



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 2, 2020, 5:00 pm

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200

Fairfax, Virginia 22031

SUMMARY NOTES

I. Call to Order/Welcome

- Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.
- Attendees:
 - **PPC Members:** Mayor Wilson (City of Alexandria); Mayor Rishell (City of Manassas Park); Council Member Snyder (City of Falls Church); Chair Wheeler (Prince William County).
 - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Keith Jasper (Principal) Sree Nampoothiri (Senior Transportation Planner).
 - **Jurisdiction/Agency Staff:** Rich Roisman (Arlington County); Brent Riddle (Fairfax County); Paolo Belita (Prince William County); Jen Slesinger (City of Alexandria); Jaleh Moslehi (Town of Herndon).

Information/Discussion

II. Summary Notes of June 6, 2018 Meeting

- The June 6, 2018 Planning and Programming Committee meeting summary was acknowledged.

III. CY2020 Meeting Calendar

- Looking at the requirements to be informed and take actions, the Committee decided to keep the meeting schedule flexible. The Committee decided to meet on May 4, 2020 and in the last week of June. Further dates will be confirmed as and when meeting is required. The Committee reiterated its preference for a 5pm start for the meeting. The members asked NVTA staff to work with the committee members and their schedulers to firm up the June meeting date and time.

IV. Draft FY2020-2025 Six Year Program

- Mr. Jasper gave a high-level overview of the Six Year Program (SYP) update process including the evaluation criteria and current stage of evaluations. He reminded the members about project selection criteria that included:
 - Eligibility (included in TransAction and primary location in NOVA),

- Congestion reduction relative to cost (CRRC) ratio,
- TransAction project ratings,
- Qualitative considerations, and,
- Public comments.
- Mr. Jasper noted that the funding recommendations will be developed only after the public engagement period is over in May.
- In reply to Chairman Wilson’s question on factors that will influence departure from the legal requirement of giving priority to CRRC, Ms. Backmon and Mr. Jasper explained the qualitative measures that include external funds, project readiness, past performance of the project/jurisdiction on NVT A fund disbursements, geographic/modal balance, and public opinion.
- In reply to Chairman Wilson’s inquiry about the possibility of partial awards, Mr. Jasper explained that that is a possibility and noted the partial awards made at the last round of SYP. Ms. Backmon added that any such partial awards will be based on rational understanding of the project needs and in discussion with the applicants.
- Ms. Backmon reminded that the recommendations will be developed by the NVT A staff and filtered through Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Planning Coordination Advisory Committee (PCAC) before Planning and Programming Committee (PPC) makes any recommendation to the Authority. She also noted that all available funds will be programmed and there will may not be much flexibility to adjust.
- Mr. Jasper explained the Virginia code requirements and Authority-adopted principles on Long Term Benefit (LTB). He pointed out the results of the draft assessment. Ms. Backmon explained that any balancing will take several funding cycles to see results.
- In response to Councilmember Snyder’s question on description of various evaluation criteria, Ms. Backmon explained the CRRC and fifteen performance measures incorporated into TransAction rating. Answering to further enquiry about the congestion measure, Mr. Jasper noted that the congestion measure takes into consideration the person hours of delay (PHD).

V. TransAction Update

- Mr. Jasper noted that the current TransAction Plan was adopted in June 2017 and the five-year update cycle was kicked off at the January Authority meeting through the TransAction Listening Session. He explained how the comments heard at the Listening Session and the Transportation Perception Survey results presented at the February Authority meeting will feed into the development of scope of work (SOW) for TransAction update. He added that the expectation is to replicate, refine, and advance what was done at the last round. Mr. Jasper added that the update would look into the changes in technology and its impacts.
- Mr. Jasper noted that the consultants are expected to be on-board by October 2020 and the updated plan to be adopted in December 2022.
- Ms. Backmon reiterated that projects need to be listed in TransAction in order for them to be eligible for SYP funding.
- Mr. Jasper reminded that the RJACC will be involved heavily in the update process without taking away too much of their time.

VI. Transportation Technology Strategic Plan

- Mr. Jasper explained the establishment of Transportation Technology Committee (TTC) under the chairmanship of Councilmember Snyder as an advisory committee reporting to the Executive Director in what and how to incorporate technology changes happening and expected to happen in the future. The committee includes members from public and private sectors.
- Mr. Jasper noted that the TTC is preparing a strategic plan that looks at nine different potential roles for NVTa to follow.
- In response to Chair Wheeler's question on the topics discussed at the TTC and Strategic Plan, Mr. Jasper explained that the Committee is looking at existing technology that may or may not be implemented consistently in the region (e.g. intelligent transportation systems, traveler information); short/medium term future such as evolution of transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft, shared mobility, and micro mobility; and long term future including connected and autonomous vehicles. He added that the strategies looked at include development of electric vehicle infrastructure, autonomous shuttles, and autonomous vehicles.
- In response to Chairman Wilson's question on how the strategic plan may influence the projects and selection criteria, Mr. Jasper noted that not all strategies may end up as projects in TransAction nor any priority is given per se to any projects identified. Ms. Backmon added that the intent is to proactively understand the technology developments and develop policies. Councilmember Snyder added that rather than reactive to the developments, we need to decide what we as a region wants the technology to do for us.
- Mr. Jasper explained that the strategic plan is guided by the core values of safety, equity, sustainability, and accessibility. Mayor Rishell added that we may not be able to solve all problems but can take informed decisions.
- Chair Wheeler raised the concern of transportation applications (apps) diverting traffic through local routes and asked if there are any local or state level legislation in this area. Chair Wilson noted that some jurisdictions are trying restrictions on a pilot basis but no state level legislation exists. He also noted that in places where such restrictions were implemented, private companies have challenged the legality of such restrictions.
- Mr. Jasper gave a brief update on the Regional Multimodal Mobility Program (RM3P), which is a collaborative initiative between NVTa, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT); funded through Innovation and Technology Transportation Fund (ITTF) by the Commonwealth. He noted that RM3P will explore the potential for technology to complement traditional infrastructure approaches and will include components such as enhanced commuter parking data, mobility as a service (MaaS) dynamic service gap dashboard, AI-based decision support system, data storage/depository, and data-driven tool to incentivize customer mode and route choice. He added that the team is working on scope of work for the five elements to start deployment, as early as within one year.

VII. NVTa Update

- Ms. Backmon gave an update on the ongoing legislative efforts to restore the funds Authority lost two years back as part of the Metro bill. She also noted that the NVTa

staff will recommend the Authority to extend the SYP public engagement period starting from March 13 to May 24.

VIII. NVT A Update

- Ms. Backmon informed the members that the next Authority meeting is scheduled on June 14th.

Adjournment

IX. Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.