

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**MEMORANDUM**

FOR: Chair Phyllis J. Randall and Members
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

FROM: Randy Boice, Chairman, Technical Advisory Committee

DATE: June 4, 2020

SUBJECT: Report from the Technical Advisory Committee

1. **Purpose:** To inform the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) on recent activities of the NVTA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).
2. **Background:** The Technical Advisory Committee met on May 20, 2020.
Due to the current pandemic situation, the meeting was held via a WebEx online meeting. Six members participated in the meeting.
3. **NVTA & TAC Overview for New Members:** Three new members, as approved by the Authority on March 12, 2020, joined the Committee for the first time. Prior to the start of the official meeting, NVTA staff provided an overview of the organization and functions of the Authority, planning and programming process, existing and expected funding sources and finally, project evaluation approach for NVTA's Six-Year Program.
There are two vacancies on the TAC that are to be filled by the Chair of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB).
4. **The Committee took action on the following items:**
 - a. A resolution to hold a remote electronic meeting was approved unanimously. This resolution was based on the recent passage of the amendments to HB 29 – the FOIA Bill, which allows regional bodies such as the Authority, and their committees to conduct business meetings electronically.
 - b. February 19, 2020, meeting summary was approved, with abstentions from members who did not attend the February 19 meeting.
5. **NVTA staff presented the following information items:**
 - a. **FY2020-2025 Six Year Program Update:** As a part of the evaluation process for the Six-Year Program update, Mr. Nampoothiri, Senior Transportation Planner, briefed the Committee on the significance of public input and the then-ongoing public comment period, which ended on May 24, 2020. The Committee was informed that 26 people provided a phone testimony and 1 in-person testimony on the day of the public hearing. A brief update on the influx of comments was also relayed.

- b. **TransAction Update:** Mr. Jasper, Principal, Planning & Programming, briefed the Committee on the on-going activities leading to the update of TransAction, NVTA's long -range plan. TransAction was last adopted in October 2017 and the next update is anticipated to be adopted by FY2022. The vision and goals for TransAction are being revisited and improved upon in light of the foreseeable future of transportation. Staff is drafting a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure consulting services for the TransAction update. The consultant is anticipated to be on board by fall. Members were advised to abstain from participating in TransAction-related discussions to prevent a conflict of interest if the consultancy they represent plan on responding to the RFP.
Mr. Jasper also highlighted that consultant(s) chosen would assist NVTA staff to implement travel demand modeling tasks for the NVTA. The Transportation Technology Strategic Plan, in tandem, with a new task to quantify the near and long-term impacts of the pandemic on transportation, would augment the development of TransAction.
 - c. **NVTA Update:** Ms. Backmon, Executive Director, NVTA, briefly described the recent legislative efforts to restore a portion of Authority revenues that were lost as a result of the WMATA funding bill in 2018. There was an emphasis on how these reestablished revenues will be impacted due to the current pandemic. Ms. Backmon also highlighted an estimate of Pay-Go funds available for projects in the upcoming FY2020-2025 Six Year Program.
- 6. Next steps:** The public comment summary status and project recommendations will be relayed to the Committee to engage in discussions and aid in the development of project recommendations under NVTA's FY2020-2025 Six-Year Program for Authority's approval. The committee will also support and steer activities leading to TransAction update.
- 7. Next Meeting:** The next TAC meeting (electronic) will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, at 7:00 pm.