



**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 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.



# Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

*The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia*

## PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Monday, November 2, 2020, 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.