



# Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

*The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia*

**PLANNING COORDINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, June 17, 2020, 6:00 pm (Electronic meeting only)**  
**Northern Virginia Transportation Authority**

## SUMMARY NOTES

### **I. Call to Order/Welcome**

Chair Colbert

- Chair Colbert read a series of instructions in regards to protocol in conducting the online meeting, before calling the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.
- Attendees:
  - **PCAC Members:** Chair 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 Phil Duncan (City of Falls Church); Council Member Selonia Miles (Town of Dumfries); Vice-Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker (City of Alexandria); Supervisor Walter Alcorn (Fairfax County); Council member Suzanne Fox (Town of Leesburg).
  - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Keith Jasper (Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming); Harun Rashid (Transportation Planner), Mackenzie Jarvis (Transportation Planner).

## Action

### **II. Resolution to Conduct June 17, 2020 Meeting Electronically**

- Chair Colbert 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 May 27, 2020 Meeting**

- The May 27, 2020, meeting summary was approved, with abstentions from members who did not attend the May 27 meeting.

#### IV. FY2020-25 Six Year Program Recommendations

Mr. Jasper

- Mr. Jasper presented on the overall project selection process for funding recommendations. He started with a contextual overview of NVTA's programming cycles as of date, and highlighted the competitive nature of this funding program, with total funds requested versus funds approved.
- The project selection process consists of four key components:
  - **Eligibility review.** A project needs to be in NVTA's long range transportation plan TransAction; with a resolution from the sponsor jurisdiction/agency's governing bodies; and physically located in Northern Virginia.
  - **Quantitative analysis:** Consists of 3 factors – Congestion Reduction Relative to Costs (CRRC); TransAction project ratings; and Long-Term Benefits. NVTA staff uses a transportation simulation model to derive these metrics. Among these 3 factors, Mr. Jasper identified the CRRC analysis to be most important, which is consistent with NVTA's primary funding legislation HB 2313 (2013).
  - **Qualitative analysis:** In this process, staff looks at a number of factors- Continuation project (Yes or No?); Past performance (assessed at the jurisdiction/agency and project levels, where appropriate); Extent of committed external funding; Funding gap; Project readiness; Supporting resolutions from other Governing Bodies; and Modal and geographic balance.
  - **Public Comment** (testimony, emails, and petitions received during the official public comment period).
- All eligible candidate projects are first sorted with their CRRC ranks. Other quantitative and qualitative factors are then tallied for each project. A graphic snapshot of this list was presented. Public comments are not a part of this project list, which were discussed with 2 graphs depicting most comments were submitted for 4 projects.
- Considering all these factors, 19 out of 41 projects were recommended for funding. With a multimodal perspective, given the list of candidate projects, the selection was guided by - Continued emphasis on road/rail/transit in the Route 1/VRE Fredericksburg Line corridor; Continued emphasis on Fairfax County Parkway corridor; Continued emphasis on BRT solutions; Synergies in Crystal City and western Falls Church; Increased focus on grid network solutions; and Increased focus on active transportation solutions.
- With this presentation, Mr. Jasper stated that committee members may either choose to recommend this list as presented to Authority for adoption, or suggest alternatives. He also invited questions and discussions for the same. Chair Colbert asked how the evaluation process considered geographic balance of funding allocations. Mr. Jasper explained that the set of candidate projects are looked at regionally first to ensure that recommended projects are not concentrated in one part of the region. Also, the analytical process to determine Long Term Benefits for each member jurisdiction ensures that transportation benefits from funding allocations are approximately equal to revenues contributed.
- Council member Suzanne Fox, Town of Leesburg, discussed the current funding situation of the candidate project in the Town of Leesburg (LEE-008: Interchange Improvements at Route 15 Leesburg Bypass and Edwards Ferry Road), and requested the committee to consider a partial funding of \$5 million for the application. Mr. Jasper explained the following reasons to not recommend this project application for funding – the project was ranked low in both CRRC and TransAction rating analyses;

a substantial amount of funding were allocated previously to other projects in Leesburg, which are charged against Loudoun County for Long Term Benefit analysis, where the County is over performing; previous NVTA funding for this project has not been utilized yet; and this particular request for partial funding for design phase does not align with the original project application.

- Board Chair Garvey, Arlington County, appreciated the staff recommendation to fund the NOV-002 application (Arlington W&OD Trail Enhancement), and explained how this funding for design phase will enable the project sponsor to move the project more efficiently. She also requested that NVTA staff explains the Long-Term Benefit analysis in details to the committee members to better understand the process of geographic balance at a future meeting.
- Council member and PCAC Vice-Chair Miles, Town of Dumfries, appreciated the comprehensive evaluation process and the staff presentation. She presented the motion to recommend staff recommendation to Authority for adoption. This motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Bennett-Parker (City of Alexandria). The motion was approved with 11 to 1 vote (1 no vote - Council Member Suzanne Fox, Town of Leesburg).

### **Discussion/Information**

#### **V. NVTA Update**

Ms. Backmon

- NVTA Executive Director Ms. Backmon expressed her gratitude to all committee members for their participation and support for this funding program, and mentioned the next round of funding applications in July 2021.

#### **VI. Adjourn**

- Chair Colbert mentioned the next meeting to be on July 23, and with that the meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.