

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Martin E. Nohe and Members
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

FROM: Monica Backmon, Executive Director

DATE: September 5, 2019

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

1. **Purpose:** To inform the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) of items of interest not addressed in other agenda items.
2. **NVTA is Growing.** Since the July Authority meeting, NVTA welcomed four new staff members.
 - Ms. Margaret Duker, is the Authority's new Clerk to the Board.
 - Ms. Dev Priya Sen is NVTA's first Financial Analyst, the position was approved in the FY2020 budget.
 - Ms. Ria Kulkarni Ph. D. and Ms. Mackenzie Jarvis are filling the new Regional Transportation Planner positions approved in the FY2020 budget.
3. **Ribbon Cuttings and Groundbreakings.**
 - **West Falls Church and Joint Campus Revitalization District Multimodal Transportation Improvement Project.** On August 26th, NVTA and the City of Falls Church co-hosted a groundbreaking event to kick off the West Falls Church and Joint Campus Revitalization District Multimodal Transportation Improvement Project. The Authority appropriated \$15.7 million for this project in FY2020. Other participants in the celebration near the Route 7 and Haycock Road intersection, were FCGP Public Infrastructure LLC (the City's development partner on the project), Falls Church Public Schools. The West Falls Church Transportation Improvement Project is fully funded with NVTA's regional revenues in the amount of \$15.7 million.

Upon its completion, the project will reduce congestion and meet demand and capacity needs near the George Mason High School campus, future West Falls Church economic development, and the neighboring West Falls Church Metro Station in Fairfax County. It will create a safer environment for pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, and drivers with better intersections, sidewalks, crosswalks and other traffic-calming measures.

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- **Route 7 (East Market Street)/Battlefield Parkway Interchange Project.** The Authority in coordination with VDOT, Loudoun County and the Town of Leesburg, is hosting a groundbreaking for the Route 7 at Battlefield Parkway Project in the Town of Leesburg. The groundbreaking event is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 15th. A total of \$58 million in NVTA regional revenues is being allocated towards the project through three funding programs (FY 2015-16, FY 2017 and FY 2018-23). Upon its completion, the project will to improve safety and pedestrian/vehicle flow by building a grade-separated interchange which will allow Route 7 to become a limited-access freeway through the Town of Leesburg Corporate Limits.

- 4. NOVA Chamber State of Transportation Event.** NVTA Executive Director, Monica Backmon, recently participated in a panel discussion at the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce's annual "State of Transportation" event in Tysons. Fellow panelists included, Shannon Valentine, Virginia Secretary of Transportation, Ed Mortimer, VP of Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. Chamber, and Mike Stewart, VP, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. A wide-range of topics were covered, including preparing for growth in the region, the Metro Silver Line and transportation investments in the corridor, and innovations in transportation, including the kick-off of our Regional Multi Modal Mobility Program (RM3P) in partnership with the Commonwealth.

- 5. Transportation Technology Committee Meeting.** The Transportation Technology Committee (TTC) will hold their fourth meeting on September 11, 2019, at NVTA's office. At this meeting, the TTC will:
 - Review and adopt the Committee's Work Plan Outline
 - As a reminder, the TTC will:
 - Make specific recommendations for consideration by the NVTA Executive Director related to the development of TransAction, the regional multimodal, long-range transportation plan for Northern Virginia, and the development of updates to the Authority's Six Year Program. Such recommendations may include the use of transportation technologies to complement traditional transportation infrastructure and enhance the operation and performance of the regional transportation system; and
 - Develop an evidence-based body of knowledge that will educate and inform regional policy makers on topics related to multimodal transportation technologies and related transportation trends.

- 6. The Board of Trade is developing a Greater Washington Smart Region Movement.** The Board of Trade is developing a Greater Washington Smart Region Movement to help make the Washington, D.C. Metro the leading digitally enabled region in the United States, while tackling the issues that are most relevant to stakeholders and keeping pace with the

demands of growing populations. NVTA staff members are participating in two of the solution groups dedicated to topics that are at the heart of the region's long-term prosperity, such as mobility, technology, and public safety, to name a few.

Keith Jasper is participating in the Mobility & Logistics group, which is focusing on facilitating the safe, streamlined, equitable and environmentally sustainable transport of people, goods and services.

Erica Hawksworth is on the Public Relations solutions group focused on designing a multi-channel communications campaign for building public support for digital infrastructure and other projects identified by the Greater Washington Smart Region Movement. Representatives from both the public and private sectors in Northern Virginia, Maryland and the District are involved in this regionally collaborative initiative.

- 7. Regional Multi Modal Mobility Program (RM3P).** Following the Authority briefing on this Commonwealth-funded project at its July meeting, NVTA staff has participated in the consultant selection and kick-off process. Following an initial ramp-up period, project activities are expected to begin in October 2019.
- 8. Regional Investment Conversations.** On July 30th NVTA staff organized the 3rd meeting of jurisdiction investment officers, with this meeting hosted by Fairfax County staff. Topics included:
 - Potential legislative topics for the 2020 General Assembly session related to including Fitch Ratings in purchase decisions.
 - Shared strategies to maintain portfolio yield in a declining interest rate environment.
 - Coordination amongst portfolio managers in the case any portfolio needs to offer an instrument for sale.
 - Discussion of market access and offering of various brokers/brokerages.The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 29th. The group plans to continue meeting (3 to 4 times per year) to share information, tactics and potentially coordinate strategies.
- 9. Joint Public Information Officer (PIO) Meeting.** The Joint Public Information Officer group will meet on Tuesday, September 10th at 10:30am at the NVTA offices. This will be the second meeting of the year for the PIOs. The PIOs will discuss regional collaboration, transportation-related events, communication strategies, and how to best share messages through video. The Joint PIO Meeting will occur every three to four months.
- 10. NVTA Standing Committee Meetings**
 - **Finance Committee:** The NVTA Finance Committee is scheduled to meet next on September 19, 2019 at 1:00pm.

- **Governance and Personnel Committee:** The next meeting of the NVTA Governance and Personnel Committee October 10, 2019 at 5:30pm.
- **Planning and Programming Committee:** The NVTA Planning and Programming Committee is not scheduled to meet again until late 2019/early 2020 as part of the update of the Authority's Six Year Program covering fiscal years FY2020-2025.

11. NVTA Statutory Committee Meetings:

- **Planning Coordination Advisory Committee:** The NVTA Planning Coordination Advisory Committee is not scheduled to meet again until late 2019/early 2020 as part of the update of the Authority's Six Year Program covering fiscal years FY2020-2025.
- **Technical Advisory Committee:** The next meeting of the NVTA Technical Advisory Committee is not scheduled to meet again until late 2019/early 2020 as part of the update of the Authority's Six Year Program covering fiscal years FY2020-2025.

12. Regional Projects Status Report:

- Please note the updated Regional Projects Status Report (Attachment B), which provides a narrative update for each project and the amount of project reimbursements requested and processed to date.

Attachments:

- A. Regional Projects Status Report