



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING COORDINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 19, 2015, 6:30 pm
3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200
Fairfax, Virginia 22031

SUMMARY NOTES

I. Call to Order Chairman Foreman

- Chairman Foreman called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm.
- Attendees:
 - ✓ Members: Mayor Foreman; Council Member Way; Council Member Colbert; Council Member Lehr; and Supervisor McKay.
 - ✓ NVRTA Staff: Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Keith Jasper (Program Coordinator); Kala Quintana (PIO).
 - ✓ Other Staff: Noelle Dominguez (Fairfax County); Mark Duceman (Town of Herndon)

II. Approval of the November 20 and December 18, 2014; February 19, 2015 Summary Notes

- No action was taken due to lack of quorum.

III. NVRTA Executive Director Report Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

Ms. Backmon reported the NVRTA established a Bylaws Committee and the Chair, Mary Hynes, would like to attend an upcoming meeting of the PCAC to discuss roles and responsibilities of the Committee.

Ms. Backmon reminded the Committee the next Authority meeting will be held March 25, 2015, following the Public Hearing on NVRTA's draft FY2015-16 Two Year Program. Ms. Backmon stated that in addition to the Public Hearing several localities will hold Town Hall meetings including Arlington, Fairfax County City of Alexandria and the City of Fairfax. Prince William County held their Town Hall meeting jointly March 18, 2015 with the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. These Town Halls will focus on jurisdictional projects as well as the entire Two Year Program. She stated the public comment period opened March 11, 2015 and will continue until COB April 12, 2015. More information on the draft Two Year program can be found at the Authority's web site at www.thenovaauthority.org.

Supervisor McKay asked how much public input is taken into account by the Authority on the draft program and whether or not a project that is not currently recommended could shift to the recommended list. Ms. Backmon indicated that there are some additional funds that can be shifted if the public supports a particular project. She further stated that the NVTA has and will continue to listen to the public feedback before making any decisions on the final Two Year Program project list.

Ms. Backmon also stated Deputy Secretary Nick Donohue will be at the Authority's April 23, 2015 meeting to update the NVTA on the status of HB 2. Regarding the HB 599 process, VDOT required a year to develop the model to ensure there is an apples to apples comparison to project performance on both highway and transit projects. DRPT is testing the model on transit projects now.

Chairman Foreman thanked Ms. Backmon for delivering her "Roadshow" presentation in the Town of Dumfries and complimented her on the excellent and informative Power Point presentation.

Chairman Foreman raised some questions concerning the role of the Towns and the NVTA Bylaws. Chairman Foreman expressed a desire for the one seat on the Authority the Towns represent be a voting member of the NVTA and suggested that legislation may be required to make this possible. Ms. Backmon cautioned that the Counties, which are voting members, have standards to meet in order to qualify for the 30% funding. An example includes demonstrating the maintenance of effort provision at specific levels. She also cautioned that there may be a dual representation issue because the Towns vote for the County Chairmen in their respective counties and those Chairs also serve on the Authority. She reiterated that this is not a Bylaws issue but a legislative and legal one. Chairman Foreman expressed his concern about project ratings and the fact that Towns may take much longer to get projects shovel ready in order to qualify for funding. Ms. Backmon added that 70% of the funding is for regional projects which the Towns can apply for. She also stated that project readiness is a highly rated factor because the Authority needs to fund and advance projects quickly. Chairman Foreman reinforced that the Town voting representative issue is not likely to go away. Supervisor McKay cautioned that the cost of the Towns each having voting membership on the Authority may outweigh the benefit for the Towns and this should be explored more fully before attempting any legislative fix. If a legislative fix is required, Supervisor McKay urged further caution stating that the PCAC should not undermine HB2313 in any way.

Chairman Foreman stated that the Towns are already paying (Towns pay County taxes) and would like to work this issue out to ensure that Towns get their one vote. Ms. Backmon reminded Chairman Foreman that the Towns also receive their share of the 30% Local Distribution Funds. They get back what they put in. Chairman Foreman stated that he just wants to ensure that the Authority and the Towns are working together.

Council Member Lehr reminded the members that the Towns do not have regional roads; however projects like an improvement at Main Street and Maple Avenue directly impact the traffic flow on Rt. 7. Even small town projects could have a regional impact and should be considered accordingly. Ms. Backmon stated there are several projects located within the Towns on the FY2014 and well as the proposed FY2015-16 project lists.

Chairman Foreman wrapped up the discussion stating that he wants to continue to explore voting options for the Towns and did not want this discussion to diminish the spirit of cooperation among all the elected officials in both the Counties and Towns.

Noelle Dominguez provided a brief overview of transportation legislation from the 2015 General Assembly session - specifically HB 1470 which will require that all projects (highway and transit) be evaluated under HB 599 beginning in July, 2016.

Ms. Dominguez also stated that VDOT has distributed draft guidance on HB 2 on March 18, 2015. Northern Virginia must rate congestion relief first. She also stated there will be more money for transit (roughly \$40M) because the Marketplace Fairness Act was not passed in Congress in January 2015.

IV. Presentation of the Annual Report Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

Ms. Backmon highlighted the Authority's 2014 inaugural Annual Report which was presented to the Authority on February 26, 2015. Vice-chair Way complemented the Authority for a job well done.

V. TransAction 2040 Mr. Jasper, Program Coordinator

Ms. Backmon stated that this TransAction update is the first since HB 2313 was implemented; adding that the Authority needs to be presented with a scope of work in the next two months.

Keith Jasper from the NVTA provided a status review of the TransAction update. This is the first update of TransAction, the NVTA's long range transportation plan, since HB 2313 was passed in 2013. Mr. Jasper reviewed the 11 tasks the TransAction subcommittee has outlined and requested that PCAC review the proposed Statement of Work (SOW) and the full Request for Proposals (RFP) when it is made available. Mr. Jasper reiterated that the PCAC's role in the TransAction update is important and the Authority is looking to them for input on areas such as public participation and surveys.

Chairman Foreman requested the PCAC have two meetings to review the SOW/RFP; the first to do markup and the second to move it forward to the Authority. Vice-chair Way added that the RFP needs to include a time and resources allocation.

Mr. Jasper stated this update will include scenario planning (Task #6) which will be funded with state resources. At this point the Authority is not set on exactly what will be tested, but the goal is to better understand how certain projects perform against certain scenarios and to present a range of possibilities. If the project performs well, regardless of the scenarios, the Authority can be more confident about funding that project.

Supervisor McKay added that TransAction is supposed to be an unconstrained plan and the Authority needs to include some major projects to help inform opinions. He also stated that we should include surveys that provide statistically valid data. Chairman Foreman and Vice-Chair Way suggested that we also build on existing data or piggy back on existing annual surveys.

Supervisor McKay also expressed a desire to ensure we are reaching out to ALL populations in Northern Virginia. The next TransAction Update should include an outreach plan that reaches into all communities so they can express their unique perspectives.

Chairman Foreman suggested incorporating data mining techniques and a review of regional surveys including VDOT, PRTC, LC Transit, VRE as well as Uber and taxi data. Vice-chair Way suggested reviewing Transportation Planning Board surveys and forecasts as well. Supervisor McKay added that the Authority should create a repository of this kind of information and that we should ensure that surveys are created and owned by NVTVA so that we can ensure there is no bias.

Council Member Lehr added that the Chambers of Commerce, business associations, as well as colleges and universities understand how their customers and students use the transportation network and she urged that we reach out to these groups as well.

VI. Review of Committee Structure and Roles and Responsibilities

Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

Ms. Backmon reviewed the current Bylaws, PCAC charge, organizational structure and the planning funding and process chart with the committee. Ms. Backmon also stated that Bylaws Committee Chair Hynes was eager to meet with the PCAC to further define the committee's roles and responsibilities.

Chairman Foreman expressed concern about the current size of the PCAC and the quorum requirements. He expressed, again, that he had additional concerns regarding Town voting representation on the Authority. He would like the PCAC to conduct their own markup and Bylaws review. There was further discussion regarding the PCAC quorum requirements. A suggestion was made to reduce the PCAC membership in order to achieve quorum requirements. Members of the committee expressed concern with reducing the representation on the PCAC or a legislative approach to address the Town's concerns. However, they also understood the

concerns raised by Chairman Foreman. The PCAC members agreed that the issue should be discussed more in depth at the April meeting.

VII. Next PCAC Meeting and Draft Agenda

Chairman Foreman

Chairman Foreman suggested that staff highlight the action items on next month's agenda and hopefully ensure the PCAC has a quorum. He added that he would like to draft an e-mail to members asking them to attend the next meeting and to come prepared to have an in depth discussion on the Bylaws and the PCAC Roles and Responsibilities. Chairman Foreman would like to focus the April and May meetings on the founding documents. His hope is to revise them in such a way that they will help the PCAC better govern itself. Supervisor McKay added that it is vital that the PCAC members provide their full participation to this effort.

The next PCAC meeting is scheduled for 6:30pm on April 16, 2015.

Adjournment

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.