

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Monica Backmon, Executive Director

DATE: November 3, 2020

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

Purpose: To inform the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) of items of interest not addressed in other agenda items.

- 1. Regional Multi-Modal Mobility Program (RM3P)** – Four RM3P Focus Group Meetings and a Stakeholder Summit were held October 27th-29th. The virtual meetings were well attended and stakeholders were engaged in the discussions. Participant feedback has been positive. The Focus Group Meetings, which were invitation-only to subject-matter experts, were organized around four of the five RM3P program elements;
- i. Commuter Parking Information System
 - ii. Dynamic Incentivization
 - iii. Multi-Modal Analytical Planner
 - iv. AI-Based Decision Support System

Discussion about the Data-Exchange Platform (DEP) was included in all of the meetings; therefore, a separate DEP session was not held. The Summit meeting was attended by public-agency transportation leaders across the region, as well as representatives in academia, associations, public-safety and the private sector. Aggregate attendance at the four Focus Group Meetings totaled 67 persons. Approximately 110 people attended the Stakeholder Summit.

At the December 10th Authority meeting, Cathy McGee, Director of Research and Innovation for the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment, who also serves as one of the Executive Team Members for RM3P, is scheduled to present an updated overview and status of RM3P.

- 2. TransAction Update** – The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the next TransAction update has been posted, with a deadline for responses of December 8th. It is envisioned that the

Authority will select a consultant at your February 2021 meeting. Posting the RFP represents the latest milestone for the TransAction update:

- Following the Authority's TransAction Listening Session in January 2020, over the past couple of months three of NVTA's committees (Technical Advisory Committee, Planning Coordination Advisory Committee, and Planning and Programming Committee) have been discussing revisions to the TransAction vision, goals, objectives, and measures.
- The TransAction vision statement sets the direction for how the TransAction update will be developed and evaluated over the next two years, prior to Authority adoption at the end of calendar year 2022.
- As TransAction is updated on a five-year cycle, and represents the first eligibility filter for the projects that the Authority can fund through its Six Year Program, it is really important for the vision statement to articulate the Authority's vision for transportation in Northern Virginia over the next couple of decades.
- The proposed vision, which will be presented to the Authority for approval at your December 10th meeting, incorporates new components such as equity, sustainability, and resilience.

NVTA staff is currently working with jurisdiction staff to review the current TransAction Project List (adopted in October 2017) in order to develop a candidate list of regional transportation projects for inclusion in the TransAction update. Projects that have been implemented, are underway, or have been fully funded since October 2017 can be removed from consideration, while others may be modified or added. Since TransAction is driven by regional transportation needs, the final list of projects for the TransAction update will not be confirmed until 2021 after extensive screening and public engagement has been completed. Even then, this list will still be subject to change based on detailed modeling and analysis.

- 3. Transportation Technology Strategic Plan (TTSP)** - NVTA staff will share a draft Transportation Technology Strategic Plan (TTSP) with the Transportation Technology Committee, prior to releasing it to NVTA's committees for broader review, later this month. This will be NVTA's inaugural TTSP, which has evolved from recommendations included in the current TransAction plan adopted in October 2017. Transportation technology has always been included in NVTA's transportation planning and programming efforts, but the TTSP seeks to lay the groundwork for what is expected to be rapidly emerging subject over the next couple of years and decades. As such, the finalized version of the TTSP (anticipated in early 2021) will be incorporated into the development of the TransAction update.

- 4. Regional Elected Leaders Initiative** – On October 23rd, Keith Jasper and David Roden (AECOM) presented an overview of NVTA’s analysis on the transportation impacts of COVID-19. Following the presentation, held remotely, they participated in a panel discussion moderated by former Authority member Jay Fiset. One of the key points highlighted was the differential rate of recovery of traffic levels versus transit ridership. Mr. Jasper emphasized the need for regional collaboration to address perceptions of transit safety during the pandemic. The event was organized by Authority member Ms. Mary Hynes. Several Authority and NVTA committee members participated in the meeting.
- 5. NVTA Communication Plan** – Since its last update five years ago, it was time to revisit the NVTA Communication Plan and mission statement. The Communication Plan has been rewritten and the mission statement updated, with the following categories incorporated into the Plan: Goals, Overarching Key Messages, Leveraging External Channels, Stakeholder Audiences, Tools, Metrics and Looking Ahead, and TransAction and the consultant’s role. The updated Communication Plan will soon be presented before the Authority.
- 6. Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance’s “What You Need to Know about Transportation” Virtual Event** – On November 10th, I will join other transportation leaders in the region at the Alliance's 16th Annual "What You Need to Know about Transportation" virtual event, where we discussed the latest in transportation and COVID’s impacts on the D.C. region’s transportation network. Fellow panelists include Virginia Secretary of Transportation, Shannon Valentine; VDOT Northern Virginia District Administrator and Authority member, Helen Cuervo; Director, Stephen S. Fuller Institute, Jeannette Chapman; and keynote speaker Maryland Secretary of Transportation, Greg Slater.
- 7. Electric Buses Unveiled in the City of Alexandria** – On October 19th, the City of Alexandria, DRPT and DASH Bus celebrated the unveiling of the first-ever 100% zero-emission electric buses. NVTA has an \$11.9 million investment in DASH Bus Service Enhancements that will install infrastructures for electric buses, to support a complete fleet of electric/Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) buses for DASH. Featured speakers included Virginia Governor Ralph Northam, the Virginia Secretary of Transportation, Shannon Valentine, and Alexandria Mayor and Authority member, Justin Wilson.
- 8. Route 28 Widening Groundbreaking (City of Manassas)** – An in-person Route 28 Widening groundbreaking ceremony that was scheduled for October 26th in the City of Manassas, has been postponed. A new date is to be announced, but the groundbreaking will occur by

year's end. This is the sole NVTA-funded transportation project sponsored by the City of Manassas. Socially distanced precautions will be in place.

9. Joint Transportation Meeting – The second Annual Joint Transportation Meeting the Authority co-hosts with the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and the Virginia Railway Expressway (VRE), will occur in early December (date to be announced) and showcase Northern Virginia's regional collaboration. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, legislation was passed that allows the meeting to be conducted virtually this year. NVTA is working with the noted regional partners on coordinating the Joint Transportation Meeting and determining on which platform the meeting will be live-streamed.

10. NVTA Presentation to Virginia Tech -- Mackenzie Jarvis, Regional Transportation Planner and NVTA's newest staff member, has been invited to serve on a virtual panel titled, "Alumni working in transportation," as part of a graduate level Gateway to Planning course taught by Dr. Maggie Cowell, on the Virginia Tech campus in Arlington. The panel will focus on the career trajectories of its three participants, but there will also be opportunities for Ms. Jarvis to highlight the regional impacts of NVTA's substantial multimodal work. She will also likely be asked to comment on how her practice has been influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic and growing social justice movements. The panel will take place on October 12, 2020, and Ms. Jarvis is looking forward to building on her strong relationship with the university as a local alumna, and proudly representing NVTA.

11. NVTA Standing Committee Meetings:

- a. **Finance Committee:** The NVTA Finance Committee is scheduled to meet next on November 19th at 1:00pm. The meeting will be held electronically.
- b. **Planning and Programming Committee:** The NVTA Planning and Programming Committee met on November 2nd at 5:00pm. The next meeting is currently being scheduled.
- c. **Governance and Personnel Committee:** The next meeting of the NVTA Governance and Personnel Committee is scheduled for November 12th at 5:30pm.

12. NVTA Statutory Committee Meetings:

- a. **Technical Advisory Committee:** The NVTA Technical Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet November 18th at 7:00pm. The meeting will be held electronically.
- b. **Planning Coordination Advisory Committee:** The NVTA Planning Coordination Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet November 18th at 6:00pm. The meeting will be held electronically.

13. CMAQ-RSTP Transfers:

- a. CMAQ and RSTP Transfers requested since the last Executive Director's report are presented in Attachment A.

14. Regional Projects Status Report:

- a. Please note the updated Regional Projects Status Report (Attachment B), which provides a narrative update for each project and the amount of project reimbursements requested and processed to date.

Attachments:

- A. CMAQ-RSTP Transfers
- B. Regional Projects Status Report

Attachment A

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair Randall and Members
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

FROM: Monica Backmon, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Approval of Reallocation of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

DATE: November 4, 2020

- 1. Purpose.** To inform the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) of Regional Jurisdiction and Agency Coordinating Committee (RJACC) Approval of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for VRE.
- 2. Background:** On September 11, 2008, the Authority delegated the authority to approve requests to reallocate Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funding between projects that were previously approved by the NVTA to the Regional Jurisdiction and Agency Coordinating Committee (RJACC).

On October 22, 2020, VRE requested the following reallocation:

- Transfer of \$6,289,930 in CMAQ funding from UPC T10671 (VRE Rippon Station Platforms Project) to UPC T8523 (Broad Run Station Project)

The VRE Rippon Station Platforms Project has been included in Transforming Rail in Virginia Program, authorized by the General Assembly during the 2020 legislative session. As a result, the project has been delayed until 2030 and VRE and the VRE requests transfer of the funds to an active project to better align funding with project schedules. The receiver project is the VRE Broad Run Station Project (UPC T8523). This project will expand station and train storage capacity to alleviate regional congestion. Transfer of the requested funds will allow the project to stay on track for completion in 2024.

At its meeting on October 22, 2020, the RJACC approved this request.

Attachment(s): DRAFT Letter to VDOT NOVA District Administrator Cuervo
Request Letters from VRE and Prince William County

Coordination: Regional Jurisdiction and Agency Coordinating Committee



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

November 4, 2020

Ms. Helen Cuervo
District Administrator
Virginia Department of Transportation
4975 Alliance Dr. Suite 4E-342
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Reference: Request to Reallocate Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

Dear Ms. Cuervo:

On September 11, 2008, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) delegated the authority to approve requests to reallocate Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funding between projects that were previously approved by the NVTA to the Regional Jurisdiction and Agency Coordinating Committee (RJACC).

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NVTA's delegation requires that the RJACC notify the NVTA of these requests. The RJACC approved the request on October 22, 2020, and the NVTA was informed at their November 12, 2020, meeting. The NVTA has not objected to these reallocations.

Please take the necessary steps to reallocate these funds in the Transportation Improvement Program and the State Transportation Improvement Program. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Phyllis J. Randall
Chair

cc: Monica Backmon, Executive Director, NVTA
Mark Schofield, Chief Financial Officer, VRE
Ricardo Canizales, Director of Transportation, Prince William County



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

October 20, 2020

Monica Backmon, Executive Director
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)
Regional Jurisdiction and Agency Coordinating Committee (RJACC)
3040 Williams Drive
Fairfax, VA 22031

Re: Request to Transfer CMAQ Funds to the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Broad Run Station Expansion Project

Dear Ms. Backmon:

VRE requests the approval of the NVTA RJACC for the transfer of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds.

The request is to transfer a total of \$6,289,930 in CMAQ funds (inclusive of state match). The donor project is the VRE Rippon Station Platforms Project (UPC T10671), and the receiving project is the VRE Broad Run Station Expansion Project (UPC T8523). Both of these VRE rail station projects are in Prince William County, and the receiving project already has CMAQ funding allocated to it. As a result, only the NVTA RJACC approval is needed.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this request, please contact our Chief Financial Officer, Mark Schofield, at 571-351-0340 or mschofield@vre.org.

Sincerely,

Rich Dalton
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Mark Schofield, VRE Chief Financial Officer
Christine Hoeffner, VRE Manager of Project Development
Betsy Massie, PRTC Director of Grants and Project Development
Ric Canizales, Prince William County Director of Transportation



NVTA Funding Program Project Status
Summary Report

Attachment B

As of November 2, 2020.		
NVTA's Regional Fund Program FY2014 - FY2025		Upcoming Public Information Meeting(s):
Total Revenue Allocated	\$2,496,195,952	1. Arlington County: Pentagon City Multimodal Connections and Transitway Extension - Virtual design public hearing, November 18, 2020.
Total Amount Reimbursed	\$479,782,330	2. Fairfax County: Richmond Highway BRT - Virtual public information meeting, December 8, 2020.
Total Number of Individual Projects	106	NOTE: For latest information on project events, please refer to the "Events and Meetings" section on our home page - https://thenovaauthority.org/ For full status information, please check NVTA web page on regional fund projects - https://thenovaauthority.org/funded-projects/
SPAs	142	
Currently Active	69	
Closed-out	42	
Not Yet Executed	31	
Substantive Status Updates (during August - October 2020)**		
Project Title (program year)	Updated Status	% Reimbursed
Arlington County		
Ballston-Mu Metrorail Station West Entrance (FY2015-16)	The County has received the signed Project Coordination Agreement (PCA) from WMATA on October 21, 2020.	0.3%
Pentagon City Multimodal Connections and Transitway Extension (FY2018-23)	Multimodal Connections: A virtual Design Public Hearing is scheduled for November 17, 2020.	0.0%
Fairfax County		
Route 28 Widening: Prince William County Line to Route 29 (FY2015-16, FY2017, FY2018-23)	A virtual public information meeting was held on October 27, 2020.	FY2015-16: 81% FY2017: 0.0% FY2018-23: 0.0%
Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit - Phases I & II (FY2018-23)	A virtual Public Information Meeting was held on October 20, 2020, to update on the ROW acquisition status and process.	FY2018-23: 2.5%
Loudoun County		
Extend Shellhorn Road: Loudoun County Parkway to Randolph Drive (FY2018-23)	60% Design Plans were submitted in mid-October 2020.	0.0%
City of Alexandria		
DASH Transit Service Enhancements and Expansion (FY2018-23)	A public unveiling of the first three buses was held on October 20, 2020.	0.0%
Alexandria Bus Network ITS (FY2018-23)	All project tasks are completed; NVTA funds are reimbursed and SPA close-out form is submitted.	74.0%
City of Manassas		
Route 28 Widening: Godwin Drive to the Southern City Limits (FY2015-16)	Bids are under review, the anticipated construction start date (NTP), and associated groundbreaking ceremony is delayed.	19.1%
VRE		
Manassas Park Station Parking Expansion (FY2015-16, FY2017)	VRE and the City have finalized a funding agreement in October, to fund the redesign of the garage back to 60% design.	FY2015-16: 100.0% FY2017: 41.5%

**Substantive changes: SPA appendices A/B, Project administration, Start/completion of phases, Groundbreaking/ribbon-cutting ceremonies, Public information meetings, Major engineering progress.