

# Draft Transportation Technology Strategic Plan and Action Plan

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# List of Abbreviations

PCAC – Planning Coordination Advisory Committee (NVTA Statutory Committee)

PPC – Planning and Programming Committee (NVTA Standing Committee)

RJACC – Regional Jurisdiction and Agency Coordinating Committee

SYP – Six Year Program

TAC – Technical Advisory Committee (NVTA Statutory Committee)

TTC – Transportation Technology Committee (Advisory Committee to the NVTA Executive Director)

TTSP – Transportation Technology Strategic Plan

Additional Committee information can be found on NVTA's website:

<https://thenovaauthority.org/about/>



## Recap – Pathway to TTSP Approval

December 2020: Shared draft TTSP 'core content' with TTC

- 8 Strategies, 9 NVTA Roles, 3 Core Values

January 2021: Shared draft TTSP (minus Action Plan) with TTC

- TTC discussed draft TTSP (full document without Action Plan)

February/March 2021: Expanded review

- Discussed draft Action Plan with TTC
- Shared/discussed draft TTSP with TAC, PCAC, and PPC

March 2021: TTSP mini-session at NoVA Transportation Roundtable

April 2021: Seek TTSP/Action Plan recommendations from all committees

May 2021: NVTA consider/approve TTSP/Action Plan

May 2021 onwards: Implement Action Plan

- Integrate into TransAction



## Recap – Authority Vision for TransAction

“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**”

Approved by NVRTA on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020



## Recap – TTSP Content at the 6<sup>th</sup> Northern Virginia Transportation Roundtable

- Held virtually and live streamed on Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- More than **140 people joined in total**, including 12 members of the Authority.
  - A special thank you to the **8 TTC members who attended!**
- The Roundtable included a mini-session on the draft TTSP
  - NVTA Executive Director, Monica Backmon provided an introduction and history of the TTSP, starting with creation of the TTC.
  - **TTC Chairman, Councilmember David Snyder**, emphasized the importance of proactively planning for innovation, and committing to furthering the core values in the process.



## Recap – TTSP Content at the 6<sup>th</sup> Northern Virginia Transportation Roundtable

- Live polling was used to ask **5 TTSP-related questions**, including 3 that were multiple choice, and 2 that encouraged free-form responses:
- **“What innovative approaches can the region take to improve transportation equity in Northern Virginia?”**
  - Over 50 unique responses were received and a few common topics quickly emerged: effective and meaningful engagement that starts with asking and listening; providing more service and access to multiple modes; improving safety through infrastructure; reduced or free fares/trips; and provision of reliable and real-time data to the public.
- **“Which safety needs in Northern Virginia could be addressed by emerging transportation technologies? (Please consider all users and modes.)”**
  - Free-form responses ranged from suggestions to address/mitigate dangerous travel behaviors like distracted or impaired driving, to using data to target investments in safety-related infrastructure improvements, to encouraging connectivity between modes to optimize the overall transportation system and reduce crashes, particularly between vehicles and people biking or walking.



## NVTA Committee Feedback on the draft TTSP

- Staff has received feedback on the draft TTSP, both during meetings and in written format, from NVTA Committees, including the TTC, TAC, PCAC, PPC and RJACC
- The TTC was given the first opportunity to review the final component of the draft TTSP, the Action Plan, in the February meeting cycle.
  - TTC – all input received has been integrated into updated drafts of the TTSP and its Action Plan.
- The TAC has since had their first exposure to the Action Plan, in their March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - The other NVTA Committees will receive a briefing on the Action Plan in their March meetings as well.



## PCAC Feedback on the draft TTSP

- The PCAC provided input largely in a verbal format, staff are working to incorporate their recommendations.
- Feedback included:
  - Affirmation of the manner in which equity is addressed in the current draft
  - Increase discussion of the costs of technologies
  - Suggestions for additional technologies to consider/address in the TTSP
  - Further encouraging demos and test beds





## PPC Feedback on the draft TTSP

- Two members of the TTC also serve on the PPC; TTC Chairman David Snyder, and Mayor Jeanette Rishell. Their experience and insights into the development of the draft TTSP enhanced the discussions had by the PPC.
- Feedback included:
  - Emphasize that the TTSP will take a needs-driven approach
  - Stress that investments should be made smartly, so as to avoid obsolescence
  - Request to clarify how the TTSP will be actualized, and to provide more detail regarding how it will interact with TransAction
  - Recommendations to allow for flexibility in setting expectations and goals (as technology and innovative approaches are constantly evolving and being used in new ways)



## TAC Feedback on the draft TTSP

- NVRTA staff recently received feedback from the TAC on the draft TTSP and is working to incorporate it.
- Suggestions included:
  - Addition of an executive summary
  - Rewording/refocusing some Strategy titles and/or descriptions
  - Suggestions regarding how to address equitable provision of services
  - Recommendations for addressing the nuanced correlations between congestion reduction and sustainability and safety
- The TAC has been asked to provide feedback on the draft Action Plan over the next two weeks.



## Discussion of Potential Changes

- Rewording/refocusing some Strategy titles and/or descriptions
  - A TAC member advised that the Strategies 1-3, as currently titled/described in the draft TTSP, seem more like “goals” than “strategies”
- Options to address this:
  - Change Strategy names
  - Adjust Strategy descriptions to focus on topics not covered in other Strategies
  - Make Strategy titles and summaries more flexible, to accommodate unknowns regarding innovation and market penetration



# Potential Rewording of Strategies

Current Draft Strategies		Potential Revisions to Draft Strategies
1	Reduce Congestion	Reduce congestion through technologies that support transit, shared occupancy rides and use of micro modes
2	Maximize access to jobs, employees and housing	Support innovative and data-driven approaches to improving access to jobs, employees and housing
3	Maximize cybersecurity and maximize privacy for members of the public	Prioritize cybersecurity and privacy in funding decisions and procurements, and support others in doing the same
4	Minimize potential for Zero Occupancy Vehicles	
5	Develop pricing mechanisms that manage travel demand and provide sustainable travel options	
6	Maximize the potential of physical and communication infrastructure to serve existing and emerging modes	
7	Enhance regional coordination and encourage interoperability in all systems	
8	Create a network of charging infrastructure, for use by private and fleet vehicles	Support development of infrastructure that reduces reliance on internal combustion engines



# TTSP Action Plan: Possible Outcomes

- TransAction scenario (sensitivity) analysis
  - Incentives and pricing mechanisms to reduce car dependency
  - Climate change and resiliency of regional transportation system
  - Pandemic 'new normal' implications of increased work-from-home and e-commerce
- Outreach/education
  - Facts and Myths: Connected, Autonomous, Shared, and Electric (CASE) vehicles
- Identify potential additions to NVTA's Legislative Program
  - Support EV infrastructure
  - Support Zero Emission Vehicles
  - Concern regarding Zero Occupant Vehicles



# TTSP Action Plan: Possible Outcomes

- Identify potential refinements to future NVTA SYP project selection process (post-TransAction update)
  - Contingent on...?
  - Standardization, e.g. transit signal priority communications
- Funding
  - TransAction Project List is the first filter for projects that can be funded using NVTA regional revenues
  - NVTA staff currently coordinating with jurisdiction/agency staff
- Develop White Papers identifying potential topics for future regional transportation policy
  - Shared mobility devices
  - Autonomous transit shuttles
  - Zero occupant vehicles



# TTSP: Anticipated Recommendations

- Approval of the Eight Strategies
- Approval to begin implementation of the Action Plan

If approved, NVTA Staff will also:

- Provide an update on progress every six months until TransAction is adopted
- Include TTSP/Action Plan in public engagement efforts around the TransAction update



# TTSP: Monitoring Progress and Update Cycle

- Until TransAction is adopted in late 2022, the TTSP will be reviewed/updated every six months, incorporating
  - Feedback during TransAction public engagement phases
  - Relevant findings from TransAction analyses.
- Thereafter, the TTSP will be reviewed/updated annually. Typically, the annual review will take place around the anniversary of adoption of the TTSP by the Authority, however, other events may trigger the cycle, including:
  - Adoption or enactment of any new Federal/Commonwealth laws that directly or indirectly pertain to transportation technologies and/or any concept covered within the then-current iteration of the TTSP.
  - Relevant actions of NVTA member jurisdictions or other regional bodies.
  - Market factors.





## Next Steps

- The draft Action Plan will be presented to the following NVTA Committees, for their initial review, during the March meeting cycle:
  - PCAC – 6:30pm on Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>
  - PPC – 5:00pm on Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>
- An updated draft TTSP, inclusive of its Action Plan, will be shared with all Committees, for final review, by early April 2021.



**THANK YOU!**