



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Monday, November 2, 2020, 5:00pm

ELECTRONIC MEETING ONLY

Meeting link will be sent to the members prior to the meeting
All others will be able to view proceedings live on [NVTA's YouTube Channel](#)

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order/Welcome** Chair

Action

- II. Resolution finding need to conduct meeting electronically**

Recommended action: Adopt resolution

- III. Summary Notes of September 29, 2020 Meeting**

Recommended action: Approve meeting notes

- IV. TransAction Vision & Goals**

Mr. Jasper, Principal,
Transportation Planning and Programming

Recommended action: Approval of recommendation of TransAction vision to the Authority

Discussion/Information

- V. NVTA Update** Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

Adjournment

- VI. Adjourn**

Next Meeting: TBD

Location: TBD

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION FINDING NEED TO CONDUCT
NOVEMBER 2, 2020 MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

November 2, 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 and Programming 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 and Programming 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 November 2, 2020, to discuss and transact the business of the Authority listed on the November 2, 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 November 2, 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 November 2, 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 2nd day of November, 2020.



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Friday, September 29, 2020, 5:00 pm

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

ELECTRONIC MEETING

with livestreaming on YouTube

SUMMARY NOTES

I. Call to Order/Welcome

- Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.
- Attendees:
 - **PPC Members:** Mayor Wilson (City of Alexandria); Council Member Snyder (City of Falls Church); Mayor Rishell (City of Manassas Park); Chair Wheeler (Prince William County); Mayor Meyer (City of Fairfax).
 - **Other NVTA Members:** Ms. Hynes (Governor's Appointee/CTB Member); Delegate Roem (Virginia House of Delegates).
 - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Keith Jasper (Principal); Sree Nampoothiri (Senior Transportation Planner); Ria Kulkarni (Regional Transportation Planner).
 - **Council of Counsels:** None
 - **Jurisdiction/Agency Staff:** None on the WebEx. Several staff members followed the proceedings on livestreaming on YouTube Live.

Action

II. Resolution finding need to conduct meeting electronically

- Chairman Wilson noted that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Northam's declaration of a State of Emergency, the Authority's Planning and Programming Committee Meeting was being held electronically. He noted that the passage of the amendments to HB 29 (the FOIA Bill) allowed regional bodies such as the Authority, and their committees to conduct business meetings electronically. He added that the meeting by electronic means is authorized because the items on the Committee Meeting Agenda are statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the Authority. The resolution was approved unanimously.

III. Summary Notes of June 19, 2020 Meeting

- The June 19, 2020 Planning and Programming Committee meeting summary was approved unanimously with abstentions from members not present at the June 19th meeting.

Discussion/Information

IV. TransAction Update

- Mr. Jasper noted that TransAction update process has begun and as part of that NVTA staff has been looking at various transportation trends in the region. He gave a presentation of the transportation impacts of COVID-19 that updated the one he presented to the Authority at its July meeting. The presentation reflected on how the four scenarios studied by NVTA compared with the current observed travel trends. The presentation included:
 - Summary of statewide and Northern Virginia-specific volumes, traffic speeds, WMATA-, VRE-, and local transit ridership.
 - Summary of employer telework survey by Commuter Connections, VDOT/DRPT survey of commuters, and Greater Washington Partnership survey of employers.
 - These trends match more with short term impacts predicted under the quick recovery and active transportation scenarios.
 - Transit ridership trends are way below what was expected under all four scenarios, and this will need further analysis. Potential explanation includes safety perception of riders, DC-centric trip patterns for rail and commuter bus travelers, and rail travelers shifting to auto.
 - As NVTA embarks on TransAction update, these factors need to be considered in the development of scenarios and modal choice approaches.
- Ms. Hynes noted that the reduction in volume on I-66 inside the beltway could be also in part due to the establishment of tolls and lighter traffic on parallel arterials.
- In response to Mayor Rishell's question on truck traffic, Mr. Jasper noted that freight traffic is back to pre-pandemic levels statewide, as per CTB.
- Council Member Snyder commented on the need to consider teleworking as a major mode, potential for employees not fully coming back, policies on transit and highway, and road safety.
- Ms. Hynes noted the need to understand the impact of school openings and the difference in local transit trip compared to DC-centric trips.
- Mayor Wilson confirmed that the City of Alexandria has seen higher demand on local bus system. He added that local transit systems should pay attention to flexible routing and other options to meet the changing needs.
- Chair Wheeler cautioned against taking major policy changes to meet short-term needs but to look at the long-term policies, particularly in the context of TransAction. She added that everyone needs to be flexible in approach until there is more clarity.
- Mayor Meyer noted that the NVTA plan and investments are long term and needs to keep that perspective in its reactions.
- Mayor Rishell noted that the life will go back to normal and we need to continue our focus on infrastructure.

- Mr. Jasper presented an overview of TransAction vision, goals, objectives, and performance measures and presented a framework for updating the vision and goals.
 - A proposed revision of the vision statement that was developed after discussing with jurisdiction and agency staff: "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.”

- Three goals – improve mobility, increase accessibility, and build resiliency – were mapped from the vision
- The objectives and performance measures will be developed further along the plan development process.
- Equity and other factors will be explored as core values that look holistically at the plan.
- Ms. Hynes requested staff provide a detailed understanding of equity in transportation.
- Mayor Wilson stressed the importance of this topic and shared the experience of community engagement in the City of Alexandria.
- Council Member Snyder encouraged the staff and committees to explore traffic safety, technology, and equity in the Plan.

V. NVT A Update

- Ms. Backmon noted that Governance and Personnel Committee (GPC) will meet prior to the Authority meeting on Thursday and will discuss on items to be focused during the upcoming General Assembly session. The Authority meeting will follow the GPC meeting.

Adjournment

VI. Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

TransAction Update

Vision Statement (Discussion Draft)
November 2nd, 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?