



**Northern Virginia Transportation Authority**  
*The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia*

**MINUTES**

Thursday, February 11, 2021

7:00pm

3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200

Fairfax, VA 22031

Meeting conducted on WebEx and Live Streamed via YouTube

1. **Call to Order** Chair Randall
  - ✓ Chair Randall called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.
2. **Roll Call** Margaret Duker, Clerk
  - ✓ Voting Members: Chair Randall; Council Member Snyder; Chairman McKay; Chair Wheeler; Board Member Cristol; Mayor Davis-Younger, Mayor Wilson; Mayor Meyer (Arrived 7:12 PM); Vice - Mayor Banks; Senator Boysko; Delegate Roem; Ms. Hynes; Mr. Kolb.
  - ✓ Non-Voting Members; Mayor Burk; Mr. Horsley; Ms. Sinner.
  - ✓ Staff: Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Michael Longhi (CFO); Keith Jasper (Principal, Planning and Programming); Peggy Teal (Assistant Finance Officer); Margaret Duker (Board Clerk).
  - ✓ Other Attendees: Rob Dickerson (Council of Counsels); Joanna Anderson (Council of Counsels); Daniel Robinson (Council of Counsels); Steve Maclsaac (Council of Counsels); Tracy Baynard (McGuire Woods Consulting LLC); Mayor Vance and Vice - Mayor Marasco (Town of Hillsboro).
3. **Adoption of Resolution 21-02 to Find Need to Conduct Meeting by Electronic Communication Means during Governor's declared State of Emergency during COVID-19 Pandemic** Chair Randall

*Recommended action: Adoption of Resolution 21-02 for Electronic Meetings During COVID-19 Pandemic*

  - ✓ Delegate Roem made the motion to adopt Resolution 21-02 to Find Need to Conduct a Meeting by Electronic Communication Means during Governor's declared State of Emergency during COVID-19 Pandemic; seconded by Board Member Cristol. Motion passed by 12-0-1 as Mayor Meyer had not yet joined the meeting.
4. **Minutes of the January 14, 2021 Meeting**

*Recommended action: Approval [with abstentions from those who were not present]*

  - ✓ Mayor Davis-Younger moved to amend the Minutes as her name was not listed in the meeting Minutes Roll Call.

- ✓ Delegate Roem moved for the acceptance of the amended January 14, 2021, meeting minutes; seconded by Senator Boysko. Motion passed as amended by 12-0-1 with Vice-Mayor Banks abstaining as he was not present at the last meeting.

## Presentations

### **5. Town of Hillsboro Route 9 Project Update**

Mayor Vance, Town of Hillsboro

- ✓ In his introductory remarks, Mayor Vance of the Town of Hillsboro, thanked Chair Randall and Executive Director, Ms. Backmon, for the opportunity to update the Authority on the progress of the Hillsboro Route 9 Project.
- ✓ Noting that the Hillsboro Traffic Calming Project was possible due to the extraordinary partnership between the NVTA, Loudoun County and the Town of Hillsboro.
- ✓ Mayor Vance pointed out that he and some residents of the Town had come before the Authority, advocating for funding to support the Hillsboro project during the Public Hearing held on the FY2018-2023 Six Year Program.
- ✓ This time around, he was there to update everyone on how the Authority's investment is paying off, transforming the Route 9 Corridor and the Town's 'Main Street'.
- ✓ On behalf of the project team, Mayor Vance expressed gratitude to the NVTA members, past and present, as well as Staff for all their input and support.
- ✓ Mayor Vance again thanked former NVTA Chairman, Marty Nohe, who together with Executive Director, Ms. Backmon, visited the Town to learn about the potential merits of the project in Hillsboro; and also mentioned that Chair Randall and Blue Ridge Supervisor, Buffington, had encouraged the Town to apply for NVTA funding.
- ✓ He pointed that the exceptional leadership of Ms. Backmon, the guidance of an incredible talented team of professionals, Michael Longhi (CFO), Peggy Teal, Keith Jasper, Erica Hawksworth and all NVTA Staff who were there from the onset when help was needed, made it possible for the project to advance to where it is today.
- ✓ Mayor Vance closed his remarks by informing the Authority that to mark that historic day when the NVTA Board voted to stand by the Town of Hillsboro on June 18, 2018, he proclaims on behalf of the Hillsboro Town Council, that June 18<sup>th</sup> will be forever recognized and celebrated as 'NVTA DAY' in the Town of Hillsboro.
- ✓ To this end, he invited the NVTA Board and Staff to join the Town of Hillsboro on June 18<sup>th</sup> this year, to mark that day of celebration.
- ✓ He finished with a video which showed how despite challenges like the Town's main water pipe breaking down, the COVID—19 public health crisis and consequently having to redo the construction schedule, the Route 9 Project remains on schedule and within budget. The video also showed the project history and progress with notes of thanks and appreciation from Town residents.
- ✓

- ✓ Vice-Mayor Marasco joined Mayor Vance to again thank all Members of the Authority and Staff, adding that the Town of Hillsboro has been a good steward of NVTA's funding as project is on time and within budget.
- ✓ Chair Randall commended Mayor Vance and Vice-Mayor Marasco noting that they are true public servants.
- ✓ Delegate Roem commented that she is a huge fan of innovative intersection design and hopes other jurisdictions can see how a small town like Hillsboro's intersections makes a remarkable difference. She further applauded the Town for their creativity and looks forward to seeing more.
- ✓ Mayor Vance noted that Route 9 moves about 17,000 vehicles per day through the town.

## **6. Five Year Strategic Plan Update**

Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

- ✓ Ms. Backmon updated the Members noting that the Authority's Strategic Plan serves as an outline for the Authority and Staff to expand upon the accomplishments and outlines the strategic goals of regional prosperity, mobility, innovation and funding.
- ✓ The achievement of these four (4) strategic goals ensures that the Authority continues to grow as the regional leader in transportation planning and funding.
- ✓ For regional prosperity, the NoVA Gateway Dashboard was launched. This is a public-facing tool which has been helpful in providing real-time transportation data unlike previously when such information was only made available through the Status Updates from the Executive Director's report.
- ✓ Also, NVTA was one of the first organizations to conduct an analysis into the impacts of COVID-19 on transportation in the region.
- ✓ Further, contracted with Chmura Economics and Analytics to update NVTA's Economic Impact Analysis.
- ✓ With regards to Mobility, NVTA achieved a major accomplishment by adopting the FY2020-2025 Six Year Program. In spite of COVID-19 and associated revenue reductions, NVTA was able to preserve prior funding programs and commitments while successfully adopted a two-year update to the FY2024-2025 SYP (Six Year Program) at a value of \$539 million.
- ✓ The TransAction Update was kicked off with a Listening Session early in January 2020, including various standing, statutory and advisory committees reviewing and updating the TransAction Vision, prior to the Authority adoption.
- ✓ In the area of Innovation, NVTA and Staff from the Commonwealth of Virginia have continued to work on the development of the RM3P initiative. This is a huge initiative targeted at getting more people off the road using innovative offerings.
- ✓ NVTA hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Transportation Round Table last Spring, which brought together various thought leaders to deliberate on emerging technological trends in transportation. Ms. Backmon added that NVTA will host

the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Transportation Roundtable, to be conducted virtually for the first time, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

- ✓ The Authority established an internal travel trends monitoring program to monitor COVID impacts, which will be incorporating into the NoVA Gateway Dashboard.
- ✓ With regards to Funding, Ms. Backmon noted that NVTA has continued to receive unmodified (clean) Audit opinions.
- ✓ By implementing use of the Regional Revenue funds for the operating budget, NVTA saved localities \$2.9 million in FY2020.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon finished her presentation noting NVTA staff will be looking to refresh the Strategic Plan once the pandemic is over.

### Action Items

#### **7. Approval of Prince William County RSTP Transfer Request from Route 28 Phase I to Sudley Road Widening in City of Manassas** Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

*Recommended action: Approval of Transfer*

- ✓ Chair Wheeler moved Authority approval of the transfer of \$1,030,091.08 in RSTP funds from 'Route 28 Phase I' in Prince William County, to 'Sudley Road Widening' in the City of Manassas; seconded by Mayor Davis-Younger. Motion passed unanimously.
- ✓ Chair Wheeler noted that the Route 28 Phase I project had been completed and there are some left over funds. The County found that the Sudley Road Widening Project would benefit from this funding transfer.
- ✓ Mayor Davis-Younger inquired about the Authority's Regional Revenue funding and the synergies with Smart Scale.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon responded that the SmartScale program is under the purview of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) which staff recently released its Round 4 SmartScale funding recommendations this past January.
- ✓ The Authority's funding is in two parts: the 70% Regional Revenue which is used to fund regional transportation projects in the Authority's six year programs and the 30%, which goes to the local jurisdictions from which the revenues are received.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon pointed that there is no association between the two funding sources. However, given the high cost of projects in Northern Virginia, it is common to see projects with multiple funding sources including the Authority's regional revenues, federal, state and local funding sources, allocated to them.
- ✓ The Authority helps to synchronize all these funding sources to enable the region to optimize all available funding opportunities.
- ✓ Chair Randall offered to meet with Mayor Davis-Younger to explain some of these funding sources in greater detail.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon went on to add that Authority Member Ms. Hynes, who is also a member of the CTB, is another resource for information regarding SmartScale funding.

**8. Approval of the City of Falls Church RSTP Transfer Request from Bikeshare Connections to Pedestrian Crossings along Broad Street at Oak St, Fairfax St, and Berry St (HAWK Signals)**

Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

*Recommended action: Approval of Transfer*

- ✓ Council Member Snyder moved Authority approval of the transfer of \$133,793 in RSTP funds from ‘Bikeshare Connections’ to ‘Pedestrian Crossings along Broad Street to Oak Street, Fairfax Street, and Berry Street (HAWK Signals)’; seconded by Chairman McKay. Motion passed unanimously.
- ✓ Council Member and Vice-Chair Snyder noted that the City of Falls Church moves about 20,000 vehicles through the City in a day so this funding will be helpful in constructing these needed pedestrian signals to enable people move from one point to another.

**Discussion/Information Items**

**9. 2021 General Assembly Update (Verbal Report)**

Ms. Baynard, McGuire Woods Consulting, LLC

- ✓ Ms. Baynard noted the following State budget activities:
  - The House and Senate dedicated money to the Transit Incentive Fund. This is to be used for reducing fares for low-income riders and secondly to boost transit in urbanized areas.
  - The Senate has a more extensive set of initiatives through the proposed use of Virginia’s share of the federal Coronavirus Relief funding. Virginia estimates it will receive \$252 million – with \$37 million to be programmed by Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).
  - The Senate recommends allocating the remaining \$215 million in the following manner:
    - \$22.4 million for FY 21 to fill funding gap in Virginia’s share for Metro Capital Fund dedicated to SGR projects
    - \$5 million for FY 21 to the Transit Ridership Incentive Program; \$2.5M from this amount to reduce or eliminate fares and \$2.5M to support regional programs focused on congestion reduction along long-distance commuter routes
    - \$137.6M for FY 21 for Statewide Intercity Passenger Rail to extend service along the I-81/Rt.29 Corridor to Washington, D.C. Secretary is required to provide an assessment of total infrastructure costs to extend service to Bedford. This replaces Governor’s proposal to use \$50 million in general funds
    - \$40M for FY 21 for a Statewide Multi-Use Trail Initiative which replaces the Governor’s proposal to use \$5 million in general funds
    - CTB to program money for planning, development and construction of multi-use trails
    - \$17.5M for Eastern Shore-Bay Coast Railway Rails to Trails

- \$17.5M for safety enhancements to W & OD Trail at Wiehle Avenue and improving intermodal connectivity of Cross-Country Trail at Difficult Run
- \$2.5M for Fall Line Trail
- \$2.5M for Ivy Creek Trail and completion of the Tobacco Heritage Trail
- Requires the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment to convene a work group to recommend a prioritization process, identification of new opportunities and funding needs assessment of new multi-use trails opportunities – report due October 15, 2021
- \$10M for FY 21 for the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund to support the smart infrastructure test bed partnership pilot between City of Falls Church and Virginia Tech

**10. Finance Committee Report**

Mayor Rishell, Chair

- ✓ Chairman McKay, Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the Finance Committee Report in Mayor Rishell’s absence by briefing the Authority on the Finance Committee’s last meeting.
- ✓ He noted that the Finance Committee met on January 21<sup>st</sup> and is scheduled to meet again on February 18<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ He noted that at the last meeting, the Committee discussed the FY2022 operating budget and the new initiative to make enhancements to PIMMS.
- ✓ Also informed Members that the procurement for the next TransAction Update is in the negotiation stages and the lack of I-81 revenue remittances continues to be a challenge.
- ✓ The Committee also discussed the Authority’s investment portfolio and noted the fact that it continues to perform well.
- ✓ Delegate Roem asked if there are any projections regarding how much will be available for funding applications.
- ✓ Mr. Longhi responded noting that revenue estimates for funding programs are conducted the year in which those programming decisions are going to be made, noting they will be updated next Spring.
- ✓ Mr. Longhi further added that there will be more budget reviews in the coming months but the Authority continues to hold a strong financial position.
- ✓ Delegate Roem further asked when the next Call for Projects is anticipated.
- ✓ Mr. Longhi responded that it will commence this Summer for the FY2022-2027 Six Year Program, noting the added years will be FY2026-2027.

**i. Investment Portfolio Report**

Mr. Longhi, CFO

- ✓ No verbal report given.

**ii. Monthly Revenue Report**

Mr. Longhi, CFO

- ✓ No verbal report given.

**iii. Operating Budget Report**

Mr. Longhi, CFO

- ✓ No verbal report given.

**11. Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

- ✓ Ms. Backmon reminded the Authority that NVTA will once again be hosting the Annual NoVA Transportation Round-table event together with the Intelligent Transportation Society of Virginia.
- ✓ She noted that the event will be held on March 10<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 12noon.
- ✓ She asked if any Authority Member who has not registered but is interested in attending, to contact her.

**12. Chair's Comments**

- ✓ Chair Randall informed the Authority that she attended a very innovative DASH Electric Bus Ribbon-Cutting event in the City of Alexandria with Mayor Wilson.
- ✓ She also congratulated Mayor Wilson on the City of Alexandria's move to electric buses.

**13. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:54pm.

**Next Meeting: March 11, 2021 at 7:00pm**

**NVTA Offices**