

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Monica Backmon, Executive Director

DATE: October 6, 2017

SUBJECT: NVTa Endorsement of TIGER and INFRA Grant Applications

- 1. Recommendation:** To seek Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa) endorsement of Fairfax and Loudoun Counties' project applications for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program discretionary grant applications and Fairfax and Prince William Counties' INFRA discretionary grant program applications authorized under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.
- 2. Suggested Motion:** *I move Authority endorsement of Fairfax and Loudoun Counties' project applications for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program discretionary grant applications and Fairfax and Prince William Counties' INFRA discretionary grant program applications authorized under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.*
- 3. Background:**
 - a. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 appropriated \$500 million, available through September 30, 2020, for National Infrastructure Investments otherwise known as TIGER grants.
 - b. As with previous rounds of TIGER, funds for the fiscal year (FY) 2017 TIGER grants program are to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region.
 - c. The FY2017 Appropriations Act specifies that TIGER Discretionary Grants may not be less than \$5 million and not greater than \$25 million, except that for projects located in rural areas the minimum TIGER Discretionary Grant size is \$1 million.
 - d. The selection criteria remain fundamentally the same as previous rounds of the TIGER grants program, but the description of each criterion was updated.
 - e. The FY2017 TIGER program will give special consideration to projects which emphasize improved access to reliable, safe, and affordable transportation for communities in rural areas, such as projects that improve infrastructure condition, address public health and safety, promote regional connectivity, or facilitate economic growth or competitiveness.

- f. NVTA staff worked with member jurisdictions and agencies in receiving requests for letters of support endorsing submissions for the TIGER grants.
- g. The Department of Transportation (DOT) is announced the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) discretionary grant program through a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in the Federal Register on June 29, 2017.
- h. The INFRA program will make approximately \$1.5 billion available to projects that are in line with the Administration's principles to help rebuild America's crumbling infrastructure.
- i. INFRA advances a pre-existing grant program established in the FAST Act of 2015 and utilizes updated criteria to evaluate projects to align them with national and regional economic vitality goals and to leverage additional non-federal funding.
- j. The Department will make awards under the INFRA program to both large and small projects. For a large project, the INFRA grant must be at least \$25 million. For a small project, the grant must be at least \$5 million. For each fiscal year of INFRA funds, 10% of available funds are reserved for small projects.
- k. The deadline to submit an application for the FY2017 TIGER grant program is Monday, October 16, 2017.
- l. The deadline to submit an application for the INFRA grant program is Thursday, November 2, 2017.

4. Next Steps:

- a. Upon Authority endorsement, letters of support will be provided to Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William and Counties and sent to Secretary Chao, U.S. Department of Transportation.

Attachments:

- A.** Letter of Support for Fairfax County's Frontier Drive Extension and Richmond Highway CSX Underpass Projects
- B.** Letter of Support for Fairfax County's Richmond Highway Widening (Mount Vernon Memorial Highway to Napper Road) and Richmond Highway CSX Underpass Projects
- C.** Letter of Support for Loudoun County's Prentice Drive/Lockridge Road West and Northstar Boulevard Road Construction Projects
- D.** Letter of Support for Prince William County's US Route 15 Improvements with Railroad Overpass Project



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

October 12, 2017

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

Reference: Fairfax County, Virginia's TIGER Grant Applications for Frontier Drive Extension and Richmond Highway CSX Underpass Projects

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express the support of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for Fairfax County's application under the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY2017 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant Program for the Frontier Drive Extension and Richmond Highway CSX Underpass Projects. A TIGER grant would greatly facilitate construction of the projects.

Frontier Drive Extension

Request - \$25.0 million. Total Project Estimate - \$89.5 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. This project previously received funding in the Authority's FY2015-16 Two Year Program.

Richmond Highway CSX Underpass

Request - \$12.0 million. Total Project Estimate - \$56 million

The Richmond Highway CSX Underpass project makes intermodal and safety improvements to existing facilities at the intersection of Richmond Highway and the CSX Railroad in southern Fairfax County. The improvements include a railroad bridge replacement to support the addition of a third railroad track. The third track is an important element of the high speed rail component of the Atlantic Gateway project. In

conjunction with the new bridge, this project also will lower the roadway and widen it to accommodate six lanes of traffic. The roadway improvements will provide improved clearance, enhance safety, enable more efficient movement of goods, facilitate the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system, and allow for the addition of pedestrian facilities. This project is a within Draft TransAction Plan Project 282 (Route 1 Widening: Occoquan River Bridge to Telegraph Road) and is also necessary component for Project 39 (Route 1 BRT between Woodbridge and Huntington Metrorail Station).

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

October 12, 2017

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

Reference: Fairfax County, Virginia's INFRA Grant Applications for Richmond Highway Widening (Mount Vernon Memorial Highway to Napper Road) and Richmond Highway CSX Underpass Projects

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express the support of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for Fairfax County's application under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Discretionary Grant Program for the Richmond Highway CSX Underpass and Richmond Highway Widening (Mount Vernon Memorial Highway to Napper Road) Projects. An INFRA grant would greatly facilitate construction of the projects.

Richmond Highway Widening (Mount Vernon Memorial Highway to Napper Road)

Request - \$25 million. Total Project Estimate - \$215 million

The Richmond Highway widening project is 2.9 miles in length and is located between Mount Vernon Memorial Highway (south) and Napper Road. This project will provide a six lane facility complementing the recently completed Richmond Highway project from Telegraph Road to Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, providing a consistent six-lane facility between Ft. Belvoir and I-95/I-495 in Alexandria. This project will facilitate the movement of employees, and goods into and out of Ft. Belvoir and recently constructed hospital at Ft. Belvoir. It will also consolidate driveway entrances, thereby limiting the number of potential points of conflict and improving safety. This project includes pedestrian and bicycle facilities and provisions for future Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). The US 1 corridor is the most heavily used transit corridor in Fairfax County, and these improvements will enable even more transit ridership. This project previously received funding in the Authority's FY 2015-16 Two Year Program.

Richmond Highway CSX Underpass

Request - \$12.0 million. Total Project Estimate - \$56 million

The Richmond Highway CSX Underpass project makes intermodal and safety improvements to existing facilities at the intersection of Richmond Highway and the CSX Railroad in southern Fairfax County. The improvements include a railroad bridge

replacement to support the addition of a third railroad track. The third track is an important element of the high speed rail component of the Atlantic Gateway project. In conjunction with the new bridge, this project also will lower the roadway and widen it to accommodate six lanes of traffic. The roadway improvements will provide improved clearance, enhance safety, enable more efficient movement of goods, facilitate the proposed Bus Rapid Transit system, and allow for the addition of pedestrian facilities. This project is a within Draft TransAction Plan Project 282 (Route 1 Widening: Occoquan River Bridge to Telegraph Road) and is also necessary component for Project 39 (Route 1 BRT between Woodbridge and Huntington Metrorail Station).

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.

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Reference: Loudoun County, Virginia's TIGER Grant Applications for Prentice Drive/Lockridge Road West and Northstar Boulevard Road Construction Projects

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority's (NVTA) support for two Loudoun County road construction projects, which seek funding under the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY2017 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program.

Prentice Drive/Lockridge Road West will provide the county with an additional east-west connection, adding approximately 3.2 miles of four new through lanes. This will allow multimodal access between the future Loudoun Gateway and Ashburn Metrorail stations. It also will accommodate walking and biking services and facilities through a shared use path on either side of the new road.

Northstar Boulevard – a 3.2 mile, four-lane, controlled-access divided road – will serve as a primary highway in the north-south corridor connecting I-95 to the county. Loudoun County Transit's long-haul bus service will traverse the roadway, taking commuters from its park-and-ride lots to points in Washington, D.C., including Metrorail stations.

We recognize the importance of TIGER grants in ensuring that Loudoun County's efforts to enhance multimodal connectivity and improve the commutes of its residents will meet with success. Grants through the 2017 TIGER program are key to facilitating construction of these two deserving projects.

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.

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

Reference: Prince William County, Virginia's INFRA Grant Application for the U.S. Route 15 Improvements with a Railroad Overpass

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express the support of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for Prince William County's application under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Discretionary 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. An INFRA grant would greatly facilitate construction of the project.

The U.S. Route 15 Improvements project will provide a 4-lane section with median and asphalt shared use path, consistent with and connecting the sections north and south of the railroad tracks. 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 setting regional transportation policies and priorities, and allocating regional funding based on those priorities.

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