



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION WORKING GROUP

Wednesday, December 2, 2015, 9:30 am

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200

Fairfax, Virginia 22031

SUMMARY NOTES

I. Call to Order/Welcome

Chairman Nohe

- Chairman Nohe called the meeting to order at 9:40 am.
- Attendees:
 - **PIWG Members:** Chairman Nohe; Vice Chairman Garczynski, Chairman Bulova (Fairfax County); Chair Hynes (Arlington County); Council Member Rishell (City of Manassas Park); Rick Canizales, James Davenport (Prince William County); Tom Biesiadny, Karyn Moreland, Noelle Dominguez (Fairfax County); Bob Brown (Loudoun County); Andrew D'huyvetter (Arlington County); Jim Maslanka (City of Alexandria); Paul Stoddard (City of Falls Church); Wendy Block Sanford (City of Fairfax); Dana Heiberg (Town of Herndon); Richard West (Dumfries); Helen Cuervo, Maria Sinner (VDOT); Dan Goldfarb (NVTC); Elena Constantine (TPB); Sonali Soneji (VRE); Mark Phillips (WMATA).
 - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Mike Longhi (CFO); Sree Nampoothiri (Program Coordinator), Keith Jasper (Program Coordinator).
 - **Other Staff:** Mark Thomas (Fairfax County), Kimberly Bibbee (Prince William County).
 - **Other:** Nancy Smith (Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance).

II. Meeting Summary of November 6, 2015, Meeting

- The November 6, 2015, PIWG meeting summary will be submitted to PIWG members for their review and approval at the next PIWG meeting.

Action

III. FY2017 Program: Recommended Projects for Evaluation

Mr. Jasper

- Mr. Keith Jasper provided an overview of the FY2017 schedule and summarized the NVTA FY2017 Program list of 25 candidate projects. Broken down by modes, this includes:

- 16 Highway (funding request: \$676,532,000), all of which are continuation projects.
 - 8 Transit (funding request: \$121,732,000), 3 out of five are continuation projects.
 - 1 Bike (funding request: \$2,000,000), which is a new project.
- Mr. Longhi explained to the group that, without the use of financing resources, the estimated available regional revenue for the FY2017 Program is \$230 million. He added that this is the cash balance available for project assignments in Fiscal Year 2017.
 - Mr. Biesiadny recommended adding a project category for “multimodal” since not all projects fall solely under the Highway, Transit, or Bike modalities. Chair Hynes agreed and emphasized the importance of articulating how major road improvements funded by the NVTA provide multiple ways for people to move, including sidewalks and bike paths.
 - In response to questions regarding the I-66/Route 28 Interchange project, Mr. Biesiadny explained that this project adds capacity on Route 28 and, instead of the cloverleaf intersection, ramps will be constructed for SOVs and HOVs so that all movement north and southbound on Route 28 will have access to either the mainline of I-66 or the HOV/HOT lanes. He pointed out that this project benefits commuters from multiple jurisdictions driving northbound on Route 28 and eastbound on I-66.
 - Chairman Nohe added that, regardless of whether the Transform the Beltway Outside I-66 Project moves forward, the I-66/Route 28 Interchange project is necessary in that this is probably the single most bottlenecked interchange in Northern Virginia. Mr. Garczynski concurred and added that including this project demonstrates the region’s commitment to the CTB in funding I-66 improvements.
 - Council Member Rishell questioned whether the inclusion of the I-66/Route 28 Interchange project on the FY2017 Program list would eliminate the need for a resolution (as requested by Secretary Layne), thus establishing the precedent of VDOT coming back again to request NVTA funding. Mr. Biesiadny explained that the NVTA will not adopt the FY2017 Program until July 2016 while the State would like to move forward on the Transform I-66 project as early as January 2016. Ms. Backmon also emphasized this timing issue and informed the group that the State would like to secure/announce the procurement methodology for the Transform I-66 project by the end of this calendar year.
 - Chairman Nohe emphasized the need for the region to form a partnership with the State and to attempt to make decisions together. Mr. Garczynski agreed and added that the State cannot afford a “mega-project” on its own, other components are necessary.
 - Mr. Biesiadny expressed the importance of the I-66/Route 28 Interchange project to the Fairfax County Board of County Supervisors and explained that Fairfax County has asked the CTB for money for this project for several years and would have asked the NVTA for support of this project regardless of the Transform I-66 Project. Because it is a design-build procurement, he explained that the State must identify the full amount of money up-front before the contract is issued.

- Mr. Brown suggested VDOT explain what is specifically needed in the resolution for it to be considered and Ms. Backmon explained she will consult with legal counsel regarding verbiage and what could be included without jeopardizing the process.
- Mr. Jasper requested that the group review the table of projects and bring any issues or concerns to his attention by the end of the week. He added there are no studies on the list and all projects have committed to make the first drawdown by June 30, 2019.
- Mr. Jasper noted that some projects listed are too fine in detail for the TRANSIMS model to identify their effects; thus, VDOT will lead an effort to develop a methodology to enable these projects to be evaluated consistently with other projects.
- Mr. Jasper introduced discussion for projects on the list that could be grouped together. It was suggested that Arlington's East Falls Church Regional Connections and Access Project (#3) and Falls Church's Bikeshare Connections to Orange and Silver Line Metrorail Stations (#18) should be grouped together as a single project submitted by two jurisdictions. Chair Bulova recommended the use of asterisks to indicate companion projects that should be evaluated together.
- Ms. Cuervo also recommended combining projects that could work together (e.g., projects along the Route 1 corridor); she clarified there would be a score for the corridor rather than for individual projects.
- The PIWG unanimously approved a motion to recommend to the Authority the approval of the list of 25 candidate projects for the FY2017 Program, subject to resolution of ongoing clarifications within an acceptable timeframe and that the list be submitted to VDOT for project evaluation and rated as required for HB599 (2012).

Discussion/Information

IV. **FY2017 Program Policies**

Ms. Backmon

First Drawdown

- Ms. Backmon reminded the group that the draft first drawdown policy states the first drawdown of FY2017 Program projects needs to occur by June 30, 2019. This policy will be submitted to the Finance Committee and has been vetted with the Council of Counsels.
- Mr. Canizales questioned whether adding money to a continuation project, such as NVTAs money used for PE or right-of-way, counts as a first drawdown. Ms. Backmon confirmed that it does count and explained the attempt is to avoid projects being prematurely submitted for the FY2017 Program that will not be ready in time for the program and to instead ensure approved projects are advancing forward.

Retroactive Payments

- Mr. Longhi informed the group that July 1, 2013, is the earliest date for which requisitions for reimbursement can be made.
- Mr. Longhi explained to the group that the IRS strongly encourages 85% of bond proceeds to be used by the third year after the issuance of the bond. Thus,

jurisdictions that have bond-funded projects will be contacted to ensure this deadline can be met.

- Mr. Longhi noted that review of the submitted Appendix B updates is ongoing and he added that the first drawdown policy will be reviewed by the Finance Committee on Monday, December 7, 2015.

Adjournment

V. Adjourn

- Chairman Nohe presented to the group new contact cards to hand out to anyone with regional traffic concerns. These cards provide the address for the new website dedicated for the development of TransAction, the region's long range transportation plan: www.nvtatransaction.org.
- Chairman Nohe notified the group that this is the last PIWG meeting since a new formalized committee will be created (including all PIWG members) called the "Planning and Program Committee."
- The meeting adjourned at 10:38 am.