



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, September 16, 2020, 7:00 pm
Electronic meeting with livestreaming on [YouTube](#)

MEETING SUMMARY

I. Call to Order/Welcome

- Chairman Boice called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
- Attendees:
 - **Members:** Randy Boice, Karen Campblin, Armand Ciccarelli, Amy Morris, Frank Spielberg, Pat Turner, Dr. Shanjiang Zhu
 - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (Executive Director), Keith Jasper (Principal), Sree Nampoothiri (Senior Transportation Planner), Ria Kulkarni (Regional Transportation Planner)
 - **NVTA staff and others viewing the 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 July 17, 2020 Meeting

- The meeting summary was approved unanimously.

IV. Information Items

a. TransAction Update- COVID-19 Transportation Impacts and Opportunities

- Mr. Jasper, Principal, relayed that NVTA partnered with AECOM to conduct analysis of change in travel behavior due to COVID-19. He discussed the near-term impacts of the pandemic on transportation, based on a pre-defined set of scenarios with varying degree of recovery, namely: quick recovery, active transportation, second wave of pandemic and cautious recovery. The transportation impacts of different assumptions regarding telework, jobs, school, transit safety perception, and active



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transportation were shared and discussed with the committee. The committee, in general, concurred with the approach and assessments shown and supported the continuation of the evaluation.

- Mr. Spielberg asked why the transit share didn't change when transit trips drastically declined to which Mr. Jasper noted the relative decline in trip making was rather modally balanced.
- Dr. Zhu commented that any assumptions made for travel for COVID-19 would be "premature". He relayed that agencies and institutions like VDOT and Transportation Research Board are studying and conducting workshops that focus on this problem. Dr. Zhu recommended looking into transit agencies especially in DC to see if the transit share decreased due to the pandemic or more so due to reduced transit frequency and routes. He asserted on watching for new evidence to better understand the nature of the problem. Mr. Jasper agreed and noted that the scenario building aligned with that approach of studying this problem.
- Ms. Turner asked if other Metropolitan Planning Organizations and agencies are pursuing similar efforts and was interested to know how their results compared to the NVTA study. Mr. Jasper responded that with the next TransAction update on the horizon, the goal was to identify pointers for added uncertainty of the pandemic in light of the scenario planning study. He also mentioned that NVTA staff is monitoring other agencies and regions that are looking into studying this and may see further analyses published in the near future.
- Ms. Morris appreciated the thinking that went into development of assumptions and scenarios and acknowledged that it is not an easy task. She followed up with a question on whether telework was expected to increase by fifteen to twenty percent in the "new normal" and Mr. Jasper confirmed. Ms. Morris also asked if this will may be a bit lower compared to the newly compiled empirical evidence. Mr. Jasper referenced the Greater Washington Partnership survey findings and said that the level of telework was certainly expected to be greater than the assumptions made in the study.

b. TransAction Update- Vision & Goals

- Mr. Jasper, Principal, shared with the committee that a working group of jurisdiction and agency staff was established to discuss the current vision and goals and consider options to update them. The newly proposed vision and goals were presented to the committee and the committee offered its feedback during the meeting on the proposed language. Mr. Jasper noted that the proposed vision and goals will be finalized and taken to the Authority for approval in December.



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c. NVTA Update- NoVA Gateway

- Ms. Backmon, Executive Director, introduced the “NoVA Gateway,” a newly developed web dashboard that provides information on all NVTA-funded projects and is now available to access via NVTA website. Mr. Nampoothiri, Senior Transportation Planner, provided an overview of the functions and features of the portal while welcoming any feedback for next phase of development. The TAC members supported the development of this program.
- On a related note about projects, the Chairman expressed his appreciation for NVTA’s efforts in communicating with the Prince William County Board of Supervisors, points of consideration regarding NVTA funding and the Route 28 Bypass project.

V. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.