



Approved October 4, 2017

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
Friday, September 8, 2017, 10:00am

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200
Fairfax, Virginia 22031

MEETING SUMMARY

I. Call to Order/Welcome Chairman Nohe

- Chairman Nohe called the meeting to order at 10:07am.
- Attendees:
 - **PPC Members:** Chairman Nohe (Prince William County); Chairman Bulova (Fairfax County); Chair Randall (arrived 10:20am) (Loudoun County); Chair Fisette (Arlington County); Mayor Rishell (City of Manassas Park).
 - **Authority Members and other Elected Officials:** Mayor Parrish (City of Manassas).
 - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Keith Jasper (Principal); Carl Hampton (Investment & Debt Manager); Michael Longhi (CFO); Peggy Teal (Assistant Finance Officer); Harun Rashid (Transportation Planner); Sarah Camille Hipp (Communications & Public Affairs Manager); Camela Speer (Clerk).
 - **Staff:** Sarah Crawford (Arlington County); Kristin Calkins, Karyn Moreland (Fairfax County); Ric Canizales, Brittany Martin (Prince William County); Wendy Sanford (City of Fairfax); Maria Sinner (VDOT); Todd Horsley, Ciara Williams (DRPT); Dan Goldfarb (NVTC).

Action

II. Approve Summary Notes of July 7, 2017 PPC Meeting

- Mayor Rishell moved approval of the July 7, 2017 meeting summary; seconded by Chairman Bulova. Motion carried unanimously, with abstentions from those not present at the July meeting.

Discussion/Information

III. Summary of TransAction Comments

Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

- Ms. Backmon stated the TransAction Update process is nearing its conclusion. She reviewed the various public engagement and public comment opportunities in the TransAction process to this point.
- Mr. Jasper stated the Authority received 663 public comments and added that they will be available on the TransAction website. He noted the importance of public comment in shaping the Draft TransAction Plan.
- Mr. Jasper summarized the highlights of the public comments for the Committee. He stated the bulk of the public comments on the Draft Plan were related to three candidate highway projects, which received strong opposition, with limited support:
 - ✓ Bi-County Parkway (ID# 226), between western Prince William County and eastern Loudoun County;
 - ✓ Outer Potomac River Crossing (ID# 24) between eastern Loudoun County and Maryland;
 - ✓ East Potomac River Crossing (ID# 87) between southern Prince William County and Maryland.
- Mr. Jasper summarized the remaining public comments received.
 - ✓ There were 16 general comments on the process used in the development of the Draft TransAction Plan. These comments generally expressed appreciation for the performance-based approach and the detailed planning followed in the process, while some expressed concern regarding the lack of details provided for the proposed projects and that the Draft Plan may not reach linguistic minorities. In response to these comments, NVTA staff is working to provide the final Draft Plan in multiple language translations. Following a brief discussion, there was consensus from the Committee that providing the document in English and Spanish would be acceptable.
 - ✓ Additional Draft Plan comments expressed concern regarding the density of the Draft Plan document. NVTA staff plans to address this in the final Draft Plan.
 - ✓ A third category of comments expressed concern that while many of the road projects may have multimodal components, the focus of the Draft Plan leans more toward roadway solutions. A segment of these comments also supported the Hillsboro traffic calming project. It was noted that this project is included in the Draft Plan.
 - ✓ There were additional project specific comments, but only a few per project and they expressed mixed support and opposition.
 - ✓ Generally, comments received regarding transit were supportive, recognizing and appreciating that transit projects were included in the Draft Plan.
 - ✓ There were 225 comments on bike-pedestrian projects, expressing wide support.

- ✓ A few comments supported Travel Demand Management programs, such as telecommuting and carpools.
- ✓ Additional comments expressed the need for more safety improvements.
- ✓ There were 12 comments regarding the ongoing Route 28 Study and these comments will be shared with and addressed through the study team.
- ✓ Other comments received were very general in nature and have been acknowledged.

(Chair Randall arrived.)

- Mr. Jasper stated that in addition to reviewing and analyzing the public comments received, the Draft Project List is also under review. He noted that a few project additions and clarifications had been requested and were being reviewed, including:
 - ✓ The Town of Herndon requested two additional projects be added. The projects were included in the original TransAction analysis, but were not included in the final project list. In response to Chairman Nohe's question, Mr. Jasper stated that the TransAction process was both top down and bottom up. While these two projects were part of the initial process, the list was then narrowed to projects that made the most impact, causing several projects to be dropped from the list prior to additional model runs.
 - ✓ Some jurisdictions have made additional requests to clarify the wording of various project descriptions.
 - ✓ In addition, the TransAction consultant has suggested some changes arising from consistency corrections. These will be addressed in final Draft List.
 - ✓ Some project duplications have been found and will be removed.
 - ✓ None of the requested changes have any meaningful impact on the technical analysis of the Draft Plan.
- Mr. Jasper concluded that the update to TransAction satisfies the legal threshold of HB 2313, and that TransAction does not commit the Authority to fund any of these projects. Mr. Jasper stated that NVTA staff recommends the inclusion of all projects in the Draft Plan. Mr. Jasper explained that TransAction has a 2040 horizon and that if only current fully funded projects are built, travel conditions are forecast to considerably worsen by 2040. He added that Northern Virginians consider the region's travel conditions to be the greatest factor influencing their quality of life. Mr. Jasper stated that the inclusion of all projects in TransAction provides the Authority with funding options until the next update in five years. He added that the Draft Plan intentionally includes more projects than can be funded, as TransAction is fiscally unconstrained.
- Mr. Jasper reviewed the Authority's process for approving projects for funding. He noted that the Six Year Program would be updated every two years. Ms. Backmon added that this timing has been established to synchronize with the Commonwealth's Smart Scale funding cycle.
- Ms. Backmon reviewed the application process for the Six Year Program.

- Chair Fisette recommended the NVTa explore all opportunities to further enhance coordination with the Transportation Planning Board (TPB). Ms. Backmon acknowledged this and responded that she coordinates regularly with Mr. Srikanth and the TPB.
- Ms. Sinner asked if a new model run would be required if a significant project were to be removed from or added to the Plan. Ms. Backmon responded yes.. Chairman Nohe added that if a significant project was removed from TransAction, a new model run would be required, adding that there would need to be a threshold as to what would require this.
- Chairman Nohe stated that the project description included in the Draft Plan for the Bi-County Parkway is inaccurate, adding that the definition of the project has been broadened. Mr. Jasper responded that there has been a request from Prince William County staff to review what was in the model run with regard to this project. He added that the project was correctly modeled and the description in the project list needs to be reviewed to ensure consistency with what was modeled. Ms. Backmon stated this would be handled as part of the “clean up” of the Draft List. Chair Randall noted that this project is also in Loudoun’s Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Jasper responded that Loudoun County staff would be included in the verbiage discussion.
- Chairman Nohe noted that the VRE Broad Run Station expansion is in the Draft Plan and is now likely to be advanced more quickly as a result of the I-66 Outside the Beltway Concessionaire Payment. He stated that the implementation of this project will likely require additional roadway work to support the project. He asked NVTa staff to review and consider whether the project description can be changed to include access improvements. It was suggested this change not name specific roads, but just note access improvements. Ms. Backmon supported this suggestion and confirmed that NVTa staff will review this request.
- Chair Fisette suggested this approach could apply to other VRE Manassas Line stations as well.
- Mayor Parrish asked for clarity regarding the project description for the Bi-County Parkway and whether this may affect the requirement to eliminate the Route 29/Sudley Road intersection. Chairman Nohe responded that the original definition of the Bi-County Parkway in the Corridor of Statewide Significance simply defines a two-mile stretch of land through which a future road might go.

IV. NVTa Update

Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

- Ms. Backmon stated that the next Authority meeting will be Thursday, September 14, 2017. She informed the Committee that the meeting would include a recommendation on draft comments regarding the proposed Smart Scale modifications and an overview of the Authority’s draft Strategic Plan.

Adjournment

V. Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 11:07am.