



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Monday, May 4, 2016, 10:00 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 10:10 am.
- Attendees:
 - **PPC Members:** Chairman Nohe; Chairman Bulova (Fairfax County); Board Member Fisette (Arlington County); Chair Randall (Loudoun County); Council Member Rishell (City of Manassas Park).
 - **Authority Members and other Elected Officials:** Helen Cuervo (VDOT); Karen Oliver (City of Falls Church).
 - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Mike Longhi (CFO); Keith Jasper (Program Coordinator); Sree Nampoothiri (Program Coordinator).
 - **Staff:** James Davenport (Prince William County); Tom Biesiadny, Noelle Dominguez, Michael Guarino (Fairfax County); Bob Brown (Loudoun County); Sarah Crawford (Arlington County); Pierre Holloman (City of Alexandria); Paul Stoddard (City of Falls Church); Wendy Sanford (City of Fairfax); Patrick Moore (City of Manassas); Mark Duceman (Town of Herndon); Calvin Grow (Town of Leesburg); Maria Sinner, Valerie Pardo (VDOT); Todd Horsley (DRPT); Dan Goldfarb (NVTC); Sonali Soneji (VRE); Mark Phillips (WMATA).
 - **Other:** Stewart Schwartz, Richard Price (Coalition for Smarter Growth); Bob Chase, David Birtwistle (Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance); Regina Herr (Whitman, Requardt & Associates).

Discussion/Information

II. Presentation of Draft NVTA Quantitative Scores, Congestion Reduction Relative to Cost Ratios, and Qualitative Considerations

Mr. Jasper

- Mr. Jasper presented an overview of the list of 24 candidate projects for consideration in the FY 2017 Program, evaluation methodology, NVTA quantitative scores,

congestion reduction relative to cost (CRRC) ratios, some of the qualitative considerations, and a list of NVTA staff recommended projects.

- Mr. Jasper affirmed to Board Member Fisette and Chair Randall that the full project list will be presented to the public. Chairman Nohe noted that releasing the entire list of 24 projects is important as it allows the public to make a case for or against any project though the Authority may not be able to fund all.
- In response to Council Member Rishell and Chair Randall, Ms. Backmon mentioned that the public comment process may not result in any changes to quantitative scores.
- Board Member Fisette clarified that the objective part of the evaluation (scores) may not change due to public comments but the subjective part (qualitative considerations) may influence the decision.
- Chairman Bulova and Chairman Nohe added that changes in qualitative considerations were made in the past based on public comments but any decisions the Authority make should be based on sound rationale.
- Ms. Backmon mentioned that a summary of public comments will be provided to the Committee at its June 28th meeting.
- In response to Mr. Brown (Loudoun County staff), Ms. Backmon affirmed that the current recommendations are from the NVTA staff and overall recommendations going to the public will be based on the Authority decision at its May 12 meeting.
- Chairman Bulova and Council Member Rishell indicated that it is premature to put out a recommended list prior to hearing from the public.
- Chair Randall noted that the evaluation methodology and staff recommendations are strong.
- Chairman Nohe suggested that the wording “de-selected” in the methodology for developing the recommended list may be confusing. He added that the law asks the Authority to give priority to the projects that have the greatest level of congestion reduction relative to cost but leaves room for other measures to be considered.
- Chairman Nohe noted that availability of funds is also a factor to be considered. He added that looking at the current phases of some candidate projects (e.g. design), it is possible that some projects may not need the funding they are asking for (e.g. construction) immediately and therefore, may be able to wait until the next funding program cycle, i.e. the Six Year Program.
- In response to Chairman Nohe’s suggestion of recommending the full project list to the Authority with the acknowledgement of staff recommendation, Council Member Rishell suggested calling it a ‘preferred’ list.
- Mr. Brown suggested dividing the whole list into high, medium, and low levels of ranking/preference. Chairman Nohe noted that the Committee is not yet ready to do that.
- Mr. Biesiadny (Fairfax County) noted that the staff recommendation as an attachment to the full list would be good to show prioritization to the public.
- In response to Mr. Phillips (WMATA staff), Chairman Nohe suggested that opening up all the project scores for revisions may not be ideal at this point.

- Council Member Oliver affirmed the City’s commitment to the Falls Church project and requested the opportunity to demonstrate the same before final decisions are made. Chairman Nohe suggested everyone should consider presenting any new information to NVTA staff by May 6th.
- In response to Board Member Fisette’s point about WMATA providing additional information regarding cost of acquiring trains, Mr. Jasper mentioned that the WMATA project is now included in the recommended list based on this new information.
- Council Member Rishell requested the staff to provide some analysis of the breakdown between auto and transit projects. Ms. Backmon noted that some projects are truly multimodal and may not be able to divide transit components for such projects.
- In response to Board Member Fisette, Mr. Longhi mentioned that if the Authority decides to approve project funding in excess of \$267 million, the NVTA will need to enter the bond market. The evaluation previously presented by PFM, the Authority’s financial advisors, showed that the Authority has the capacity to do so at \$300 million level. He noted that this will reduce the available PayGo revenues in future years.

III. Approach to Public Comment

Ms. Backmon

- Ms. Backmon noted that the Authority at its May 12th meeting is expected to release the list of candidate projects for public comment, followed by a Public Hearing at the Authority meeting on June 9th. The public comment period ends at 5:00 pm on June 17th. She mentioned that a summary of public comments will be provided to the committee and the Authority.

IV. NVTA Update

Ms. Backmon

- Ms. Backmon reminded the committee that the Authority meeting is on May 12th at 7:00 pm and the action item is the approval of the release of the draft FY2017 Program for public comment.

Action

V. Meeting Summary Notes of April 18, 2016, PPC Meeting

- The April 18, 2016 Planning and Programming Committee meeting summary was unanimously approved.

VI. Project List for Public Comment

- The motion, moved by Ms. Bulova and seconded by Mr. Fisette, to recommend the Authority authorize the FY2017 Program Project List (including all 24 candidate projects) for Public Comment, was unanimously approved.

- NVTA staff was directed to develop a revised list of recommended projects as an attachment to the Authority.

Adjournment

VII. Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.