



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, November 18, 2020
7:00 pm
(Electronic Meeting and livestreamed via YouTube)

AGENDA

I. Call to Order/Welcome Chairman Boice

Action

II. Resolution finding need to conduct meeting electronically Chairman Boice
Recommended action: Adoption of resolution

III. Summary Notes of October 21, 2020 Meeting Chairman Boice
Recommended action: Approval of meeting notes

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

Discussion/Information

V. TransAction Goals; Objectives; Measures Mr. Jasper, Principal Planner

VI. NVTA Update Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

Adjournment

VII. Adjourn

Next Meeting (Electronic)
Wednesday, December 16, 2020
7:00 pm

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

NOVEMBER 18, 2020 MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

November 18, 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) – Technical 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 Technical 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 November 18, 2020, to discuss and transact the business of the Authority listed on the November 18, 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 18, 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 18, 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 18th day of November, 2020.



TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, October 21, 2020, 7:00 pm
Electronic meeting and livestreamed on [YouTube](#)

MEETING SUMMARY

I. Call to Order/Welcome

- Chairman Boice called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.
- Attendees:
 - **Members:** Randy Boice, Karen Campblin, Armand Ciccarelli, Amy Morris, Frank Spielberg, Pat Turner
 - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (Executive Director), Keith Jasper (Principal), Sree Nampoothiri (Senior Transportation Planner), Ria Kulkarni (Regional Transportation Planner)
 - **Others: On YouTube livestream.**

II. Resolution finding the need to conduct meetings electronically

- Chairman Boice noted that as a result of the COVID-19 and Governor Northam's declaration of a State of Emergency, the Authority's Technical Advisory 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 of September 16, 2020 Meeting

- The meeting summary was approved unanimously.

IV. Action Items

a. TransAction Update - Vision & Goals

- Mr. Jasper invited feedback from the committee on the proposed vision and the potential goals that align with the proposed vision. Inputs on objectives and performance measures would be solicited from the Committees, citizens, and stakeholders later in the process before being finalized.



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- Mr. Jasper presented the four proposed new elements to be incorporated in the vision statement and potential goals:
 - **Equity**, to integrate fairness in mobility and accessibility, at the regional, sub regional or community levels based on aspects of equity that the committees would recommend to address based on the issues prevalent in the region. The element of equity also facilitates social and economic opportunities that serve all with specific focus on underserved populations.
 - **Sustainability**, addressing benefits to the three pillars “People, Planet, and Profit.”
 - **Safety** –which currently is included as a performance measure. However, safety improvement is expected to be an inherent factor in all plans and projects and therefore, might be considered as a core value.
 - **Resiliency**, which is a concept on how quickly can the system recover when it experiences an incident, event such as crashes, weather, planned events, etc.
- Mr. Jasper presented two approaches to address the overall TransAction development and evaluation methodology for a sustainable transportation system that is safe, equitable and resilient.
 - **Core value approach** – which is more like an overarching approach taken for safety, equity, and sustainability. This approach considers that safety, equity, and sustainability are the drivers of resulting improvements and investments in the regions and there can be qualitative factors to evaluate and rank projects for their impact. Mr. Jasper noted that “safety” has posed challenges in how it can be measured under the purview of a regional planning and investment body as opposed to an implementation or operational institution.
 - Mr. Jasper also noted that TransAction could identify equity priorities and evaluate if the plan could address the priorities.
 - **Performance measure approach** – where a model-based approach with metrics used to rank projects based on safety and equity improvements.
- **Discussion**
 - Chair Boice noted that safety is enshrined in the code of Virginia. He also stated that if projects were not safe there would be no development – meaning safety is the reason why many infrastructure projects surface.
 - Mr. Spielberg asked if the goals were different and would replace the previous goals of TransAction. He also wanted to know whether a core value or a performance-based approach was taken for all of the goals/ objectives. He further added and asked if NVTA would consider looking at Title VI evaluations and environmental justice evaluations as those agencies that receive federal funding.



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- Mr. Jasper agreed that the new goals would replace the previous ones. However, he did state that the vision statement when approved can pave the way to further customize and finalize goals.
- Ms. Morris wanted to know if safety in the vision statement is mapped onto the newly proposed goals to which Mr. Jasper responded that safety essentially comes under the sustainability element, social because safety relates to people and communities.
- Ms. Campblin appreciated how the terminology in goals showed how transformative transportation can be. She mentioned how mobility maps to quality of life and accessibility for the economy. She sought to understand whether the approach to embrace the newly proposed elements of the vision (safety, equity) would be performance based or core value based or a “hybrid” where some of them would take one or the other.
 - Mr. Jasper responded that in the past, there was only a performance-based approach with 15 measures. However, he alluded that the number of performance measures would reduce considering elements such as safety could take an overarching core value approach. He also indicated that it was challenging to address this as a performance measure in the past.
- Mr. Ciccarelli asked the basis on which the performance measures were proposed to be reduced from 15 to 8 to which Mr. Jasper said there were discussions with member jurisdictions on an approach to be taken on goals, objectives, and measures but still premature to finalize them at this point. He indicated that the measures that result from HB 599 legislation are retained and other measures based on the proposed vision and goals were either consolidated or filtered to streamline priorities.
- Mr. Jasper commented that equity as a performance-based approach is still in a conceptual stage where equity priorities are to be identified through feedback from various committee reviews and evaluating how the region is addressing equity.
- Ms. Campblin asserted that Commonwealth is starting to define Environmental Justice communities and suggested to look at the direction in which the Commonwealth is moving forward.
 - Ms. Backmon followed up saying that Commonwealth is in the process of updating their long-range plan VTRANS and may include environmental justice legislations. She also added that NVTA will consider looking into it.
- The committee was in support and agreed to the vision statement in principle and deferred the approval of recommendation of the Vision and Goals for Authority approval until after the next TAC meeting during which the TAC would review other committees’ feedback and finalize on the vision and goals for approval.



b. NVTA Update

- Ms. Backmon informed the Committee that a status update to the Commonwealth's long-range plan update, VTRANS, which has a nexus with Smart Scale funding, will be presented at the next Authority meeting. An update on the I-495 Next project will also be presented to the Authority. Ms. Backmon also relayed that the General Assembly has ended and that the Governor is waiting until after the election to sign the budget. There is no diversion of Authority revenues and NVTA is seeking full restoration of funds that were diverted to Metro two years ago.

V. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm. The next TAC meeting is on November 18th, 2020 at 7 pm.