

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**  
**REGIONAL JURISDICTION AND AGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**(TransAction Subcommittee)**

**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR:** Members, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority  
**FROM:** Monica Backmon, Executive Director  
**DATE:** May 9, 2016  
**SUBJECT:** TransAction Update

---

- 1. Purpose.** To provide a status report on the technical and public engagement activities regarding the update to TransAction. While these activities are advancing in parallel, they are closely intertwined.
- 2. Background.** This TransAction update is the first since the implementation of HB 2313 (2013). Per the legislation, the Authority can only fund regional projects that are included in its current long range transportation plan (TransAction 2040) or subsequent updates. TransAction, when adopted, will provide a multi-decadal vision for transportation improvements in Northern Virginia and will guide the development of the Authority's FY2018-23 Six Year Program. On December 10, 2015, the Authority adopted an updated vision for TransAction:

“In the 21st century, Northern Virginia will develop and sustain a multimodal transportation system that enhances quality of life and supports economic growth. Investments in the system will provide effective transportation benefits, promote areas of concentrated growth, manage both demand and capacity, and employ the best technology, joining rail, roadway, bus, air, water, pedestrian, and bicycle facilities into an interconnected network that is fiscally sustainable.”

The TransAction Subcommittee continues to provide valuable inputs to the development process.

- 3. Technical Activities.** Major accomplishments to date include foundational research on transportation planning best practices and trends that may affect future travel patterns. This research is supporting the development of the detailed technical approach.

Currently, two related efforts are underway: identification of future regional transportation

needs and development of a database of candidate regional projects that may address these needs. This update will evaluate the extent to which different ‘packages’ of projects address regional transportation needs in corridors or corridor segments. This approach will explore ways in which candidate standalone projects (ranging in scale from small to large) can be combined into multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional packages that support the adopted TransAction vision.

To enhance the robustness of this approach, alternative future scenarios are being developed to reflect a significant evolution in transportation technologies, significant changes in trip making behavior, and land use changes. Scenarios reflect possible alternate futures, but are neither predictions nor preferences for how the future may look. Up to three scenarios will be used. Scenarios currently under consideration Project packages will be evaluated using each of these scenarios, together with a base scenario reflecting the D.C. region’s travel demand model forecasts for 2040. Project packages that perform well under multiple scenarios may be considered more robust.

Finalization of current technical activities, and development of TransAction objectives and associated performance measures, is expected to conclude by early summer 2016. In the event that candidate regional projects and packages do not sufficiently address regional transportation needs, additional projects and packages will be identified during summer 2016 using a ‘top-down’ approach.

The Authority’s consultant team is currently working with Transportation Planning Board staff to incorporate the latest Round 9.0 employment, land use, and population forecasts into the TransAction update.

4. **Public Engagement Activities.** Major accomplishments to date include the Benchmark Survey, launch activities (website/social media, overview video, jurisdictional briefings), meetings with stakeholder groups, regular eBlast communications, ongoing support for jurisdictional news announcements, and media releases. The TransAction website ([www.NVTATransAction.org](http://www.NVTATransAction.org)) provides multiple opportunities for Northern Virginians to participate in the TransAction development process, such as describing transportation problems/suggesting possible solutions, participation in polls, and signing up for future information.

Currently, the first round of TransAction public engagement activities is underway, comprising five workshops and ten pop up events across Northern Virginia. To date, one workshop (City of Alexandria, in Spanish) and two pop up events (Springfest, Lorton and Tyson Plaza) have been completed. An additional two workshops and four pop up events are scheduled later in May, with the remainder scheduled in June.

This approach has already provided an opportunity for hundreds of Northern Virginians to engage with Authority and jurisdictional staff, and the TransAction consultant team on a one-on-one basis. In conjunction with ‘virtual’ engagement through the TransAction

website, this approach is providing important information for the TransAction development process.

The purpose of this first round of public engagement is to inform residents, business, and visitors about TransAction, to understand their travel patterns, and to seek their inputs (through a series of interactive activities) regarding travel in Northern Virginia. This feedback ties into current technical activities (described above) related to the identification/validation of regional transportation needs and scenario analysis.

The second round of public engagement will take place during fall 2016, with a focus on understanding prioritization factors. This will support technical activities scheduled during late fall 2016 and winter 2016/17. The Benchmark Survey will be repeated with a Tracking Survey towards the end of 2016, in part to assess how public perceptions about transportation in the region have changed over the previous year.

5. **Status.** The TransAction update remains on schedule for the release of a draft plan in spring 2017 and plan adoption in fall 2017.
6. **Next Steps.** Additional project status updates will be provided to the Authority throughout 2016 and 2017.