



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING COORDINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 28, 2016, 6:30 pm
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200
Fairfax, Virginia 22031

SUMMARY NOTES

I. Call to Order/Welcome Chairman Foreman

- Chairman Foreman called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.
- Attendees:
 - **PCAC Members:** Chairman Foreman (Town of Dumfries); Chair Libby Garvey (Arlington County); Supervisor Ralph Buona (Loudoun County); Supervisor John Foust (Fairfax County); Council Member Phil Duncan (City of Falls Church); Council Member David Kirby (Town of Herndon); Council Member Linda Colbert (Town of Vienna).
 - **Authority Member:** Ms. Mary Hynes (Commonwealth Transportation Board).
 - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Mike Longhi (CFO); Keith Jasper (Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming).
 - **Other:** Noelle Dominguez (Fairfax County); Mark Duceman (Town of Herndon).

Action

II. Meeting Summary Notes of June 22, 2016, PCAC Meeting

- The June 22, 2016 Planning Coordination Advisory Committee meeting summary was unanimously approved, with abstentions from members not present.

Discussion/Information

III. Development of NVTA's 2017 Legislative Program Chairman Hynes

- Ms. Backmon introduced Ms. Hynes, Chairman of the Governance and Personnel Committee. Ms. Hynes outlined the approach to developing the Authority's 2017 Legislative Program, starting with a review of the Authority's 2016 Legislative Program. The Governance and Personnel Committee will consider formal comments

at its November meeting, with formal adoption by the Authority scheduled for its meeting in December 2016. NVTA intends to hire a firm to support these efforts.

- Ms. Hynes referred to the Authority's 2016 Legislative Program, which will be reviewed and updated over the next couple of months. She encouraged Committee members to provide inputs at this and subsequent meetings. The next meeting of the Governance and Personnel Committee is scheduled for October 13, 2016, prior to the Authority meeting later that evening.
- Two primary concerns were expressed by Committee members. Supervisor Buona described the impact on transit providers of the absence of a 'floor' on the gas tax. While the recent steep decline in the price of oil has resulted in lower fuel costs for transit agencies, this has been more than offset by the decline in tax revenues derived from the sale of gasoline. For Loudoun County this is presenting challenges in anticipation of future payments to WMATA when Phase 2 of the Silver Line opens.
- Ms. Backmon noted that NVTA's revenues are not based on the gas tax, so the Authority is not directly affected by this issue. However, this is a problem for transit agencies. Ms. Hynes considered that funding for WMATA will also be a focus.
- The second primary concern is the impact of recent legislation on the ability of local jurisdictions to apply revenues from development proffers to related transportation infrastructure improvements. Supervisor Buona considered that this will increase competition for regional revenues in the future if not addressed. He highlighted the recent example of a \$40 million interchange improvement funded entirely by proffers. This is no longer possible, and suggested that the impact on transportation of the new proffer legislation should be reviewed.
- Council Member Kirby stated that consideration should be given to continuation funding for legacy projects, perhaps based on number of years and percent complete. This relates to Smart Scale and the Authority's project selection processes. Mayor Foreman added that Towns need some additional consideration with respect to these types of rating system, as they have a lower capacity to match NVTA's regional revenues with local funds. More generally, there is a concern that delays in advancing projects may lead to increases in engineering costs.
- Ms. Backmon noted that after the TransAction plan is adopted, the Authority will develop a Six Year Program that will provide a greater opportunity to bring projects to conclusion versus the one and two year programs that the Authority has adopted to date. The Authority's process does not allow for smaller jurisdictions or agencies to be given an advantage due to their size, nor can the Authority set aside funding for smaller entities as projects must be funded on their merits.
- With respect to the Town of Herndon's East Elden Street project, Supervisor Foust noted that Fairfax County is working with the Town to address a funding gap using 30 percent revenues.

IV. NVTA Update

Ms. Backmon

- Ms. Backmon mentioned the recent groundbreaking for the West Ox Bus Garage project in Fairfax County and the Belmont Ridge Road project in Loudoun County.
- Ms. Backmon then introduced Mr. Longhi, the Authority's Chief Financial Officer, who made a brief presentation covering topics raised at a previous Committee meeting.
- In response to a question from Supervisor Buona, Mr. Longhi stated that the Authority has no policy regarding the relative use of PayGo versus debt financing.
- In response to a question from Supervisor Foust, Mr. Longhi stated that the Authority is totally dependent on an external auditor to audit the Authority's finances.
- In response to a question by Chair Garvey, Mr. Longhi noted that the Authority's cash balance is held in the Commonwealth's Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP), in the Authority's name. Mr. Longhi added that the Authority recently hired an investment/debt manager to enable a more proactive approach to investments.
- In response to questions from Supervisors Buona and Foust, Mr. Longhi noted that the Authority's financial advisors have provided guidelines on debt ratios that are consistent with the Authority's desired bond ratings.

V. Development of FY2018-23 Six Year Program Mr. Jasper

- Mr. Jasper made a presentation regarding the development of the Authority's FY2017-23 Six Year Program. While the adoption of the Program will not occur until some months after the adoption of TransAction in fall 2017, NVTA staff is seeking a broad range of inputs on the Six Year Program framework. It is envisioned that this framework will be approved by the Authority at its February 2017 meeting.

VI. TransAction Update – Performance Measures Mr. Jasper

- At the request of Chair Garvey, Mr. Jasper provided an overview of how performance measures will be used during the TransAction update. A handout was provided listing candidate measures related to each of the three goals that had been previously adopted by the Authority. Mr. Jasper also asked each Committee member to consider responses to each of the three questions related to the handout on performance measures.
- Mayor Foreman indicated that this will be the primary agenda item for the October 26 meeting. This will be an action item.

Adjournment

VII. Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.