



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING COORDINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 7:00 pm

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200

Fairfax, Virginia 22031.

SUMMARY NOTES

I. Call to Order/Welcome

Interim Vice-Chair Colbert

- Interim Vice-Chair Linda Colbert called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
- Attendees:
 - **PCAC Members:** Council Member Linda Colbert (Town of Vienna); Supervisor Koran Saines (Loudoun County); Board Chair Libby Garvey (Arlington County); Supervisor Margaret Angela Franklin (Prince William County); Council Member Michelle Davis-Younger (City of Manassas); Council Member Preston Banks (City of Manassas Park); Council Member Jon Stehle (City of Fairfax); Council Member Phil Duncan (City of Falls Church); Council Member Suzanne Fox (Town of Leesburg); Council Member Selonia Miles (Town of Dumfries); Council Member Signe Friedrichs (Town of Herndon).
 - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Michael Longhi (Chief Financial Officer); Keith Jasper (Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming); Harun Rashid (Transportation Planner).
 - **Other:** Robert Brown (Loudoun County); Meagan Landis (Prince William County); Dan Malouf (Arlington County); Mark Schnauffer (City of Alexandria), Jaleh Moslehi (Town of Herndon).

Action

II. CY 2020 Meeting Schedule

- Mr. Jasper pointed to a proposed calendar, mentioning the preferred meeting time to be on the fourth Wednesday of a month, at around 7 pm. On a motion from Supervisor Saines, the calendar was unanimously approved with a meeting start time at 6:30 pm.

III. CY2020 Chair/Vice Chair Nominations for Approval by NVTA Chair

- Ms. Backmon addressed the committee members referencing NVTA bylaws that outline the roles and objectives of this statutory committee. She stated that for the current session, primary responsibilities of this committee are to guide the adoption of the FY 2020-2025 Six Year Program and the next update of NVTA's long range transportation plan, TransAction. On these planning and programming tasks, PCAC directly reports to Authority with its recommendations. In responding to a question from Council Member Stehle, Mr. Jasper mentioned that it is optional for committee members to report to Authority meetings in-person.
- With these background information, Council Member Linda Colbert, and Council Member Selonia Miles, were nominated as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

Discussion/Information

IV. Summary Notes of May 23, 2018 Meeting

- Due to the long periods of time elapsed since the last committee meeting, and a host of new members, the meeting summary was presented as an information item only.

V. New Member Orientation

Ms. Backmon

- Ms. Backmon welcomed new members of the committee, and briefly explained their roles as high-level, non-parochial proponents of objective regional planning to advance regionally significant projects. There is an information brochure available for new members with more detailed information.

VI. FY2020-25 Six Year Program Update

Mr. Jasper

- Mr. Jasper presented a broad overview of the six-year programming cycles at NVTA. This is the first update of the inaugural FY2018-23 Six Year Program. In this cycle (FY2020-25), there are 41 candidate projects. Funding recommendations are based on a number of quantitative and qualitative factors. While the project list is initially sorted with a quantitative metric known as Congestion Reduction Relative to Cost (CRRC) ratio, other factors qualitatively contribute to the funding decisions, e.g. – project readiness, existing funding gap and other funding sources, past performance of projects and/or sponsors, modal/geographic balance, public comments, and long-term benefits.
- Ms. Backmon stressed on the past performance factor, where adherence to project's anticipated schedule is measured. The Authority recently adopted a policy to provide a mechanism to monitor project activation, progress and appropriation according to the schedule in the standard project agreement (Policy 29). She also mentioned that continuation projects, projects that are previously funded, will have a priority for their ultimate completion. Long term benefit factor, which approximately measures each jurisdiction's overall benefit compared to its revenue contribution to the regional fund

- pool, is used for the first time in the evaluation scheme. According to principles adopted to determine long-term benefits, the process is retroactive in nature for a 10-year period, and will be rolling with each funding program. In responding to a question from Council Member Colbert, Ms. Backmon explained that the process does not measure a project's build/no-build impacts in the past, rather relies on the TransAction travel model's congestion relief forecasts for a planning horizon year.
- NVTA staff documents all these factors and criteria as a part of the program adoption, which is published on the program web page. Public comment period will commence after the next Authority meeting in March, and will run for 2 months. During this period, NVTA staff is available to brief on this programming cycle to jurisdiction/agency (optional). Council Member Friedrichs requested to elaborate on the role of other funding leverage for funding decision. Ms. Backmon cited the example of a Loudoun County project (Northstar Boulevard extension), which received a federal grant for construction during the last cycle's evaluation stage. This additional funding leverage was considered as a positive factor to select for NVTA funding.

VII. TransAction Update

- According to NVTA's enabling legislation, the Authority is required to update the long-range transportation plan in every 5 year. Mr. Jasper stated that the update process has started with various leading activities - public open house followed by a Authority listening session, consultant open house, and technical workgroups with local jurisdiction planners. Staff is working on a Scope-of-Work to publish an RFP in May, with a consultant selected by fall 2020. This is a 21/2-year process, the final plan is scheduled to be adopted in December 2022. He stressed that the committee members' inputs are essential to guide the entire update process.
- A perception survey was conducted last fall to gauge Northern Virginia citizens' transportation attitudes and priorities. One major finding was highlighted for discussion – as concerns about traffic congestion decrease, focus turns to areas like housing affordability and work-live connections. Respondents feel that the region is making progress towards addressing congestion issues. To this point, Board Chair Garvey mentioned Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' initiatives on housing affordability and its link to transportation. Ms. Backmon commented that while NVTA cannot address housing and other land use issues, committee members can raise the issue to corresponding jurisdiction's policy making body.
- In responding to a comment by Council Member Banks, Mr. Jasper commented that there might be some response biases by disparate demographic groups, with the relatively small sample size of 616 responses. Public engagement from a diverse group of population is very important for any planning and policy-making exercises. Mr. Jasper stated that a web page link will be provided for the full survey findings.

VIII. Transportation Technology Strategic Plan

- During the last TransAction planning process, there were couple of scenario planning exercises to quantify impacts of rapidly-developing transportation technology and emerging modes. To tackle the issues more proactively at NVTA, under the guidance of NVTA executive director Ms. Backmon, a forum was formed comprising experts from both public and private sectors. Primary charge of this group is to advise Ms. Backmon on this issue, and to draft a strategic plan to guide the TransAction update process.
- Mr. Jasper mentioned that staff is working on a draft plan, tentatively to be shared with the Transportation Technology Committee in April. This draft plan will also be shared with this committee. The plan will include broad strategies, and associated NVTA's roles. Ms. Backmon stated that one primary objective is to ensure NVTA's investments do not become technologically obsolete during the project's life-cycle. Council Member Stehle stressed that financial sides of any technological implementation will need to be addressed in the plan.

IX. NVTA Update

- Ms. Backmon updated the committee members on recent legislative activities to restore NVTA's revenue, lost due to last year's WMATA funding bill. She mentioned that all current activities point to about \$50 million in restoration to NVTA. She stressed that the process to reconcile multiple funding bills is at a fluid stage now, and staff is hesitant to pin down a number as Pay-Go revenue for upcoming program adoption. In responding to a question from Council Member Duncan, Mr. Longhi explained why the I-81 revenue source is not meeting forecasted threshold.
- Mr. Jasper mentioned the upcoming ITSVA Transportation Roundtable to be held at NVTA on March 11. This is a very popular yearly event, with expert panelists from public and private sectors covering following two themes:
 - Connected, Autonomous, Shared, and Electric (CASE) Vehicles; Is the DC Metro Area Ready?
 - How Would the Private Sector Like the Metro Area to Embrace Transportation Technologies?These two sessions will be followed by a discussion session to present on a recent NVTA initiative – the Regional Multi Modal Mobility Program (RM3P). Funded by the Commonwealth's Innovation in Transportation Technology Fund, this program explores on technological solutions to influence travel behavior. Ms. Backmon will join Ms. Cathy McGhee, Director of Research and Innovation (VDOT), to discuss latest updates from the program.
- Council Member Colbert requested to provide committee members with a complete schedule of FY2020-25 Six Year Program adoption and TransAction update project.

X. Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.