



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (NVTA) ANNOUNCES PROPOSED INITIAL PROJECT LIST

*FIRST LIST OF PROJECTS ARE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE SOME
IMMEDIATE RELIEF AND ARE READY TO GO*

NORTHERN VIRGINIA – The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) announces a recommended list of projects for the initial Authority bond issuance. On July 12, 2007, if the Authority chooses to adopt the taxes and fees authorized by the General Assembly in HB3202, the Transportation Funding Bill, then they will also be asked to approve this first list of projects. The project list is designed to provide rapid, noticeable project implementation to address some of the region's transportation problems.

The Transportation Funding Bill (HB3202), which will go into effect July 1, 2007, allows the Authority to adopt seven taxes and fees which will yield approximately \$300 million annually, all of which are dedicated to transportation needs in Northern Virginia.

The Authority is releasing the proposed project list well in advance of the July 12, 2007 Public Hearing to allow for public review and comment. The \$102 million initial list of projects is limited in scope and comprised primarily of projects that have been significantly developed, rather than new projects. Taken as a whole this list is:

- A balance of transit, multi-modal, and roadway projects; and
- Regionally distributed, recognizing that HB 3202 requires that,

- *“each locality’s total long-term benefits being approximately equal to the total of the fees and taxes received by the Authority that are generated by or attributable to the locality divided by the total of such fees and taxes received by the Authority.”*

This initial project list will also provide a vehicle through which the Authority can proceed with a bond validation suit. The bond validation suit will consolidate potential court challenges to the revenue sources provided to the Authority as part of HB 3202. If a definitive court ruling is received by early 2008, then the implementation of many of the projects may proceed as early as Spring, 2008.

Initial Project List Criteria

All of the projects in the initial list meet the following criteria:

- Reduce congestion, improve auto and pedestrian safety and/or improve transit service and capacity.
- Are “ready to go,” with funding being the primary obstacle to moving to the next phase (right of way or construction). Once funding is received, the project will begin the next phase.
- Have at least a 20-year life.
- Are included in the region’s Transportation Improvement Program/Constrained Long Range Plan (TIP/CLRP) or are air-quality neutral.
- Are included in TransAction 2030 Regional Transportation Plan, specifically, or are consistent with the plan.
- Have already completed (or will be complete before the bond issuance), any major regulatory reviews or major public input processes.
- Resources will be available to move the project forward immediately when funding is provided.
- Are all short-term priorities of the jurisdictions; most are projects already partially funded through the Commonwealth’s Six Year Program, or by individual jurisdictions or agencies. The funding from this initial NVTA bond issuance will allow these projects to be fully funded in a shorter time frame than previously anticipated. Most of these projects were included on the list of short-term priorities approved by NVTA on November 10, 2006, prior to the 2007 General Assembly session.

Long-term project review process to be in place by November, 2007

The Authority’s Jurisdiction and Agency Coordinating Committee (JACC) (previously the Interim Technical Committee) will be working to develop a suggested project development process, project prioritization process (using previously adopted criteria) and six year project implementation program for the Authority by November 1, 2007.

This longer term approach to project development will provide a more rigorous framework for selecting future projects for implementation. These project development recommendations will include extensive coordination with other transportation funding agencies, as well as a public input process.

This initial list is just a beginning and contains projects that already have generally been designed, engineered and are simply lacking the funding to proceed. Once completed, these projects will provide short-term relief to area commuters.

Transit Project List

The Crystal City/Potomac Yard Transit improvements project is being jointly developed by Arlington County and the City of Alexandria. The purpose of this project is to provide enhanced transit service in the Crystal City/Potomac Yard area, connecting Alexandria's Braddock Road Metro station to the Pentagon and Pentagon City in Arlington. The service implementation plan envisions bus rapid transit (BRT) service operating in dedicated transit lanes on an alignment that generally follows Route 1 (Jefferson Davis Highway).	Alexandria: \$8,458,820
	Arlington: \$3,000,000
Richmond Highway Public Transportation Initiative – Remaining pedestrian funding	\$10,000,000
Route 15 Park-and-Ride Lot	\$1,000,000
Installation of escalator canopy at Huntington south entrance to provide sheltered customer access to the station.	\$2,000,000
Upgrade of station signage at 20 Virginia Metrorail stations to provide wayfinding signs, illuminated signs and other needed signage.	\$6,100,000
Upgrade of platform at West Falls Church and Vienna stations to improve safety and rehabilitate existing platform	\$3,500,000
VRE Locomotives (Local Match)	\$3,750,000
Total Transit Projects	\$37,808,820

Multi-Modal Project List

Wilson Blvd: Oakland to Randolph Phase II this project includes re-alignment of existing roadway, expanded sidewalks, improved transit stops and shelter, ADA compliancy at each intersection, improved street lighting and pedestrian crossing improvements.	\$2,000,000
Old Dominion Drive Multi-Modal Improvements Phases 2-5 - Construct curb, gutter, sidewalk, bike lanes and bus stop improvements from Glebe Road to the Fairfax County line.	\$1,500,000
Multi-Modal Improvements for the Intersection of Chain Bridge Road (Route 123) and Eaton Place	\$2,500,000
Citywide sidewalk replacement and construction - Falls Church	\$246,000
Additional Turn Lanes & Multi-purpose Trail from Woodlea Drive to Virts Corner	\$1,000,000
Total Multi-modal Projects	\$7,246,000

Roadway Project List

Lee Highway at Harrison - Construction of left-turn lanes both east and westbound Lee Highway, including improvements to the ADA ramps, sidewalks, signal modifications.	\$800,000
Fairfax County Parkway/Fair Lakes/Monument Interchange	\$29,000,000
Pacific Boulevard construction of a new road segment between Auto World Circle and Severn Way along the west side of Route 28 to four lanes divided	\$2,600,000
Complete Battlefield Parkway between Route 7 and Kincaid Boulevard	\$5,000,000
Intersection of VA 606 (Loudoun County Parkway) and VA 621 (Evergreen Mills Road) - Extend left-turn bay on northbound VA 606 (Loudoun County Parkway).	\$230,000
Traffic Calming Village of Aldie for Snickersville Turnpike to New Mountain Road	\$915,180
Maple and Main Intersection Improvements in Purcellville.	\$1,150,000
Route 28 overpass in Manassas.	\$2,000,000
Intersection Improvements on Manassas Drive in Manassas Park.	\$350,000
Prince William Parkway widening (4 to 6 lanes) from Hoadly Road to Old Bridge Road	\$14,900,000
Total Roadway Projects	\$56,945,180

NVTA Who's Who

The voting members of the Authority include:

Hon. Christopher Zimmerman	NVTA Chairman; Arlington County
Hon. Martin Nohe	NVTA Vice Chairman; Prince William County
Hon. Gerry Connolly	Fairfax County
Hon. Scott York	Loudoun County
Hon. William D. Euille	City of Alexandria
Hon. Robert F. Lederer	City of Fairfax
Hon. Robin Gardner	City of Falls Church
Hon. Harry J. "Hal" Parrish, II	City of Manassas
Hon. Bryan Polk	City of Manassas Park
Hon. Jeff Frederick	Virginia House of Delegates
Hon. Vince Callahan	Virginia House of Delegates
Hon. Jeanne-Marie Devolites-Davis	Virginia Senate
Julia A. "Judy" Connally	Governor's Appointee, CTB Member
Margaret Vanderhye	Governor's Appointee

Non-voting members:

Matthew O. Tucker	Director, DRPT
Dennis Morrison	Administrator, Northern District Office, VDOT

For more information, contact the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority by going to www.TheNoVaAuthority.org.

NVTA