



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING COORDINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 6:30 pm

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200

Fairfax, Virginia 22031.

SUMMARY NOTES

I. Call to Order/Welcome

Chairman Buona

- Chairman Buona called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm.
- Attendees:
 - **PCAC Members:** Chairman Ralph Buona (Loudoun County); Vice-Chairman, Council Member Linda Colbert (Town of Vienna); Council Member Pamela Sebesky (City of Manassas); Council Member Phil Duncan (City of Falls Church); Council Member Preston Banks (City of Manassas Park); Council Member Paul Smedberg (City of Alexandria), Supervisor John Foust (Fairfax County).
 - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Michael Longhi (Chief Financial Officer); Keith Jasper (Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming); Harun Rashid (Transportation Planner).
 - **Other:** Mayor Roger Vance (Town of Hillsboro), Council Member Amy Marasco (Town of Hillsboro); Noelle Dominguez (Fairfax County); Robert Brown (Loudoun County); Alex Stanley (Supervisor Ruth Anderson's office), Paolo Belita (Prince William County), Rob Whitfield (Fairfax County Taxpayer Association).

Action

II. Approve Summary Notes of March 28, 2018, PCAC Meeting

- The March 28, 2018, Planning Coordination Advisory Committee meeting summary was unanimously approved, with abstentions from members not present.

Discussion/Information

III. **FY2018-2023 Six Year Program Update**

Mr. Jasper

- Chairman Buona commenced by highlighting the meeting objective – to provide inputs to the NVTa staff project approval recommendation process, to be completed at the next PCAC meeting in May. He then set up the broad discussion points, with two updates in the meeting materials - the project analysis spreadsheet now displays TransAction ratings, and the project list is updated with WMATA’s project withdrawals.
- Mr. Jasper started his presentation with a general overview of the program timeline and mentioned that staff are on-schedule for a June adoption of the program. To this point, Ms. Backmon added that although June is still the targeted adoption date, there are ongoing uncertainties with the State Legislature potentially affecting the available Pay-Go fund estimates. To confirm WMATA’s project withdrawal, Mr. Jasper stated that these two projects had a combined request of \$96.5 million.
- In the next set of slides, Mr. Jasper explained the project selection criteria:
 - Congestion Reduction Relative to Cost (CRRC) ratios,
 - TransAction (TA) project ratings,
 - Qualitative Considerations, and
 - Public Comments.

Mr. Jasper noted a major difference between the two scales – CRRC ratios are derived with total project costs, whereas TA ratings do not involve any cost measures. He then outlined the overview of Long Term Benefits related to completed and ongoing projects funded in the FY2014-2017 Programs. He stressed that this is a broad overview that will not be used in this programming cycle. Ms. Backmon further added that there are two parts of the analysis, projects’ actual physical extents (by jurisdictions), and its users’ trip origins (by jurisdictions). To answer a question from Chairman Buona, Ms. Backmon confirmed that the second part of the analysis deals with identifying actual users’ benefits by jurisdictions, not just where a project is physically located. Mr. Jasper further explained that this is an exercise with proxy measures only in the absence of a rigorous modeling tool and does not present adequate accuracies to be used in the project selection process.

- Mr. Jasper then described the schedule and locations of SYP informational open house events. He mentioned that public comments are coming in, but staff have not started to analyze them yet. To answer a question from Council Member Colbert, Mr. Jasper explained that several locations were under consideration for Bike to Work day, including the City of Falls Church and the Town of Vienna.
- Mr. Jasper then pointed to the 2-page analysis spreadsheet and highlighted the fact that projects in the table are sorted according to their CRRC rankings (the very last column). Supervisor Buona requested to clarify the interrelationship between CRRCs and other factors, e.g. TA ratings, qualitative considerations, and how they will be used in the project selection process. Mr. Jasper cited previous experience from the FY2017 program, where a combination of CRRC rankings and qualitative factors

were taken into account for project selection. With projects sorted by the CRRC rankings, and projected Pay-Go revenues, an initial set of projects are identified. After that, projects can enter/exit this set based on these other qualitative factors. To this discussion, Ms. Backmon again stressed that CRRC rankings are a starting point in the overall ranking process, and these other factors will be documented with final project recommendations. Mr. Jasper added that although the two quantitative scales (CRRC/TA ratings) are not meant to correlate directly, there are similarities/overlaps in top-ranked projects – 19 of the top 27 CRRC-ranked projects are also in the top 27 projects ranked by TA ratings. To answer a question from Council Member Smedberg, Ms. Backmon stressed it was premature to make project selection recommendations until after completion of public comment.

- On slide #10, Mr. Jasper discussed the modal characteristics of the top-ranked projects, to which Ms. Backmon added that these are projects' primary modes only, and most projects feature at least one other modal component. Next Mr. Jasper discussed how continuation projects will be evaluated with past fund draw-down performances. To answer a question from Supervisor Buona, he confirmed that only one continuation project received a high grade among the list of top 27 ranked projects. In response to a follow-up question from Supervisor Foust asking who determines these fund draw-down schedules, Mr. Jasper explained that these schedules are determined by applicant jurisdictions when a Standard Project Agreement is executed/updated. Ms. Backmon explained other funding related factors that may affect such performances – e.g. federal funding or other matching funds might have been used before NVTAs are expended. To answer a related question from Supervisor Foust, Mr. Jasper confirmed that these qualitative performance grades are separate from, and not incorporated into, quantitative project rankings.
- Mr. Jasper outlined upcoming committee meetings, their role in recommending a list of projects to Authority, and the adoption of the FY2018-23 Six Year Program. To answer a question from Supervisor Buona, Mr. Jasper explained that there will not be a staff recommendation until all public comments are analyzed. To respond to Council Member Smedberg, Ms. Backmon explained that the Finance Committee will be addressing available Pay-Go funding. In a related discussion, Supervisor Buona outlined his idea favoring a Pay-Go only approach for project funding, as opposed to utilizing the Authority's debt capacity. Due to decreased Authority revenues, jurisdictions should address any project funding gaps by applying for more funds through the Commonwealth's Smart Scale process. To answer a question from Supervisor Foust, Ms. Backmon confirmed that there are no conflicts in project applications to both of these funding sources (NVTAs and Smart Scale).
- Chairman Buona then confirmed the schedule for this committee is to come up with project recommendations at its May 23 meeting, unless the Authority decides to change the current schedule. In responding to a question from Council Member Banks, Mr. Jasper explained that qualitative factors will not be converted to a quantitative scale, to be merged with the existing two (CRRC and TransAction ratings). Given the current uncertainties with NVTAs funding, and the resulting impact to the Six Year Program, Council Member Smedberg asked what the major concerns for the NVTAs management are. Ms. Backmon mentioned the following – to abide by Authority's founding legislation, to maintain excellent credit ratings in the face of the funding cut precedents set by the General Assembly, and to derive a sound method to conduct a meaningful Long Term Benefit analysis.

IV. NVT A Update

Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

- Ms. Backmon stated there are no additional updates from staff.

Adjournment

V. Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.