



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

MINUTES

Thursday, June 11, 2020
3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200
Fairfax, VA 22031
Via WebEx and Live Streamed

1. **Call to Order** Chair Randall
 - ✓ **Chair Randall called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.**

2. **Roll Call** Chair Randall
 - ✓ Voting Members: Chair Randall; Mayor Parrish; Chairman McKay; Chair Wheeler; Board Member Cristol; Mayor Meyer; Mayor Wilson; Mayor Rishell; Council Member Snyder; Delegate Roem; Delegate Watts; Ms. Hynes; Mr. Kolb.
 - ✓ Non-Voting Members; Mayor Wood, Ms. Cuervo, Mr. Horsley.
 - ✓ Staff: Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Michael Longhi (CFO); Keith Jasper (Principal, Planning and Programming); Sree Nampoothiri (Senior Transportation Planner); Harun Rashid (Transportation Planner); Ria Kulkarni (Transportation Planner); Mackenzie Jarvis (Transportation Planner); Peggy Teal (Assistant Finance Officer); Richard Stavros (Investment and Debt Manager); Erica Hawksworth (Communication and Public Affairs Manager); Dev Sen (Financial Analyst); various jurisdictional and agency staff.

3. **Minutes of the May 14, 2020 Meeting**
Chairman McKay moved approval of the May 14, 2020 minutes; seconded by Mayor Rishell. Motion passed with abstentions by Delegate Watts as she was not present in the previous meeting (12-0-1 vote).

Action Items

4. **Adoption of Resolution 20-02 to Find Need to Conduct Meeting by Electronic Communication Means during Governor's declared State of Emergency during COVID-19 Pandemic** NVTa Council of Counsels

Recommended action: Adoption of Resolution 20-02 for Electronic Meetings During COVID-19 Pandemic

 - ✓ Chair Randall made the motion to adopt Resolution 20-02 to Find the Need to Conduct Meeting by Electronic Communication Means during the Governor's declared State of Emergency during COVID-19 Pandemic; seconded by Delegate Roem. Motion passed unanimously (13-0 vote).

- ✓ After the resolution was adopted, Chair Randall welcomed Delegate Vivian Watts, one of the Authority's newest members, who attended the business meeting for the first time.

5. Approval of Standard Project Agreement for the Town of Leesburg--Regional Funding 2018-056-1 (Route 15 Bypass and Battlefield Parkway Interchange Project)

Mr. Longhi, CFO

Recommended action: Approval of Standard Project Agreement

Chair Randall moved the approval of the proposed Standard Project Agreement 2018-056-1 Town of Leesburg (Interchange at Route 15 Bypass and Battlefield Parkway), in accordance with NVTAs approved Project Description Sheet as appended to the Standard Project Agreement; and authorize the Executive Director to sign on behalf of the Authority; seconded by Board Member Cristol. Motion passed unanimously (13-0 vote).

6. Approval of Reallocation of Prince William County's FY2020 RSTP funds from Route 234/Route 1 Interchange – PE & ROW Only (UPC 13525) to Smoketown Road/Opitz Boulevard Pedestrian Improvement Project (UPC 107528)

Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

Recommended action: Approval of RSTP Transfer Request for Prince William County

Ms. Backmon informed the Authority that the RSTP transfer request for Prince William County was recommended by RJACC at their May 28th meeting. Chair Wheeler moved the approval of the reallocation of Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds for Prince William County's Route 234/Route 1 Interchange – PE & ROW Only to Smoketown Road/Opitz Boulevard Pedestrian Improvement Project; seconded by Mayor Parrish. Motion passed unanimously (13-0 vote).

Discussion/Information Items

7. FY2020-2025 Six Year Program Update

Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

Ms. Backmon informed the Authority of the status of the FY2020-2025 Six Year Program, including public comments and testimony received during the public comment period and noted:

- ✓ On March 12th meeting, the Authority authorized the release of 41 candidate projects for public comment.
- ✓ The public comment period started on March 13th and ended on May 24th with a Public Hearing held on May 14th.

- ✓ Given the COVID-19 pandemic, NVTa conducted the Public Hearing virtually, live-streaming via Facebook Live. This was the Authority's first-ever Public Hearing conducted in this manner.
- ✓ She further added that citizens were pre-registered to give testimony over the phone with one citizen attending in person.
- ✓ Testimony was provided by 27 speakers.
- ✓ Approximately 1,000 public comments were received on the 41 candidate projects.
- ✓ She further noted that approximately 90 percent of the comments received by the May 24, 2020, Public Comment period deadline were associated with just four of the 41 candidate projects:
 - Arlington W&OD Trail Enhancements (NOV-002) – mostly supportive of the application but with concerns expressed related to environmental considerations, alternatives analysis, insufficient community engagement, and need;
 - Van Buren Road North Extension: Route 234 to Cardinal Drive (PWC-025) – opposition and support were broadly equal in number;
 - West Falls Church Access to Transit and Multimodal Connectivity (CFC-006) – comments expressed were overwhelming in support of the application; and
 - Downtown Falls Church Multimodal Improvements (CFC-005) – comments expressed were overwhelming in support of the application but the total was approximately one third of the other City of Falls Church application (CFC-006).
- ✓ A number of comments were received after the May 24th deadline. Due to time constraints, these were not included in the summary report. However, NVTa staff will post these comments as part of the public record and they will be included in the analysis.
- ✓ At the May 14th business meeting, the Authority approved \$522,151,962 as the amount of funding that is available for the FY2020-2025 Six Year Program.
- ✓ She further discussed the next steps related to NVTa staff recommendations for Six Year Program. All the 3 committees (Planning Coordination Advisory Committee, Planning and Programming Committee and Technical Advisory Committee) are meeting in June to review and comment on those recommendations.
- ✓ The Planning and Programming Committee (PPC) will develop a final set of recommendations for consideration by the Authority at its meeting on July 9th. The PPC recommendations will be posted on the Authority's website by June 24th.
- ✓ With that Ms. Backmon continued reviewed the summary of project comments.
- ✓ She further added that Public Comment is an important part of the process.
- ✓ Chair Randall asked the Authority Members if there were any questions or comments to discuss with Ms. Backmon:
 - Chairman McKay asked how the comments in the petition submitted by Senator Surovell are being computed as there appeared to be over 300 combined comments. Ms. Backmon answered that NVTa staff validates the comments by cross-checking so as to eliminate duplication.

- Ms. Backmon further added that some of the comments were duplicates as NVTA staff were checking the comments compiled and submitted outside of the proscribed NVTA process and encouraged everyone to have their constituents submit their comments through the processes identified by the Authority.
- Chair Randall and Chairman McKay stated that the Authority should consider for discussion as part of future funding programs, if comments received after the published deadline or in a format that's not prescribed by the Authority, should be included as part of the public record.
- Board Member Cristol noted that she is available to take any question regarding the NOVA Parks Authority W&OD Trail Enhancements project located in Arlington County and expressed the County's support for the design level funding for the project.
- Council Member Snyder thanked all the citizen for providing comments.
- Delegate Roem asked to briefly describe the public comments received for Van Buren Road North Extension: Route 234 to Cardinal Drive (For and Against), to which Ms. Backmon shared examples of the supporting and opposing comments received by going through some the comments included in the meeting packet.
- Chair Randall asked Board Member Cristol about the vote that Arlington County took on the W&OD Trail Enhancement project, to which she replied that this a regional project which was requested by NOVA Parks
- She further added that the NOVA Parks asked the County's endorsement and support for the project which was received. However, the County also asked for additional public engagement which the design funding will facilitate.
- Council Member Snyder spoke in general about safety issues concerning the trail project related to the separation of bicycle traffic and pedestrians. He noted a separate but similar project in Falls Church has been well received by the public.
- Delegate Watts asked if the W&OD Trail Enhancement project was going to be undertaken by Arlington County. Ms. Backmon responded that while NOVA Parks sought endorsement from the Arlington County Board, the project will be undertaken by NOVA Parks.
- Ms. Hynes added that she had a conversation with the NOVA Parks Authority and she hopes they will do a safety analysis as part of the design.

8. Planning Coordination Advisory Committee Report

Mayor Colbert, Chair

- ✓ No verbal report given.

9. Technical Advisory Committee Report

Mr. Boice, Chair

- ✓ No verbal report given.

- 10. Planning and Programming Committee Report** Mayor Wilson, Chair
- ✓ Mayor Wilson informed the Authority that the Planning and Programming Committee (PPC) met on June 1st and discussed the Six Year Program Update and TransAction Update.
 - ✓ He further informed the Authority that PPC will be meeting on June 19th and will develop Six Year Program recommendations for the Authority's consideration at that meeting.
 - ✓ Mayor Wilson invited all Authority Members to attend the virtual Friday night meeting.
- 11. Executive Director's Report** Ms. Backmon, Executive Director
- ✓ Ms. Backmon encouraged the Authority members to attend the NVTA Planning and Programming Committee meeting on June 19, 2020.
- 12. Chair's Comments**
Chair Randall concluded the meeting thanking all present for their participation.
- 13. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Next Meeting: July 9, 2020 at 7:00pm
NVTA Offices