

MEMORANDUM

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

**FROM:** Monica Backmon, Executive Director

**DATE:** December 10, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Vision Statement for TransAction Update

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- 1. Purpose.** To seek Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) approval of the revised vision statement for the TransAction update. This vision statement will guide the goals, objectives, and performance measures to be used in the evaluation of projects/packages of projects in TransAction.
- 2. Suggested Motion.** *I move approval of the vision statement for the TransAction Update.*
- 3. Background.** The current version of the TransAction Plan, the long-range transportation plan for Northern Virginia, was adopted by the Authority on October 12, 2017. The Authority officially kicked off the update to TransAction Plan at its January 9, 2020 meeting with a listening session. On November 12, 2020, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued for consultant services for TransAction Update with a due date of December 11, 2020. Approval of contract award by the Authority is expected at its meeting on February 11, 2021. The final Plan is expected to be adopted by the Authority in November 2022.

Given that TransAction is updated on a five-year cycle, it is appropriate to review the TransAction vision statement now to ensure it continues to reflect the Authority's aspirations for the regional transportation system over the coming decades. Since the vision statement will be used to develop the goals, objectives, and performance measures that will guide the Plan, NVTA staff is requesting Authority action at this time on a revised vision statement.

- 4. Discussion.** NVTA staff has coordinated with multiple committees to discuss various aspects of the TransAction update. Prior to the pandemic, NVTA staff established a working group comprised of members of the Regional Jurisdiction and Agency Coordinating Committee (RJACC) to discuss the TransAction vision and consider revisions. The revised statement focuses on mobility, accessibility, and resilience, while embracing core values of safety, equity, and sustainability. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the Planning Coordination Advisory Committee (PCAC), and the Planning and Programming Committee (PPC) have each discussed the revised vision statement at their respective meetings in

November. Each committee has unanimously recommended that the Authority approve the revised vision statement.

The **current vision statement** (approved in December 2015) reads:

“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.”

The **proposed vision statement** reads:

“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*”

Development of the TransAction update will continue to emphasize a multi-modal approach featuring existing and emerging transportation modes and technologies. To this end, in a parallel effort, NVTA staff is coordinating with the Transportation Technology Committee to develop a draft Transportation Technology Strategic Plan (TTSP) that will eventually be integrated in TransAction.

- 5. Next steps.** The selected consultant team will undertake public engagement in developing goals, objectives, and performance measures during Phase 1 of TransAction development (March 2021 - October 2021). NVTA staff will coordinate with the selected consultant on how to best incorporate the core values of safety, equity, and sustainability into the overall TransAction development process.

The draft TTSP will be shared with the Authority in early spring 2021.