



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING COORDINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

6:30 pm

(Electronic Meeting Only)

I. Call to Order/Welcome **AGENDA** Chair Colbert

Action

II. Resolution finding need to conduct meeting electronically Chair Colbert
Recommended action: Adoption of resolution

III. Summary Notes of September 23, 2020 Meeting Chair Colbert
Recommended action: Approval of meeting notes

IV. TransAction Vision & Goals Mr. Jasper, Principal Planner
Recommended action: Approval of recommendation of TransAction vision to the Authority

Discussion/Information

V. NoVA Gateway – Project Information Dashboard Sree Nampoothiri, Senior Transportation Planner

VI. NVTA Update Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

Adjournment

VII. Adjourn

Next Meeting (Electronic)
Wednesday, November 18, 2020
7:00 pm

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
PLANNING COORDINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**RESOLUTION FINDING NEED TO CONDUCT MEETING BY ELECTRONIC
COMMUNICATION MEANS DURING GOVERNOR’S DECLARED STATE OF
EMERGENCY DURING COVID – 19 PANDEMIC**

OCTOBER 28, 2020 MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

October 28, 2020

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the Governor of Virginia declared a state of emergency in Virginia in response to the spread of novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, a communicable disease of public health threat as so declared by the State Health Commissioner on February 7, 2020 (“COVID-19”); and

WHEREAS, in subsequent Executive Orders, particularly Executive Order Nos. 53 and 55, as amended, the Governor of Virginia, among other measures designed to ensure safe physical distancing between individuals, prohibited public and private in person gatherings of 10 or more individuals and ordered all individuals in Virginia to remain at their place of residence, with limited exceptions, to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 and prevent its spread; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (Authority) – Planning Coordination Advisory Committee (Committee) finds that it has a responsibility to demonstrate to the public, through the Authority’s conduct, the importance of maintaining proper physical distance from others and to avoid gathering in public where the risks of infection are highest, and to take measures that promote physical distancing in order to protect the public health and mitigate the impacts and spread of COVID-19, including, among others, conducting meetings electronically whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2020, the Virginia General Assembly adopted, and the Governor signed, budget bill amendments to HB 29 that expressly authorize “any public body, including any state, local, [or] regional body” to “meet by electronic communication means without a quorum of the public body . . . physically assembled at one location when the Governor has declared a state of emergency . . . , provided that (i) the nature of the declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe for the public body . . . to assemble in a single location; (ii) the purpose of the meeting is to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the public body . . . and the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities” among other provisions; and

WHEREAS, member jurisdictions of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority have adopted continuity of government ordinances pursuant to Va. Code Ann. § 15.2-1413 which ordinances, among other provisions, contemplate regional bodies of which the locality is a member meeting electronically to transact business to assure the continuity of government; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority Planning Coordination Advisory Committee hereby finds that meeting by electronic means is authorized because the nature of the declared emergency makes it both impracticable and unsafe for the Committee to assemble in a single location on October 28, 2020, to discuss and transact the business of the Authority listed on the October 28, 2020 Committee Meeting Agenda; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee hereby finds that meeting by electronic means is authorized because the items on the October 28, 2020 Committee Meeting Agenda are statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the Authority and the discharge of the Authority's lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the items on the October 28, 2020 Committee Meeting Agenda are encompassed within the continuity of operations ordinances adopted by member localities of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority to assure the continued operation of the government during the disaster posed by the public health emergency resulting from COVID-19.

Adopted the 28th day of October, 2020.



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING COORDINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 23, 2020, 6:30 pm (Electronic meeting only)
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

SUMMARY NOTES

I. Call to Order/Welcome Vice-Chair Miles

- In the absence of Chair Colbert, Vice-Chair Miles welcomed committee members and called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
- Attendees:
 - **PCAC Members:** Vice-Chair and Council Member Selonia Miles (Town of Dumfries); 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 Phil Duncan (City of Falls Church); Supervisor Walter Alcorn (Fairfax County); Council Member Stehle (City of Fairfax); Council Member Fox (Town of Leesburg); Council Member Signe Friedrichs (Town of Herndon).
 - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Keith Jasper (Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming); Harun Rashid (Transportation Planner), Sree Nampoothiri (Senior Transportation Planner).

Action

II. Resolution to Conduct September 23, 2020 Meeting Electronically

- Vice-Chair Miles read a summary excerpt of the resolution on the need for this PCAC meeting to be held electronically, and its permissibility under the recent passage of the amendments to the HB 29 – the FOIA Bill.
The resolution was unanimously adopted.

III. Summary Notes of June 17, 2020 Meeting

- The June 17, 2020, meeting summary was approved, with abstentions from members who did not attend the June 17 meeting.

Discussion/Information

IV. **TransAction Update**

Mr. Jasper

- Mr. Jasper provided a brief background of NVTA’s current long-range transportation plan (TransAction), and its significance for project programming and funding. As part of groundwork leading to the current update cycle, Mr. Jasper presented on two topics:
 - a. COVID-19 – Transportation Impacts and Opportunities;
 - b. TransAction Update – Vision and Goals.
- On COVID-19 transportation impact presentation, following topics were highlighted - the context of this scenario analysis exercise, scenario definitions and assumptions, short-term impacts, and long-term “new normal” travel conditions. The scenarios are not meant to be predicted future, but a set of assumptions based on information available at the time of analyses. With this set of assumptions, short-term and the “new normal” travel conditions are presented with following performance measures – e.g. Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT), roadway travel speeds, person hours of delay, transit ridership.
- Vice-Chair Miles expressed her appreciation for this very timely analysis. Board Chair Garvey, Arlington County, asked staff’s observation/opinion for a shorter 5-year time period. Mr. Jasper stated the uncertainty and difficulties to predict such an impact, and mentioned staff is closely monitoring trends in travel conditions/behavior and other choices that will impact the transportation system. Council Member Friedrichs, Town of Herndon, asked staff’s opinion on fiscal impact of current pandemic situation due to loss of ridership. Mr. Jasper stated that there might be a need to re-think the fiscal structure of transit service, which TransAction can analyze via scenario planning.
- As with previous NVTA long range planning efforts, a vision statement, and associated goals and objectives form the plan framework. NVTA staff has conducted a series of workshops involving planners from local jurisdictions and agencies, to solicit ideas to enhance/modify existing set of vision, goals, and objectives. The issue of how to address transportation equity, which has not been explicitly addressed before, was highlighted. Vice-Chair Miles expressed her appreciations to include the equity issue in the current discussion.

Discussion/Information

V. **NVTA Update**

Ms. Backmon

- NVTA Executive Director Ms. Backmon stated staff is closely monitoring the Commonwealth’s special budget session, to determine fiscal impacts for transportation funding, especially the status of restoring funds back to NVTA, that were re-allocated due to 2018 WMATA Bill. Another budget impact, especially in the current pandemic situation, is the Revenue Sharing program where Commonwealth Transportation Board has expressed their interest to re-allocate some funds. Council Member Stehle, City of Fairfax, expressed his support to NVTA’s legislative efforts.

VI. Adjourn

- Vice-Chair Miles adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

DRAFT

TransAction Update

Vision and Goals (Discussion Draft)
October 28th, 2020



Presented by:

Keith Jasper

Principal, Planning & Programming, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority



Definitions/Guidelines

- 1. Vision:** The vision statement articulates a preferred idealized state.
- 2. Goals:** Goals focus on priorities and outcomes the region desires to move toward.
- 3. Objectives:** Objectives are measurable and targeted actions that result in incremental but tangible advancement toward the stated goals.
- 4. Performance Measures:** Performance measures are used to evaluate potential performance of the transportation network. They derive from the stated objectives. Objectives can and should change over time as the region progresses and diverse aspects of goals become more pronounced in response to contemporary issues or understanding.
- 5. Weights:** Weights reflect the relative importance associated with each performance measure.

Note: Objectives, Performance Measure, and Weights will not be finalized until second half of 2021



Current Vision and Goals

TransAction Vision Statement

"In the 21st century, Northern Virginia will develop and sustain a multimodal transportation system that enhances quality of life and supports economic growth.

Investments in the system will provide effective transportation benefits, promote areas of concentrated growth, manage both demand and capacity, and employ the best technology, joining rail, roadway, bus, air, water, pedestrian, and bicycle facilities into an interconnected network that is fiscally sustainable."

Goal	Objective	Performance Measure	Weight
Goal 1: Enhance quality of life and economic strength of Northern Virginia through transportation	Reduce congestion and crowding experienced by travelers in the region	Total person hours of delay*	10%
		Transit crowding*	5%
		Person hours of congested travel in automobiles*	5%
		Person hours of congested travel in transit vehicles*	5%
	Improve travel time reliability	Congestion severity: maximum travel time ratio	5%
		Congestion duration*	10%
	Increase access to jobs, employees, markets, and destinations	Percent of jobs/population within 1/2 mile of high frequency and/or high performance transit	5%
		Access to jobs within 45 minutes by auto or within 60 minutes by transit*	5%
	Improve connections among and within areas of concentrated growth	Average travel time per motorized trip between Regional Activity Centers	5%
Walkable/bikeable environment within a Regional Activity Center		5%	
Goal 2: Enable optimal use of the transportation network and leverage the existing network	Improve the safety of transportation network	Safety of the transportation system	5%
	Increase integration between modes and systems	First and last mile connections	10%
	Provide more route and mode options to expand travel choices and improve resiliency of the system	Share of travel by non-SOV modes	10%
	Sustain and improve operation of the regional system	Person hours of travel caused by 10% increase in PM peak hour demand*	5%
Goal 3: Reduce negative impacts of transportation on communities and the environment	Reduce transportation related emissions	Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by speed	10%

* Measure included in HB 599 rating process.



Proposed New Elements

1. Equity

- Fairness in mobility and accessibility to meet needs of the region/sub-regions/communities
- Facilitate social and economic opportunities by providing equitable levels of access to affordable and reliable transportation options to serve the needs of all and in particular underserved populations (low-income, minority, elderly, children, people with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and/or persons with disabilities)

2. Sustainability

- Focus on meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
- Concept of sustainability is composed of three pillars: economic, environmental, and social

3. Resiliency

- Ability of the regional transportation system to move people around in the face of one or more major obstacles to normal function, e.g. major incidents or planned events, severe weather events, equipment or infrastructure failures, and impacts of changing climate.



Proposed Vision

PROPOSED VISION

*"Northern Virginia will plan for, and invest in, a **safe, equitable, sustainable**, and integrated multimodal transportation system that enhances quality of life, strengthens the economy, and builds **resilience**"*

POTENTIAL GOALS	POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES (Illustrative Only)
#1 Enhance quality of life by improving the mobility of Northern Virginians on the region's multimodal transportation system. [Mobility]	Congestion/Crowding/Reliability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 measures Environment/Emissions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 measure
#2 Strengthen the region's economy by increasing access to jobs, employees, markets, and destinations. [Accessibility]	Access to jobs/employees/markets/destinations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 measures
#3 Enhance operational performance of the multimodal transportation system under extreme or unusual travel conditions [Resiliency]	Travel Choices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 measure Surge Capacity/Homeland Security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 measure



Incorporating the Vision and Goals into the TransAction analysis

- Two complementary approaches:
 - Performance-based planning
 - Quantitative, model-based analysis for mobility and accessibility measures
 - Compare measures for underserved population vs general population
 - ‘Core Value’ approach
 - Holistic/overarching review for each ‘core value’, e.g. safety, equity, sustainability, and integrated multimodal system
 - Broader, qualitative
- Both approaches will incorporate public engagement and stakeholder inputs



Discussion

- What are the most urgent equity issues pertinent to the region that should be considered in TransAction?