



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

GOVERNANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 8, 2021

5:30 PM

NVTA Offices

Meeting to be conducted on WebEx and Live Streamed via YouTube

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order** Chair Randall
2. **Resolution Finding the Need to Conduct the April 8, 2021 Governance and Personnel Committee Meeting Electronically** Chair Randall
Recommended Action: Adoption of Resolution
3. **Approval of the March 11, 2021 Meeting Summary**
Recommended Action: Approval of Meeting Summary, (with abstentions from those who were not present).

Discussion/Information

4. **2021 General Assembly Update** Ms. Backmon, Executive Director
Ms. Baynard, MWC, LLC

Closed Session

(If required.)

5. **Adjournment**

Next Meeting: May 13, 2021 at 5:30 PM

NVTA Offices

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
GOVERNANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION FINDING NEED TO CONDUCT
APRIL 8, 2021 MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

April 8, 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) – Governance and Personnel Committee (Committee) finds that it has a responsibility to demonstrate to the public, through the Committee’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 Governance and Personnel 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 April 8, 2021, to discuss and transact the business of the Committee listed on the April 8, 2021 Governance and Personnel Committee Agenda; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee hereby finds that meeting by electronic means is authorized because the items on the April 8, 2021 Governance and Personnel 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 April 8, 2021 Governance and Personnel 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 on the 8th day of April, 2021.



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

GOVERNANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 11, 2021

5:30 PM

NVTA Offices

Meeting conducted on WebEx and Live Streamed via YouTube

SUMMARY MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** Chair Randall
 - ✓ Chair Randall called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.
 - ✓ Attendees:
 - Members: Chair Randall; Chair Wheeler, Mayor Davis-Younger.
 - Staff: Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Michael Longhi (CFO); Peggy Teal (Assistant Finance Officer), Dev Priya Sen (Financial Analyst); Margaret Duker (Executive Asst/Clerk).
 - Other Attendees: Tracy Baynard (McGuireWoods Consulting LLC); Daniel Robinson (Council of Counsels – Fairfax County); Rob Dickerson (Council of Counsels – Prince William County); Steve MacIsaac (Council of Counsels – Arlington County); Joana Anderson (Council of Counsels).
 - Other Attendees: Jurisdictional and agency staff attended the meeting via the Authority's YouTube channel.

2. **Resolution Finding the Need to Conduct the March 11, 2021 Governance and Personnel Committee Meeting Electronically** Chair Randall

Recommended Action: Adoption of Resolution

 - ✓ Chair Randall moved for the adoption of Resolution Finding the Need to Conduct the March 11, 2021 Governance and Personnel Committee Meeting Electronically; seconded by Chair Wheeler. Motion passed by 3-0-2 as two Committee Members were absent.

3. **Approval of the February 11, 2021 Meeting Summary**

Recommended Action: Approval of Meeting Summary, (with abstentions from those who were not present).

 - ✓ Mayor Davis -Younger moved for the acceptance of the February 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes; seconded by Chair Wheeler. Motion passed by 3-0-2 as two Committee Members were absent.

Discussion/Information

4. **2021 General Assembly Update**

Ms. Backmon, Executive Director
 Ms. Baynard, MWC, LLC

- ✓ Ms. Baynard informed Committee members that the General Assembly made programming recommendations of the Federal Transportation COVID Relief money from last December adding it to the Governor's \$55 million in General Funds to put together the 2021 Transportation Funding Initiative, noting that this offers lots of opportunities for Northern Virginia.
- ✓ These opportunities include the following:
 - The Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) has been allowed to dedicate \$3.6 million from the Transit Ridership Incentive Program created during the 2020 General Assembly Session, towards programs focused on congestion reduction and mitigation. More guidelines will be forthcoming once the Governor signs the budget with an application process to follow either in Spring or Summer.
 - Also, \$83.5 million has been dedicated to expanding service on the VRE Manassas line. Pending negotiations with CSX for right of way as they look to expand passenger rail service to the West.
 - Additionally, \$32.4 million has been dedicated to the Metro Capital Fund State of Good Repair (SGR) to fill the funding gap. The remaining funds which could be at least \$10 million, will be used to assist the local WMATA compact members.
- ✓ Chair Randall asked if there will be a stipulated timeframe to use the money.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard responded that the funding will be for immediate use.
- ✓ Also, \$10 million has been dedicated to new regional multi-modal trails and 8 projects have been identified for this funding.
- ✓ She added that the Senate is discussing with Congress to see if an agency under the Department of Transportation can put together a working group to determine how to identify and prioritize projects for this funding.
- ✓ Another \$10 million has been dedicated to establish a fare-free pilot for transit systems in rural and urban communities.
- ✓ The City of Falls Church will receive \$10 million towards a connected transportation pilot program with Virginia Tech. This would involve traffic sensors and timing, gathering data and sending it out to travelers and will tie in with the RM3P program. There is however a requirement to sign an information data sharing agreement for this program.
- ✓ The General Assembly further discussed the electrification of transportation infrastructure. This discussion centered on the role the transportation sector plays in green house carbon emissions, citing that greater use or access to electric vehicles for personal use, businesses and schools, could help in reduction of these gases.
- ✓ State emissions standards will be released, along with efforts to increase the supply of electric vehicles and availability of more charging stations.
- ✓ A rebate program has also been created towards this effort with a goal to encourage more citizens to purchase electric vehicles.
- ✓ The General Assembly previously dedicated Volkswagen diesel settlement funds to charging station infrastructure.
- ✓ There were also discussions about environmental justice and what that means for planning for transportation infrastructure.
- ✓ She noted that the Governor has had an interagency environmental justice working group for about a year now and they just released their report.

- ✓ That group will continue these discussions and may have reports that coincide with the TransAction Update and will be of interest to local jurisdictions.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard also recommended contacting Jennifer DeBruhl at DRPT regarding the transit equity study (which is due by year end), noting that it is important for NVTA to be a part of the initiative as information from it could impact the update to TransAction.
- ✓ Chair Randall inquired about the role NVTA would play in the transit equity study.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon explained that as a regional planning organization as well as a funding entity, it would give NVTA the opportunity to see where the gaps are in the transportation network regarding access. The Authority would be in a position to help identify transit access issues in the network and any areas that may be access deficient compared to other areas throughout the region.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon noted that it is essential to ensure synergies with what the localities and the Commonwealth are doing as it relates to equity.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard added that the theme of resiliency was also discussed, as the General Assembly deliberated on whether the transportation infrastructure was resilient enough and could quickly recover in the face of any adversity like flooding, as has been experienced in certain urban and coastal areas in the region.
- ✓ Such discussions will likely continue at the state level with guidelines which could impact the selection of projects, design and materials.
- ✓ Chair Randall thanked Ms. Baynard for the update, noting the importance of continuing these discussions.

5. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:54pm.

Next Meeting: April 8, 2021 at 5:30 PM
NVTA Offices

***2021 General Assembly Session
Update for Governance and Personnel
Committee***

April 8, 2021



Presented by:
Tracy Baynard, McGuire Woods Consulting, LLC



Proposed 2021 Work Plan



- Oppose efforts that reduce funding for or powers of the Northern Virginia Authority, that weaken its ability to advance regional intermodal transportation priorities
- Participate in studies that address transportation needs in Northern Virginia
- Monitor state activity around the transportation sector's role in helping Virginia meet carbon emission goals



Assist Office of the Attorney General in Analysis of Virginia's Regional Transportation Authorities



- Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) requested overview of Virginia's Regional Transportation Authorities (RTAs)
- **March 2021** Office of Attorney General (OAG) attorneys provide an analysis of structure and powers of the three existing entities – Northern Virginia, Hampton Roads and Central Virginia
- **April 2021** OAG attorneys will provide analysis of financing, project selection and prioritization activity of each RTA



Assist Office of the Attorney General in Analysis of Virginia's Regional Transportation Authorities (Continued)



- In March, **CTB members asked questions about:**
 - Are SPAs with the RTAs similar or are all of them different; If different, does that create concerns about efficiencies for VDOT?
 - Should it be a concern the new lane mileage funded by the RTAs becomes a maintenance responsibility for the Commonwealth?
 - VDOT usually manages projects funded by these authorities, but does it have the capacity to manage the new projects funded by the regional authorities? How is VDOT compensated for these services?
 - How much debt has been issued by the RTAs and who is responsible for that debt; RTAs, or the Commonwealth, or the localities?
 - Do the RTAs use their funding to "buy down the costs" of regional projects and make them more competitive for SMART SCALE?



Studies Related to Regional Transportation Corridors or Initiatives: Key Study Results of Interest



- **Springfield to Quantico Enhanced Public Transportation Feasibility Study**
 - Department of Rail and Public Transportation
 - Recommendations **due December 1, 2021**
- **Transit Equity and Modernization Study**
 - Department of Rail and Public Transportation
 - Interim findings **due December 1, 2021**
 - Final report **due August 1, 2022**
- **New Multi-Use Trail Opportunities – needs assessment and prioritization process**
 - Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment
 - Report **due October 15, 2021**



Studies Related to Connection Between Transportation and Climate Change



- **Update of Virginia Energy Plan** – Electric vehicle charging infrastructure
 - Division of Energy
 - Interim update **due October 1, 2021**
 - Full update **due October 1, 2022**
- **Coastal Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Inundation**
 - Virginia Department of Transportation
 - Update **due December 1, 2021**
- **Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emission Sources**
 - Air Pollution Control Board
 - Report **due October 1, 2022**

Attachment.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Chair Phyllis J. Randall and Members
Governance and Personnel Committee

FROM: Tracy Baynard, McGuireWoods Consulting LLC.

DATE: April 2, 2021

SUBJECT: Timeline for Key Studies and Reports Related to Transportation Infrastructure

Purpose: To provide the Governance and Personnel Committee with a timeline of key studies and reports related to Transportation Infrastructure.

- In 2021 and 2022, Virginia agencies will release several studies providing recommendations and information on transportation infrastructure or environmental analysis that could influence mid and long-range transportation planning for Northern Virginia.
- The attached timeline is a summary of some of the key reports scheduled for release. The initiatives fall into two main categories:
 - **Studies Related to Regional Transportation Corridors or Initiatives** such as the Springfield to Quantico Enhanced Public Transportation Feasibility Study.
 - **Studies Related to the Connection Between Transportation and Climate Change** such as the update of the Virginia Energy Plan that will include analysis of Virginia's electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- Authority and local government staff are participants in some of these studies. The information and recommendations produced provide additional context for the Authority decision-making process.