

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 FASTLANE Grant Submissions

DATE: December 2, 2016

- 1. Recommendation:** Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa) endorsement of Prince William and Fairfax Counties' project applications for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) Grants.
- 2. Suggested Motion:** *I move Authority endorsement of Prince William and Fairfax Counties' project applications to the U.S. Department of Transportation's FASTLANE Grants.*
- 3. Background:**
 - a. U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx recently announced that the U.S. Department of Transportation's Build America Bureau is soliciting applications for its second call for up to \$850 million in FASTLANE grants.
 - b. The FASTLANE program was established in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act to fund critical freight and highway projects across the country. The FAST Act authorized the program at \$4.5 billion for fiscal years (FY) 2016 through 2020, including \$850 million for FY 2017 to be awarded by the Secretary of Transportation.
 - c. In the first call for FASTLANE grants, USDOT received 212 applications totaling nearly \$9.8 billion for grants – with states and localities requesting over 13 times more funding than was available through FASTLANE.
 - d. NVTa staff worked with member jurisdictions and agencies in receiving requests for letters of support endorsing submissions for the FASTLANE grants.
 - e. NVTa provided letters of support endorsing project applications for Northern Virginia projects for FASTLANE grants in the inaugural solicitation.
 - f. The deadline to submit FASTLANE grant applications is December 15, 2016.
- 4. Next Steps:**
 - a. Letters of support will be provided to Prince William and Fairfax Counties and sent to Secretary Foxx, U.S. Department of Transportation.

Attachments:

- A.** Letter of Support for Prince William County's US Route 15 Improvements with Railroad Overpass Project
- B.** Letter of Support for Fairfax County's Route 28 Widening Project



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority *The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia*

December 8, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to express the support of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for Prince William County's application under the USDOT FASTLANE grant program for the U.S. Route 15 Improvements with a Railroad Overpass. This project will consist of widening 0.6 mile long stretch of Route 15 from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and build an overpass over the existing Norfolk Southern Railway (NSRR) tracks. A FASTLANE grant would greatly facilitate construction of the project.

The U.S. Route 15 Improvements project extends about 1000' north of the tracks (to just south of Route 55 in the Town of Haymarket), and extends approximately 1200' south of the tracks. The project will provide a 4-lane section with median and asphalt shared used path and a clover loop access, for south bound traffic on Route 15, to Kapp Valley Way that will loop underneath the overpass. When completed, this project will provide a grade-separated railroad crossing and access to adjacent properties. A VRE station is being considered for the area; the design of access to the station will be coordinated between the road and transit projects. This road project will reduce congestion by eliminating the 2-lane "bottleneck" and achieving a consistent 4-lane section for 6 miles between Sudley Rd. (Route 234) and Thoroughfare Rd (Rt 682), and reduce delays and improve safety by eliminating the at-grade crossing with NSRR. This small segment, while capital-intensive, is a key element in making Route 15 a safer and more reliable road. This project improves the network for: commuters, commercial traffic, freight, pedestrians, bicyclists and potentially the VRE. Therefore the project is a truly a multimodal, congestion-relieving safety improvement.

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 with setting regional transportation policies and priorities, and allocating regional funding based on those priorities.

Sincerely,

Martin E. Nohe
Chairman



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority *The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia*

December 8, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to express the support of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for Fairfax County's application under the USDOT FASTLANE grant program for the Route 28 Widening Project. This project consists of widening approximately 2.3 miles of Route 28 from an existing four-lane divided to a six-lane divided highway between the Prince William County Line (at the bridge over Bull Run Creek) and the existing interchange at Route 29.

Route 28 is a heavily-used commuter corridor connecting residents to regionally significant economic centers. This section of Route 28 currently carries 60,000 vehicles per day, with a peak hour Level of Service F. This segment of Route 28 connects the existing and rapidly developing suburban, primarily residential areas in the southern part of the Route 28 corridor with the employment centers around Dulles Airport. It is also a major link between the Prince William Parkway, I-66, the Dulles Access and Toll Road, and Route 7; and provides freight connections between these roadways and the business uses in western Fairfax County.

In addition to improving road conditions, this project will increase transportation options in the corridor through the expansion of access for bicyclists and pedestrians. The typical section will include a shared use path on both sides of the roadway, and bike and pedestrian crossings will be improved at all intersections. Additionally, rush hour commuter bus service, as well as local non-peak service, currently run along this segment of Route 28. This project will improve the reliability of that transit service. With all components combined, the project will improve safety, increase capacity, and decrease congestion along Route 28.

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 with setting regional transportation policies and priorities, and allocating regional funding based on those priorities. As the Route 28 is a priority corridor in the region, the NVTA has invested \$41.1 million towards the completion of this project through its FY2014-17 Programs.

Sincerely,

Martin E. Nohe
Chairman