

Project Implementation Working Group
Fairfax County Division of Transportation
Legato Building, 4th Floor Conference Room
Fairfax, Virginia

Minutes

Meeting Held On,
December 2, 2013; 10:00 a.m.

Members:

Chris Zimmerman, Chair
Gary Garczynski, Vice-Chair
John Mason, NVTA
Dennis Leach – Arlington County
Jennifer Fioretti – Arlington County
Rick Canizales – Prince William County
Cynthia Porter-Johnson – PRTC
Jim Maslanka – Alexandria
Karen Moreland – Fairfax County
Wendy Block-Sanford – City of Fairfax
Jeanette Rishell – City of Manassas Park
Patrick Moore – City of Manassas
Paul Stoddard – Falls Church

Rich Roisman – COG/TPB
Kanti Srikanth - VDOT
Allison Davis - WMATA
Clair Gron – NVTC
Christine Hoeffner – VRE

Others:

Monica Backmon – JACC
Joe Swartz – VRE
Bob Brown – Loudoun County (Sitting in for Joe Kroboth)

I. Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Chris Zimmerman called the meeting to order.

II. Approval of Summary of November 8, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented with minor corrections.

IV. Report from other Working Groups

There were no reports provided.

V. Review of Overarching Questions

A. Discussion of NVTA Six Year Plan

a. Coordination with VDOT Rating Study

Ms. Jennifer Fioretti identified PIWG comments regarding VDOT's Draft Project Selection Framework. She directed everyone's attention to the materials presented at VDOT's November 22nd Meeting to include the agenda, major milestones, PowerPoint and maps.

Ms. Fioretti asked if there were any reactions to the comments. Mr. Jim Maslanka asked Jennifer to provide a summary of the November 22nd meeting. Mr. Kanti Srikanth gave an overview of the meeting and summarized stakeholder feedback. He indicated that the revised project selection model used on November 22nd was based on the comments received. Mr. Srikanth shared that the consultant discussed and answered questions about the proposed project selection criteria. He noted that a project nominated for inclusion in the VDOT Evaluation Study could be either a stand alone project or part of package of complimentary projects. In response to comments received, VDOT has revised the eleven (11) selection criteria. The final project selection model has been mailed out to all stakeholders. On December 3rd, VDOT will ask for help from the stakeholders to rank the criteria. Mr. Srikanth explained that the criteria are different ways of measuring congestion. Not every project will score high on each criterion.

Mr. Paul Stoddard asked about major and minor activity centers. Mr. Srikanth responded saying that there is an attempt to classify COG's activity centers into major and minor, but there are also areas that overlap between two activity centers.

Mr. Jim Maslanka asked whether off peak and weekend congestion would be modeled. Mr. Srikanth indicated that off peak weekday congestion will be considered.

Regarding proposed project selection criteria #11, Ms. Jeanette Rishell asked how VDOT defines "radial roadway?" Mr. Srikanth stated that COG maps will be provided.

Mr. Stoddard asked if a single project gets the same rating. Mr. Srikanth answered saying that if the projects extends connecting multiple activity centers, it will be the sum of the combined households. Mr. Stoddard followed by asking how we account for future conditions versus existing conditions. Mr. Srikanth stated that the focus is the congestion that we are facing today.

Mr. Rick Canizales asked why the decision was made to keep (Improve Mobility between jurisdictions or activity centers) at 50 points and the other two at 100 points. Mr. Srikanth indicated that the last two were seen as the core of the Washington Metropolitan Regions and tend to be the highest concentration of jobs. Also, they did it in order to have some sort of distinguishing feature.

Mr. Srikanth noted that the study has to be updated every 4 years and that this project is not for funding, but based on the project's ability to reduce congestion and improve mobility. He further noted that VDOT's intention will be to utilize the same methodology in the next round of projects unless there is a change requested by the CTB or the NVTA. Chairman Zimmerman indicated that he did not realize that the study was only required to be updated at a minimum of every 4 years. Mr. Srikanth reiterated that the law requires VDOT to conduct the study every four (4) years or sooner.

Mr. Bob Brown asked if the NVTA can request that VDOT conduct additional studies and does it require a change in the law to have the NVTA run the model? Mr. Srikanth stated that VDOT can make the system/model available to anyone.

Chairman Zimmerman stated that VDOT has not chosen to do more than the minimum number of projects required by law. He questioned whether the Authority would want this model to direct the allocation of tax revenue. He indicated that the VDOT process is creating a complex process on top of an already complex NVTA project evaluation process.

Ms. Rishell stated that VDOT's proposed criteria #11 "Improve mobility (under Homeland Security) between activity centers" should get more than 50 points. She asked Mr. Srikanth what made VDOT choose 50 as opposed to 75. Mr. Srikanth stated that VDOT could have chosen any number to distinguish.

Vice-Chairman Garczynski stated that the CTB and the legislature have a hard time digesting that all 200 projects [referring to projects listed in NVTA TransAction 2040 Plan] will reduce congestion. He indicated that he will do his best to convince fellow members to include more projects.

Chairman Zimmerman expressed that this process is slowing down the Authority's ability to invest in critical transportation improvements with the tax revenues it's collecting.

Ms. Fioretti asked Mr. Srikanth if NVTA would be able to evaluate and comment on the model. Mr. Srikanth indicated that the consultant will develop the model and VDOT will make the model available. The basic model to run existing conditions will be available around March 2014. Ms. Fioretti stated that NVTA is working on the Project Description Sheet and it would be helpful to know what VDOT is going to ask the NVTA to provide regarding projects. Mr. Srikanth stated that VDOT will ask for details such as where the projects will start, end, etc.

Staff asked Mr. Srikanth several questions about the model and if it included land use and economic development as a variable. Mr. Srikanth stated that land use and economic development will not be used as a variable in the model.

Chairman Zimmerman added that nothing in the law requires a project selection model nor does the law require VDOT to set up a new model and limit the number of projects that can be rated.

b. Discussion of draft NVTA Six Year Plan (SYP) Calendar

i. Updated VDOT/NVTA critical milestones

Ms. Fioretti indicated that critical milestones had been adjusted in order to coordinate with the CTB and VDOT's Study Process. She also proposed changing the deadline for project submission forms from January 17, 2014 to January 31, 2014. Ms. Fioretti further indicated that the deadline that projects are due to VDOT for the HB599 Study will be after February 13, 2014 and suggested that the authority may need to have a meeting on February 13, 2014. She stated that the tentative date for the roll out of the Six Year Program is March 2014.

ii. Approval of updated draft SYP Calendar

PIWG agreed with and approved the updated draft SYP Calendar as presented by Ms. Fioretti.

B. Coordination with TAC and PCAC

Mr. John Mason shared that he had hoped to have a joint meeting with the TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) and the PCAC (Planning Coordination Advisory Committee), however, there is not enough clarity regarding the PCAC and its members. Ms. Monica Backmon stated that Chairman Nohe sent letters in June 2013 to the counties, cities and towns, but did not receive responses from everyone. There were questions from Ms. Rishell and others concerning membership on the TAC and PCAC. Ms. Backmon advised that legal will be consulted regarding the TAC and PCAC membership.

V. Other Topics for Discussion

A. Project Submission Forms

Ms. Fioretti presented the Project Description Form and indicated that it is in pdf format. Staff members are asked to submit any comments regarding the form to Ms. Fioretti. Bob Brown volunteered to modify the NVTA Project Description Form into an excel spreadsheet.

Mr. Mason asked if the project description form could be simplified to incorporate VDOT's 599 Study process. Mr. Canizales stated that there should be a form for every individual project submission. Ms. Fioretti suggested that PIWG discuss the packaging of projects at a future meeting. Mr. Canizales reminded the group that the packaging of projects is different from what the NVTA is going to fund.

Ms. Fioretti stated that she would send out an email detailing the Instructions for the NVTA Call for Projects and the deadline for project submission.

VI. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

VII. Items to Refer to Other Working Groups

No items were referred to other working groups.

VII. Next Meeting

Ms. Fioretti suggested that we schedule another meeting in early January 2014.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.