

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Chair Phyllis J. Randall and Members
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

FROM: **Councilmember Miles**, Vice-Chair, Planning Coordination Advisory Committee

DATE: October 2, 2020

SUBJECT: Report from the Planning Coordination Advisory Committee

- 1. Purpose.** To inform the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) on recent activities of the NVTA Planning Coordination Advisory Committee (PCAC).
- 2. Background.** The PCAC met on September 23, 2020.

Due to the current public health emergency, the meeting was held online with 10 members joining remotely. The Committee took action on following three items:

- a.** A resolution to hold a remote electronic meeting was adopted unanimously. This resolution was based on the recent passage of the amendments to HB 29 – the FOIA Bill, which allows regional bodies such as the Authority, and their committees to conduct business meetings electronically.
 - b.** The June 17, 2020, meeting summary was approved, with abstentions from members who did not attend the June 17, 2020 meeting.
- 3. TransAction Update.** As part of groundwork leading to NVTA’s long range transportation plan (TransAction) update, Mr. Jasper presented on two topics – a. COVID-19 – Transportation Impacts and Opportunities; b. TransAction Update – Vision and Goals. On COVID-19 topic, Mr. Jasper described the context of this scenario analysis exercise, scenario definitions and assumptions, short-term impacts, and a long-term “new normal” travel conditions.
- a.** **Arlington Board Chair Garvey** asked about near-term impact within 5 years. As the pandemic situation is still evolving, staff is closely monitoring emerging travel behaviors, especially the share of tele-commuting.

After this presentation, Mr. Jasper outlined draft recommendations for TransAction vision and goals, and associated performance measures, as suggested in recent workshops involving Northern Virginia jurisdictional and agency staff. As of now, the vision statement reads – *“Northern Virginia will plan for, and invest in, a sustainable and integrated*

multimodal transportation system that enhances quality of life, strengthens the economy, and builds resilience.”

- b. **Councilmember and PCAC Vice-Chair Miles, Town of Dumfries**, appreciated staff initiative to introduce equity as a core value in the mix of goals-objectives-performance measures.
 - c. **Councilmember Friedrichs, Town of Herndon**, asked about planning approach to recent transit ridership and revenue loss due to the pandemic. Mr. Jasper stated that staff may need to consider innovative approaches to analyze other models of providing transit services.
- 4. **NVTA Update.** NVTA Executive Director Ms. Backmon stated that staff is closely monitoring the current special General Assembly session for potential funding impacts to the Authority. She also noted that there will be presentation on the update of VTrans, the long-range transportation plan for the Commonwealth.
- 5. **Next steps.** I envision the PCAC will continue to be engaged in the update of its long-range plan TransAction.
- 6. The date for the next meeting of the PCAC is Wednesday, October 28, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.