

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Technical Advisory Committee

February 19, 2014 at 7pm

NVTA Office – 3050 Williams Drive (Suite 510)

SUMMARY NOTES

I. Call to Order/Welcome

Chair Boice

- Chair Boice called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.
- Attendees:
 - ✓ Members: Chair Boice; Doug Fahl (arrived 7:22pm); Meredith Judy (arrived 7:06pm); Chris Tacinelli; Pat Turner; Shangjiang Zhu.
 - ✓ Staff: John Mason (NVTA); Kanti Srikanth (VDOT); Rick Canizales (PIWG); Camela Speer (NVTA).
 - ✓ Visitors: Charles McAndrew; Bob Moore; Valerie Pardo; David Roden; Rob Whitfield.

II. Minutes of the January 15, 2014 Meeting

- Ms. Turner moved to approve the minutes of January 15, 2014; seconded by Mr. Zhu. Motion carried with three (3) yeas [with Mr. Tacinelli abstaining as he was not at the January meeting].

III. Election of Chair for CY2014

- Mr. Tacinelli moved to nominate Mr. Boice as Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee; seconded by Ms. Turner. Motion passed with three (3) yeas [with Mr. Boice abstaining].

IV. Proposed Project Evaluation MOEs and Rating Framework

Kanti Srikanth, VDOT

(Ms. Judy arrived.)

- Mr. Srikanth and Mr. Roden presented the VDOT Proposed Project Evaluation MOEs and Rating Framework that is being used to rate projects to develop the Six-Year Plan.
- Mr. Zhu asked for clarification of congestion relief. Mr. Srikanth responded that VDOT will be looking at the impact on a system wide basis.

(Mr. Fahl arrived.)

- Mr. Tacinelli asked for clarification of the number of projects that can be evaluated. Mr. Srikanth clarified that more than 40 projects might be submitted to VDOT, but only 40 would be evaluated.

- Mr. Tacinelli asked if the first test is pass/fail. Mr. Srikanth responded that one test is pass/fail, one is quantitative.
- Mr. Fahl asked where the number 40 came from. Mr. Srikanth responded that this is the number VDOT has determined they can afford to do.
- Ms. Turner asked who is paying for the study. Mr. Srikanth responded that VDOT is.
- Mr. Srikanth clarified that the law does not limit projects to coming from any one source.
- Mr. Zhu asked if the law defines “project”. Mr. Srikanth answered no; submissions can be a single project or a package of projects that combine as one multimodal project.
- Ms. Turner asked if an entire corridor can be considered one project. Mr. Srikanth replied yes.
- Mr. Zhu asked if study is this limited to infrastructure projects. Mr. Srikanth answered that this is a transportation initiative, so some transit can be considered. For example, new busses to start a new route could be considered. Old busses to replace busses, probably not.
- Mr. Fahl asked if VDOT is only rating projects that are considered regional. Mr. Srikanth responded that a project must be regional and significant.
- Mr. Roden clarified that technology projects can be considered as well.
- Mr. Zhu asked for clarification of connections in system. Mr. Srikanth answered that there can be many situations that connector roads can be considered significant.
- Mr. Tacinelli suggested the high volume corridor definition is open to interpretation. Mr. Srikanth responded that high volume means high person trips/high volume. Many people traveling in a corridor.
- Mr. Fahl asked how the corridors are defined. Mr. Srikanth responded that it depends on the corridor that the project is on.
- Mr. Fahl suggested that putting an emphasis on emergency mobility is political. Suggested that traffic management techniques be used on I-66 to allow all 6 lanes to be used in one direction.
- Mr. Fahl asked if anyone considered inviting the TAC to sit in on these discussions sooner. Mr. Mason explained that this process was done at an expedited pace and committed to making TAC involved at the right place in the process in the future.
- Mr. Mason clarified that while there are many steps to this approval process, NVTA will still make the final decision as to what NVTA projects get funded with the 70% funds.
- Mr. Tacinelli asked if this is just a briefing; TAC is not being asked for action. Mr. Mason replied that TAC could comment on the process to the NVTA.
- Mr. Zhu asked if the weights for the projects were decided by the stakeholders. Mr. Srikanth responded that a process was used that weighted the input from each stakeholder based on population or ridership. Mr. Roden clarified that it is a blended rating.
- Mr. Zhu asked if projects will be evaluated at a system wide level. Mr. Srikanth clarified that it will be evaluated at a system wide level in Northern Virginia.

- Mr. Tacinelli asked how the 100 score was determined. Mr. Srikanth answered that 100 reduces the most congestion, 0 is no change in congestion.
- Ms. Judy asked for clarification that the projects are scaled against each other, what happens when new projects are added. Mr. Srikanth explained that each rating cycle will be rated against just those projects, ratings will not be redone on already rated projects.
- Mr. Zhu asked if peer review had been done yet. Mr. Srikanth answered that the peer review was done before the stakeholders' review.
- Mr. Srikanth clarified that once the projects are proposed, VDOT will be meeting informally with the peer review group to be sure this is the best method. Mr. Zhu asked if there will be a report from this. Mr. Srikanth replied yes.
- Mr. Srikanth agreed to send website links for VDOT reports to Chair Boice. [Note: Information was provided to TAC members on February 20.]
- Mr. Roden suggested TAC members could be invited to the peer review meeting.
- Mr. Fahl suggested that in 2040 Northern Virginia will not be Northern Virginia as we know it. Outlying suburbs will grow and will have an ever increasing impact on Northern Virginia, as well as creating new external travel through the Northern Virginia region. He expressed concern that the study is not addressing this future increase. Suggested that as we move forward, we map projects so that there can be a better focus on a network. Mr. Roden explained that the study is dealing with the whole COG region, so all through trips will be in this model. However, VDOT will only quantify the impacts inside Northern Virginia.
- Chair Boice asked if NVTA is considering doing what VDOT is doing in considering a larger region. Mr. Srikanth responded that the NVTA is constrained by its mandate as to what projects it can propose and fund. CTB is also proposing projects and are not constrained by the same mandate. Mr. Canizales clarified that VDOT and CTB can look at expanding the region, but NVTA cannot based on the legislation.
- Ms. Turner asked if NVTA will be choosing which projects get funded weighed against their costs. Mr. Mason replied that VDOT will evaluate the projects, then the NVTA will determine what projects are funded. Noted that each of the nine jurisdictions must receive proportionate "benefit" for their contribution in the near future. Mr. Mason commented that definition of "benefit" has not yet been agreed.
- Mr. Mason commented that there is a need to consider a different approach to thinking on a more strategic level. Current process is a "call-for-projects" based approach. Projects lists are generated by the jurisdictions. Suggested that the next plan should take the approach as to what the regional perspective is and what projects support that. Need new methodology as to how project lists are determined.
- Mr. Tacinelli suggested that VDOT could create a report on what was learned from this study and may propose some areas that need help and evaluation in the future. Mr. Mason replied that NVTA is very interested in "lessons learned" from this process.
- Chair Boice suggested that the lessons learned could come to TAC and TAC could be the voice to suggest future improvements to NVTA.

V. Proposed Nominations for VDOT Evaluation and Rating Study

Ric Canizales, PIWG

- Mr. Canizales presented the proposed project nominations from PIWG to the NVTA for the VDOT Evaluation and Rating Study. He highlighted:
 - ✓ Unlike the VDOT study, this is the very beginning of developing the next Six-Year Plan.
 - ✓ This list is only for projects to go to the VDOT study to get evaluated.
 - ✓ PIWG is recommending that transit projects not be included in the VDOT study. Mr. Tacinelli asked why. Mr. Canizales responded that the legislation did not call for it, so transit agencies decided not to put their projects into this first step, since it was not necessary. Mr. Mason clarified that in general transit increases capacity, so does not need to be debated. Also, when this project started, there was concern that there would be more than 40 projects without transit. Mr. Tacinelli suggested that some transit projects should be included to help with lessons learned.
 - ✓ There are 32 projects in the transportation list.
 - ✓ NVTA did a call for projects from jurisdictions and transit agencies. Since this is only a 2 ½ year plan, only projects that could be funded were proposed at this time.
 - ✓ Summarized that in the 2 ½ year period there are currently \$4.3 million in project funding. There is approximately \$800 million in projects to be funded. Chair Boice noted that all projects have been on lists for a while. Mr. Canizales responded yes, and most have been through CLRP.
 - ✓ Project list does include studies as well. Alignments will be presented with studies for VDOT review.
 - ✓ Mr. Fahl noted that the Bi-County Parkway is not on the list.
 - ✓ There is a timeline challenge to create a Six-Year Plan since the VDOT report will not come in until December. Mr. Mason suggested as this process moves along TAC should weigh in as to what projects should be funded.
- Mr. Tacinelli asked if transit projects will not get any attention until December. Mr. Mason suggested that TAC can make a recommendation to NVTA about this for meeting tomorrow evening.
- Ms. Judy asked what the process will be to determine project funding after the VDOT study is done. Mr. Canizales answered that there is a previous project rating system that PIWG and NVTA can use to create the final list. Ms. Judy asked if transit projects will be hurt by not going through VDOT rating process. Mr. Canizales answered he does not believe so. Transit projects will be evaluated in the second round.
- Mr. Boice asked how transit would be evaluated against roads in the VDOT evaluation. Mr. Roden responded the same as roads. Mr. Boice suggested that in order to have a balanced approach to choosing projects, the transit projects need to be in the VDOT study.
- Mr. Tacinelli asked for clarification for 70% versus 30% funding. Mr. Canizales stated that if a project does not get chosen for the 70% funding, a jurisdiction can choose to use its 30% funding.

- Mr. Fahl suggested taking the 2040 plan and submitting it to VDOT as an entire project for evaluation. Chair Boice responded that this is the beginning of the process.
- Mr. Fahl asked what the realistic chance is that all the projects in the 2020 CLRP will be funded. Mr. Srikanth responded that the last time this was analyzed in 2010, revenues showed that all projects could be funded. New study is being done now to determine where funding projections are now.
- Discussion followed to clarify projects in CLRP versus NVTA funding and where some specific projects are, since they are not in the current list to go to VDOT.

VI. Committee Comments on Proposed Nominations

Chair Boice

- Mr. Mason asked if there was consensus to suggest to the NVTA that the transit projects be included in the list of potential projects for VDOT to assess in first step.
- Mr. Zhu asked for clarification of what influence the rating study will have on project selection for funding. Mr. Mason responded that it is a set of scores that will be produced by VDOT, but NVTA will make the final decision and the VDOT study will be used as information.
- Mr. Fahl asked why only 33 projects were proposed, instead of including 40. Mr. Canizales answered that these are the only projects that were proposed by the jurisdictions.
- Ms. Judy suggested that TAC is not happy with the process and NVTA should consider this going forward.
- Mr. Tacinelli suggested that a transit project should be included in the VDOT study and invited discussion about how many and what projects should be included. Mr. Boice suggested nominated projects should be those that are in the CLRP and Transaction 2040. It was also suggested that they should reduce congestion. Mr. Srikanth added that in order to propose a project the transit agency must also project how the project will reduce congestion.
- Discussion followed regarding how many and which transit projects to recommend to VDOT for the study.
- Mr. Mason suggested that the TAC suggest to NVTA that transit projects be included in the VDOT list and not take on which projects.

There was consensus to recommend to NVTA to add transit projects to the VDOT nomination list.

VII. Potential Topic(s) for Committee Focus

All

Discussion suggests that potential topics might include how to define “benefits” or, perhaps, how to look at planning from a more regional perspective.

VIII. Closing Comments

Chair Boice

- Meeting adjourned at 9:48pm.