



TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, May 20, 2020, 7:00 pm
ELECTRONIC MEETING
with livestreaming on YouTube

MEETING SUMMARY

I. NVTA & TAC Overview

- **This section was an introductory overview presented to the new committee members prior to the business meeting and was not live streamed on YouTube**
- Prior to the official meeting, Mr. Nampoothiri welcomed members joining the meeting for the first time for a brief presentation on NVTA & TAC.
- He provided an insight into the Authority's composition, structure, member jurisdictions, and presented an overview of NVTA's planning and programming activities, including revenue sources.
- He highlighted the two new revenue sources that are expected to kick-in starting July 1st, 2020, namely Grantors tax and Commonwealth Transportation Fund. These new revenue sources would supplement the existing Sales Tax and Interstate 81 Corridor Improvement Fund (per the Virginia General Assembly approved Senate Bill 1716 and House Bill 2718).
- He segued into the role of the Technical Advisory Committee including preparation of TransAction, the long-range multimodal transportation plan and recommending projects for funding via NVTA's Six Year Program. He briefly stated the status of the ongoing FY2020-2025 Six-Year Program Update.
- Additionally, he indicated that there currently are two vacancies on the Committee that are to be filled by Commonwealth Transportation Board Chair.
- He ended his presentation by briefly highlighting other activities of NVTA, such as NVTA's Five-Year Strategic Plan, Transportation Technology Strategic Plan (TTSP), Regional Multimodal Program (RM3P), and Northern Virginia Transportation Roundtable.

II. Call to Order/Welcome

- Chairman Boice called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- Attendees:
 - **Members:** Randy Boice, Pat Turner, Armand Ciccarelli, Amy Morris, Frank Spielberg, Karen Campblin.



- **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (Executive Director), Keith Jasper (Principal), Sree Nampoothiri (Senior Transportation Planner), Mackenzie Jarvis (Regional Transportation Planner), Erica Hawksworth (Communications & Public Affairs Manager), Ria Kulkarni (Regional Transportation Planner).

III. Resolution finding the need to conduct meetings electronically

- Chairman Boice noted that as a result of the COVID-19 and Governor Northam's declaration of a State of Emergency, the Authority's Technical Advisory Committee Meeting was being held electronically. He noted that the passage of the amendments to HB 29 (the FOIA Bill) allowed regional bodies such as the Authority, and their committees to conduct business meetings electronically. He added that the meeting by electronic means is authorized because the items on the Committee Meeting Agenda are statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the Authority. The resolution was approved unanimously.

IV. Summary of February 19th, 2020 Meeting

- The meeting summary was approved unanimously with abstentions from members not present at the February 19th meeting.

V. FY2020-2025 Six Year Program Update

- Mr. Nampoothiri briefed the TAC on the qualitative and quantitative evaluations for the 41 candidate projects that are under the ongoing Six-Year Program FY2020-2025 update. He noted that HB2313 requires NVTA to give priority to projects that achieve the greatest Congestion Reduction Relative to Cost (CRRC). He emphasized that the CRRC ratio takes into account the entire life-cycle cost of a project.
 - He also noted the other quantitative evaluation component, TransAction Rating, that involves evaluating projects based on 15 weighted performance measures that are used to evaluate the long-range plan, TransAction.
- Also, qualitative aspects like project readiness, other available funds, local priority, and elements such as geographic and modal balance are evaluated for each candidate project in the program.
- The programming update process also involves the Public Hearing and testimony for which Mr. Nampoothiri stated there were 26 testimonies over the phone and one in-person testimony received at the Public Hearing held on May 14th, 2020. He added that NVTA is continuing to receive public comments that are being compiled and



analyzed by staff. The analysis would then feed into Committee discussions for consideration and a final recommendation to the Authority for approval.

- Chairman Boice asked the general trend of supporting/opposing comments to which Mr. Jasper responded that a final number is not determined yet as NVTA is continuing to receive public feedback. However, he noted that there was more support than opposition overall. He added that there were comments received for the Town of Dumfries, Falls Church, and NOVA Parks' projects with substantial comments received for Arlington and Alexandria.

VI. TransAction Update

- Mr. Jasper re-iterated that TransAction is updated on a five-year cycle. Because TransAction was last adopted in October 2017, the next update process has started with the Plan expected to be adopted by the end of calendar year 2022.
- He mentioned that a kick-off was held in January with a consultant open house and listening session. He informed Committee members that NVTA is currently working towards procurement activity. He noted that information shared during the meeting could have potential conflict of interest to firms that members represent and who seek to respond to NVTA's request for proposal (RFP) on TransAction.
 - Chairman Boice affirmed and added that the firm he represents (Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson-JMT) was not pursuing the RFP. He ascertained that any other committee member that plans to pursue the RFP as a lead or sub-consultant must recuse themselves from any future discussions on TransAction update. Other members affirmed that they are not part of teams expected to pursue the RFP.
- Mr. Jasper mentioned that the scope of work for the RFP is being developed while taking into consideration lessons learned from the previous TransAction cycle.
- He explained that as a result of disruptive technology that is changing the transportation system, NVTA is emphasizing on the need for technical and public engagement competencies in guiding the TransAction update process. He added that consultants would be on board by Fall 2020.
- Mr. Jasper stated that he anticipates the TransAction update to be three-phased:
 - Public engagement and model development activities;
 - Technical analysis; and,
 - Reporting and formal hearing process.



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- Another component of consulting activity will be to help build travel model implementation capabilities at NVTA that will facilitate evaluation of projects and provide required training to NVTA staff.
- Mr. Jasper prepared the Committee to foresee that the next Six-Year Program update for FY2022-2027 will begin before wrapping up the TransAction Update. He explained that there would be a period where both planning and programming activities will execute in tandem. These planning and programming activities will involve two public hearings and public comment periods in the same calendar year (2022).
 - Mr. Spielberg commented that travel is likely to be affected in both the short and long-term due to pandemic related shutdown. He wanted to know how this issue is addressed in the TransAction RFP and scope of work.
 - Mr. Jasper responded by pointing out that, firstly, NVTA staff is seeking to leverage Big Data sources such as INRIX and Streetlight to monitor impacts on transportation to understand the effects in real-time both on highway and transit.
 - Secondly, NVTA has opened up an “intense dialogue” with the Northern Virginia business community to discern aspects such as continuation of telework in the coming months/years. Those aspects would involve knowing internal policies and practices as relating to the Human Resource department and employee productivity scales.
 - Lastly, the Authority has approved a new task to look into what was earlier called “scenario analysis” and formulate meaningful questions relating to pre- and post-pandemic scenarios that would consider HOV use, transit impacts, telework for an in-depth “sensitivity analysis.”
- Mr. Jasper stated that vision and goals are “front end” of the TransAction update process and that, NVTA staff is collaborating with its member jurisdictions to enhance them. However, formulating the objectives and measures that make up vision and goals will require a fair amount of public engagement. They will eventually be taken to the Authority for approval after running it by the Committees.

VII. NVTA Update

- Ms. Backmon stated that the Authority was successful in partial restoration of the \$102 million that was diverted to Metro as a result of HB 1539 (2018). But the Omnibus Bill restores \$50 million, albeit delays \$30 million due to revenue impacts as a consequence of COVID-19. The Authority, however, is aiming full restoration.



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- Ms. Backmon also affirmed that TransAction is a fiscally unconstrained plan, and it also populates NVTa’s programming efforts where “needs always outweigh revenues.”

VIII. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.