, Executive Director
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200
Fairfax, Virginia 22031

Reference: Request for NVTA Endorsement of Fairfax County Application for BUILD Discretionary Grant Program

Dear Ms. Backmon: *Monica*

I am writing to request the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority's assistance by providing a letter of support of the application that Fairfax County plans to submit for the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) discretionary grant program. BUILD encourages local governments to proactively raise new sources of revenue with a new criterion to evaluate local activities to generate additional non-Federal revenue for transportation infrastructure.

Fairfax County plans to submit an application for the Frontier Drive Extension. Staff is requesting formal Fairfax County Board of Supervisors authorization for this submission on July 10, 2018, and the applications are due by July 18, 2018.

- **Frontier Drive Extension - \$25.0 million**

The Frontier Drive Extension from Franconia-Springfield Parkway to Loisdale Road provides greater mobility between Loisdale Road, the Medical Campus at Northern Virginia Community College, and the Franconia-Springfield Transit Center. The project makes improvements to the circulation system around the Franconia-Springfield Transit Center, which provides improved access to both the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Metrorail System and Virginia Railway Express commuter rail service. It also modifies the ramps of Franconia-Springfield Interchange in Springfield, thereby reducing congestion on Loisdale Drive. It provides on-street parking along Frontier Drive, as well as pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The project is critical for the upcoming relocation of the Transportation Security Administration headquarters.

The total project estimate for this project is \$116.1 million. NVTA has previously provided \$2 million for the Frontier Drive Extension and its Planning and Programming Committee has also recommended an additional \$25 million through NVTA's FY 2018-2023 Six Year Program to further advance the project.

Ms. Monica Backmon
June 12, 2018
Page 2 of 2

As the U.S. Department of Transportation considers funding under this program, we would appreciate your consideration of Fairfax County's grant application which will provide for an improved national and regional transportation network. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call Noelle Dominguez with the Fairfax County Department of Transportation at (703) 877-5665 or me at (703) 877-5663. Thank you for your time and assistance for this critical project.

Sincerely,



Tom Biesiadny
Director

cc: Members, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Bryan Hill, County Executive
Robert A. Stalzer, Deputy County Executive
Catherine A. Chianese, Assistant County Executive



Loudoun County, Virginia

www.loudoun.gov

Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure

101 Blue Seal Drive, SE, Suite 102, MSC #64

P.O. Box 7500

Leesburg, VA 20177-7500

Main (703) 771-5107 • Fax (703) 737-8513

June 11, 2018

Ms. Monica Backmon
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200
Fairfax, VA 22031

RE: BUILD FY 2018 Letter of Support for Loudoun County Applications

Dear Ms. Backmon:

Loudoun is preparing to submit three applications for the BUILD 2018 Grant program for which we would greatly appreciate a letter of support from NVTa for our Applications. The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors endorsed these projects at their Business Meeting on June 5, 2018. The deadline for submission is July 19, 2018. The three projects are:

Project 1: Route 15 – Whites Ferry Road to Maryland State Line

- This project is being recommended for consideration under the “Planning” requirements for BUILD.
- Route 15 is in Transaction (Corridor 9).
- The Planning Grant would be for the preparation of the NEPA documentation.
- Considered as Phase 2 of the Route 15 project from Leesburg to Maryland. Phase 1 is the portion being funded by the County, from Battlefield Parkway to Montresor, and hopefully by NVTa.
- Preliminary cost estimate for the study is \$1,500,000.

Project 2: Route 9 – West Virginia State Line to Route 7

- This project is being recommended for consideration under the “Planning” requirements for BUILD.
- Route 9 is in Transaction (Corridor1).
- The Planning Grant would be for the preparation of a corridor operations and safety study for one of the Primary Rural Routes in Loudoun County.
- Preliminary cost estimate for the study is \$900,000.

Project 3: Roundabouts on Braddock Road at Trailhead Drive and Route 15

- These projects are being considered as two components of the same project, for construction funding.
- CIP estimated cost is \$21.5 million.
- The roundabout at Trailhead Drive will address traffic concerns related to the development of the HS 9 School site in this location.
- Braddock Road is a major east west corridor for County, especially in the areas developed south of US 50 and improvements will support Transaction projects within Corridor 11, in Loudoun County.

June 11, 2018
Ms. Monica Backmon
BUILD FY 2018 Letter of Support for Loudoun County Applications
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I recognize this requests comes at a time when you are preparing for the June 14, 2018 Authority Meeting, and we are hopeful there is still time to place this on the Agenda. Please feel free to contact me, should you have further questions.

Sincerely,



Penny Newquist
Deputy Director

Cc: Phyllis Randall, Chairman
Ralph Buona, Vice Chairman
Joe Kroboth, III, Director
Bob Brown, Regional Transportation Coordinator