



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 25, 2021, 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 March 1, 2021 Meeting**
Recommended action: Approve meeting notes

Discussion/Information

- I. Transportation Technology Action Plan** Mr. Jasper, Principal,
Transportation Planning and Programming
- II. TransAction Update** Mr. Jasper, Principal,
Transportation Planning and Programming
- III. NVTA Update** Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

Adjournment

- IV. Adjourn**

Next Meeting (subject to PPC approval): Monday, May 3, 2021
Location: Electronic meeting

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION FINDING NEED TO CONDUCT
MARCH 25, 2020 MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

March 25, 2021

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 March 25, 2021, to discuss and transact the business of the Authority listed on the March 25, 2021 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 March 25, 2021 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 March 25, 2021 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 25th day of March, 2021.



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Monday, March 1, 2021, 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).
 - **Other NVTA Members:** None.
 - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Keith Jasper (Principal); Sree Nampoothiri (Senior Transportation Planner); Mackenzie Love (Regional Transportation Planner).
 - **Jurisdiction/Agency Staff:** 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 November 2, 2020 Meeting

- The November 2, 2020 Planning and Programming Committee meeting summary was approved unanimously.

Discussion/Information

IV. **TransAction Technology Strategic Plan**

- Mr. Jasper presented on NVTA’s draft Transportation Technology Strategic Plan (TTSP), covering its background and purpose, and its linkage to upcoming long range transportation plan update. After the adoption of last TransAction plan in October 2017, under the guidance of NVTA Executive Director Ms. Backmon, the Transportation Technology Committee (TTC) was created as an advisory committee with Council Member Snyder as its Chair. Primary charge of this committee was to draft a strategic plan, that will inform the emerging transportation technology related issues in long range planning.
- TTSP is a comprehensive approach to address exponential growth in technology and its transportation implication, one overarching objective is to ensure that NVTA’s investment does not become obsolete by the time projects are implemented. An overview of the draft TTSP was presented:
 - Introduction, including some sample Q&A.
 - Summary of TTSP Strategies and NVTA Roles.
 - Technologies mapped to TTSP Strategies.
 - Guidance on desired feedback and how to respond.
- Several introductory/sample questions were presented to committee members: TTSP’s relationship to NVTA planning and programming process; pandemic and resulting travel pattern; role of technologies in this new travel pattern; equity and environmental justice and technology; role of technology in recovery from pandemic; possible priorities for technology in the “new normal”. On these topics, committee members discussed how the issue of transportation equity needs to be addressed.
- Ms. Love then presented a summary of strategies and structure; NVTA’s roles for each strategy; and a list of emerging technologies mapped to these strategies. In the draft plan, there are 8 strategies outlined, with 9 NVTA roles.
- Council Member Snyder commented that the TTC took a proactive approach of identifying the direction of the region and what role technology can play in it rather than technology deciding the direction of the region.
- Mayor Rishell added that TTC was clear that the region should not invest funds in rapidly developing technology that might become obsolete in short timeframe.
- In response to Chair Wilson’s question on the objective of TTSP as shaping the expectation in terms of investment from member jurisdictions or NVTA’s investment, Mr. Jasper affirmed that it is a mixture of these and other factors. He added that TTSP will be an evolving/living document as some actions coming out of TTSP would be immediate while others would be medium- and long-term actions. It could also drive identification and development of transportation policies that can leverage technology for achieving the vision of the region.
- Mayor Rishell commented that there is an uncertainty on use of technology for shared mode of travel in the aftermath of pandemic. In response to her question on NVTA’s ability to fund replacement buses without capacity addition for the promotion of electric buses, Mr. Jasper and Ms. Backmon answered in the affirmative that the 70% Regional revenues need to be used for capital investment and capacity additions. Ms. Backmon added that the 30% Local revenue funds may be used for operations and bus replacements.

- In response to Chair Wheeler’s inquiry on federal actions for national standards that can help interoperability across jurisdictions and systems, Ms. Love noted that the Plan proposes to monitor federal and state level initiatives on standards as well as utilizing any opportunity to advocate for NVTA at federal and state levels depending on NVTA’s priorities. Mr. Jasper added that the Plan is hoping to promote efficiency across the region and maximize NVTA investment in this field.
- In response to Chair Wheeler’s question on potential ranking of the various items in the strategies and technologies matrix, Ms. Love noted that there are several interdependencies among the components and their complexity, ranking was not considered at this point. She added that the upcoming Action Plan will identify timeline of activities.
- Chair Wilson encouraged to ensure information dissemination to transportation committees and commissions in addition to jurisdiction staff.
- Mayor Rishell encouraged everyone to be flexible with expectations due to the uncertainties.
- Council Member Snyder noted that TTSP should be considered a template plan while the upcoming Action Plan should identify more concrete activities. He added that the connection of TTSP with all the other documents and activities NVTA does need to be detailed out in the coming days.
- Council Member Snyder appreciated the vision and hard work from Ms. Backmon and NVTA staff in taking a leading role in technology in the region. Ms. Backmon noted that the staff is working with the offices of Senator Warner and Congressman Connelly to ensure the region’s needs are kept in mind in federal and state legislation and funding activities.

V. TransAction Update

- Ms. Backmon noted that the Finance Committee recommended award of TransAction consultant contract to Cambridge Systematics. Cambridge Systematics will also be doing the model-based project evaluations for the next three Six Year Program (SYP) updates.
- In addition to Mayor Rishell’s question on the meaning of model validation, Ms. Backmon notes that the model needs to be validated to the ground situation in terms of current traffic patterns.

VI. NVTA Update

- Ms. Backmon noted that the Authority, at its March 11th meeting, will receive presentations from Mayor Wilson on the progress of NVTA-funded Potomac Yard Metrorail Station project and from JBG Smith about transportation infrastructure investments in the National Landing area. She encouraged members to contact staff if they need to register for the Annual Transportation Roundtable.

Adjournment

VII. Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Draft Transportation Technology Strategic Plan – Action Plan

March 25th, 2021



Presented by:

Keith Jasper

Principal, Planning & Programming, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority



List of Abbreviations

PCAC – Planning Coordination Advisory Committee (NVTA Statutory Committee)

PPC – Planning and Programming Committee (NVTA Standing 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 17th, 2020



Recap – 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)



Recap – TTSP Content at the 6th Northern Virginia Transportation Roundtable

- Held virtually and live streamed on Wednesday, March 10th, 2021.
- More than **140 people joined in total**, including 12 members of the Authority.
- The Roundtable included a mini-session on the draft TTSP
 - NVRTA 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 6th 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.



Feedback from TAC and TTC: Recommended Rewording of Strategies

Current Draft Strategies		Recommended Revisions to Draft Strategies
1	Reduce Congestion	Reduce congestion and increase throughput
2	Maximize access to jobs, employees and housing	
3	Maximize cybersecurity and maximize privacy for members of the public	Maximize cybersecurity and privacy for members of the public
4	Minimize potential for Zero Occupancy Vehicles	Minimize potential for Zero Occupancy passenger 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	Advance decarbonization of the transportation system



TTSP Draft Action Plan

- What, When, Who?
- Actions must be traceable to at least one strategy, and include measure(s) of effectiveness;
- Some actions may be triggered by external events, e.g. federal/state legislation, market penetration thresholds;
- Most actions will be initiated by NVTA staff; not all will be implemented by NVTA staff;
- Define a monitoring plan; and
- Define a review and update cycle.



TTSP Draft Action Plan

Proposed Structure

- Introduction
- Strategy-Specific Summaries
 - *Overview*
 - *Assumptions Made*
 - *Action Plan*
- Consolidated Actions Table
- Next Steps
 - *Monitoring Progress and Update Cycle*
 - *The Review/Update Process*



TTSP Draft Action Plan

Strategy-Specific Summaries

Strategy #_: TITLE

Overview

A paragraph describing the predicted time frame in which it will be appropriate to take action, in keeping with the roles described in the draft Transportation Technology Strategic Plan (TTSP), in pursuit of a Strategy.

Assumptions Made

- Generally, 2 – 5 bullet points.

Actions

Item	Responsible Party	Trigger Point	Time Frame	Current Status	Actions	Stakeholders	Metric(s) of Success
					•	•	•



TTSP Draft Action Plan Consolidated Actions Table

Roles		Immediate				Near Term				Mid Term	Long Term								
		Jan - March, 2021	April - June, 2021	July - Sept, 2021	Oct - Dec, 2021	Jan - March, 2022	April - June, 2022	July - Sept, 2022	Oct - Dec, 2022	2023 - 2025	2026 - 2029	2030 and Beyond							
Title	Applicable Strategies								TransAction kick-off			Completion of TransAction Phase 1		TransAction adoption		Development of legislative program			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8				Development of legislative program	Six Year Program Update FY2022-2027						
Funding	1A, 1B	2A	3A, 3B			6A, 6B	7A	8A											
Policy				4B	5A			8B											
Advocate	1C			4C,4D, 4E	5A			8C											
Champion	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓											
Facilitate	✓	✓		✓		✓	7B	✓											
Stakeholder			✓		✓														
Planning	1A	2A	3A	4A	5B	6A	7A	8A											
Outreach/ Education	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											
Observer			✓																

Key				
Preparatory Action	Potential Direct Action	Direct Action	Follow Up Action	Continual/ Serendipitously
Bold text indicates this Role is a focus of the Strategy-Specific mini-action plans.				



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
 - Human Services transportation



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



Next Steps

- Following this meeting, share draft Action Plan for PPC review and comment with one-week response deadline (approximately April 1st)
- Share final draft of TTSP/Action Plan in early April
- Next PPC meeting – TBD
 - Request action to recommend eight strategies and Action Plan for NVTA approval in May



PPC Feedback Requested

- Thoughts on what you have heard today?
- Beyond NVTA Committees, who should we seek feedback from?
- What level of detail is required for the public-facing versions of the TTSP/Action Plan?
- Suggestions on low-cost visualizations? Examples?



THANK YOU!