



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

MINUTES

Thursday, July 9, 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 7:03 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; Senator Boysko; Ms. Hynes; Mr. Kolb
 - ✓ Non-Voting Members; Mayor Wood, Ms. Cuervo, Ms. Mitchell.
 - ✓ 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.
 - ✓ Other Attendees: Rob Dickerson (Council of Counsels); Steven MacIsaac (Council of Counsels); Ellen Posner (Council of Counsels); Daniel Robinson (Council of Counsels); Jason Mumford (AECOM); David Roden (AECOM); and Amy Volz (AECOM)

3. **Adoption of Resolution 20-03 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 20-03 for Electronic Meetings During COVID-19 Pandemic

 - ✓ **Chair Randall made the motion to adopt Resolution 20-03 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 Board Member Cristol. Motion passed unanimously (14-0 vote).**

4. **Minutes of the June 11, 2020 Meeting**

Mayor Parrish moved approval of the June 11, 2020 minutes; seconded by Mayor Rishell. Motion passed with abstentions by Senator Boysko as she was not present for the previous meeting (13-0-1 vote).

Presentation

5. COVID-19: Transportation Impacts and Opportunities

Mr. Jasper, Principal Planner

Mr. Jasper introduced Mr. Roden (AECOM), Mr. Mumford (AECOM) and Ms. Volz (AECOM) and commenced the presentation on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Transportation, noting:

- ✓ Different recovery scenarios to compare impacts and the use of analysis to structure future planning efforts.
- ✓ Analyze plausible possible future scenarios and scenario development through modeling approaches.
- ✓ Recovery from COVID-19, trip behavior has been impacted starting in March 2020, and resulted in increased telework, closure of schools, and many businesses, a decrease in travel throughout the region and safety concerns regarding transit and shared-rides.
- ✓ Explained the National Trends of Working from the Home chart and Regional Trends of WMATA Ridership, where ridership declined 88% from Q4 FY2020 Budget.
- ✓ Mr. Jasper handed over the presentation to Mr. Roden, who explained the Northern Virginia Re-opening Phases:
 - Phase 1 (Started 5/29) – Continued social distancing and teleworking.
 - Phase 2 (Started 6/12) – Social gatherings increase to 50 people and restaurant offering indoor capacity at 50% occupancy.
 - Phase 3 (Started 7/1) – Limit occupancy of physical spaces and encourage telework.
 - Phase 4 (“New Normal”) – June 2021-2025
- ✓ Mr. Roden explained the different scenarios, Quick Recovery, Active Transportation, Second Pandemic Wave in October, and Cautious Recovery and compared between Short-term (2020-2021) and New Normal (2025).
- ✓ He explained the Short-Term Impacts (Jan 2020 to June 2021), noting:
 - Impact on daily vehicle miles of travel;
 - Impact on vehicle miles traveled, where the Quick Recovery phase would be 94%;
 - Impact on daily transit ridership, which would take a long time to recover;
 - Impact on Person Hours of Delay, that increase in teleworking
 - He further added the Active Transportation compared to Pre-COVID levels where 60% trips less than 5 miles are walk/bike, and Mode Share increases 30%.
- ✓ He further explained about the “New Normal” Impacts (2025), noting:
 - To evaluate the scenarios using TransAction performance metrics.
 - Multi-modal measures that address accessibility and mobility in the region.

- Overall impact of cautious recovery scenario with weighted performance measures.
- ✓ Mr. Jasper summarized the “New Normal” observations using the four scenarios, noting:
 - 10-15 percent more telework than pre-COVID levels;
 - Reduction in auto and transit trips where;
 - “Active Transportation” scenario has the most significant impact for auto trips (46 percent reduction)
 - “Cautious Recovery” scenarios have the most significant effect for transit trips (37 percent reduction)
 - Reduction in person hours of delay, where;
 - ‘Cautious Recovery’ scenario has the most substantial impact (85 percent)
- ✓ Mr. Jasper concluded the presentation, noting:
 - Short-Term:
 - The majority of changes occur within the first 18 months and level off around June 2021.
 - New Normal - Teleworking and economic impacts result in:
 - Traffic Volumes and transit ridership do not fully recover to pre-COVID levels.
 - Significant reductions in time spent traveling and time lost in congestion.
 - Congestion reduction impacts are a positive, transit ridership reduction may be challenging to the financial stability of some transit agencies
- ✓ Mr. Jasper asked the Authority members for any questions or comments:
 - Council Member Snyder and Mayor Meyer commented that they would be more interested in the long-term impact, which will be determined in the future.
 - Delegate Roem added that there might be an impact on residential development due to COVID-19 and added that Vehicle Miles Traveled is going to be more consistent than ridership on Mass Transit before a vaccine.
 - Ms. Hynes commented that 10-15 percent assumption of telework may eventually increase and that she wonders how the new normal would be and if this would change the mission.
 - Ms. Cuervo agreed with Ms. Hynes and added that as the road use is increasing, the 10-15 percent telework will be beneficial.
 - Mayor Parrish commented that there is more to be determined over time and added that teleworking is a good option.
 - Chair Randall noted that the telework number may go up significantly over time.

Action Items

6. **Appointment of Daniel Robinson to the Council of Counsels**

Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

Recommended action: Appointment of Mr. Robinson to the Council of Counsels

- ✓ Ms. Backmon advised the Authority of Ms. Posner's retirement from Fairfax County noting Mr. Robinson has been designated by Fairfax County Attorneys as her replacement on the Council of Counsels.
- ✓ She further explained that the responsibilities of the Council of Counsels are to provide legal counsel and advice, legal support, and representation to the Authority.
- ✓ She thanked Ms. Posner for her tireless efforts to the Authority.
- ✓ She added that the Council of Counsels was established by the Authority on July 12, 2007 when Council Member Snyder was part of the legal working group.
- ✓ Chair Randall asked which jurisdictions do the other Council of Counsels members originate from. To which Ms. Backmon stated, that Mr. MacIsaac is from Arlington County, and Mr. Dickerson is from Prince William County.
- ✓ Chairman McKay thanked Ms. Posner for her service and leadership and welcomed Mr. Robinson to the Authority's Council of Counsels.
- ✓ Other Authority members expressed appreciation for Ms. Posner's years of service to the Authority, guidance, openness to resolving any issue.

Chairman McKay moved the approval of the appointment of Daniel Robinson to the NVTA Council of Counsels; seconded by Mayor Parrish. Motion passed unanimously (14-0 vote).

7. **Approval of the Withdrawal/Cancellation of the VRE Lorton and Rippon Station Projects**

Mr. Longhi, CFO

Recommended action: Approval of the Withdrawal/Cancellation of the Projects

Mr. Longhi summarized the presented staff report by noting:

- ✓ Withdrawal or Cancellation of the VRE Lorton and Rippon Station Projects was presented to the Finance Committee and received a unanimous recommendation.
- ✓ VRE staff report they will present a project withdrawal recommendation to the VRE Operations Board in the July 10th dispatch for the July 17th meeting.
- ✓ If the VRE Operations Board takes action on July 17th to withdraw the projects, the project status will be recorded as voluntarily withdrawn instead of canceled.

- ✓ Mr. Longhi noted VRE is welcome to apply for additional projects in the future and opened the floor for any questions or comments.
- ✓ Ms. Mitchell and Chair Wheeler commented that the cancellation of VRE Lorton and Rippon Station Projects would free up revenue for other projects.
- ✓ Board Member Cristol mentioned that on behalf of the board she is happy to support this.
- ✓ She further noted that the members of the VRE Operations Board are very strongly supportive of the Franconia-Springfield Passenger Rail Bypass project, as it is a critical project to take advantage of the planned commuter rail track expansion and track acquisitions, which is an upcoming item to discuss in the Adoption of the FY2020-2025 Six Year Program.

Chair Wheeler moved Authority cancellation or acceptance of withdrawal of the VRE Lorton and Rippon Station Projects unencumbering a combined \$16.9 million in project funding; seconded by Chairman McKay. Motion passed unanimously (14-0 vote).

8. Adoption of the FY2020-2025 Six Year Program

Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

Recommended action: Adoption of the FY2020-2025 Six Year Program

- ✓ Ms. Backmon provided an overview of the NVTA staff project funding recommendations and the Planning and Programming Committee (PPC) recommendations approved at their June 19, 2020 meeting.
- ✓ With the cancellation/withdrawal of VRE Lorton and Rippon Station Projects, the available revenue is increased to \$539 Million (\$522M was previously recommended by the Finance Committee and adopted by the Authority).
- ✓ Mayor Wilson briefly noted by saying that the PPC met on June 19, 2020 and PPC endorsed the NVTA Staff recommendations.
- ✓ He further added that the PPC unanimously recommended additional projects/funding up to \$16,958,821 with the withdrawal/cancellation of the two VRE projects consistent with the Finance Committee recommendation. Those additional funding recommendations are:
 - \$700,000 - Jermantown Road/Route 29 Intersection Improvements (City of Fairfax);
 - \$8,300,000 - Downtown Falls Church Multimodal Improvements (City of Falls Church);
 - \$7,958,821 - Franconia-Springfield Passenger Rail Bypass (DRPT)
- ✓ He also added that the PPC commended NVTA staff for the difficult decisions in prioritizing an extremely competitive round of funding.

Mayor Wilson moved the Authority adoption of the FY2020 - 2025 Six Year Program.; seconded by Chair Randall. Motion passed unanimously (14-0 vote).

Discussion/Information Items

9. **Planning and Programming Committee Report** Mayor Wilson, Chair
✓ No verbal report given
10. **Finance Committee** Mayor Parrish, Chair
✓ No verbal report given.
11. **Planning Coordination Advisory Committee Report** Mayor Colbert, Chair
✓ No verbal report given.
12. **Technical Advisory Committee Report** Mr. Boice, Chair
✓ No verbal report given.
13. **Executive Director's Report** Ms. Backmon, Executive Director
✓ Ms. Backmon thanked Ms. Posner in addition to the other Council of Counsels for their service to the Authority.
✓ Ms. Backmon concluded by thanking the Authority Members and the Staff for their work on the Six-Year Program update. She further added that this was a collaborative effort to stay on track despite the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
14. **Chair's Comments**
Chair Randall concluded the meeting and thanked all present for their participation.

Closed Session

- ✓ **Motion for Closed Session:**
Mayor Parrish moved the The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority convene a closed session as authorized by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711.A.7 and 8, for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel concerning potential litigation concerning the terms and conditions of Standard Project Agreements (SPA) 996-14-034-109 and (SPA) 996-80821 with WMATA for 8 Car Train Traction Power Upgrades, and the statutory requirements of Chapter 25 of Title 33.2 of the Code of Virginia governing the NVTA's legal Authority to provide NVTA funding for capital projects.
- Motion made by Mayor Parrish, seconded by Chair Randall. Motion passed unanimously.
 - The closed session began at 8:45PM.
- ✓ **Motion to Re-Open the Meeting:**

Mayor Parrish moved that the members of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority certify: (1) that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Chapter 37, Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by the Authority.

- Motion made by Mayor Parrish, seconded by Delegate Roem. Motion passed unanimously.
- Meeting was reconvened at 10:25 PM.

15. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Next Meeting: September 10, 2020 at 7:00pm
NVTA Offices