



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

**MINUTES**

Thursday, March 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** Vice-Chairman Snyder
  - ✓ Vice-Chairman Snyder (who chaired the meeting in Chair Randall's absence) called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.
2. **Roll Call** Margaret Duker, Clerk
  - ✓ Voting Members: Vice-Chairman Snyder; Chairman McKay; Chair Wheeler; Board Member Cristol (joined later); Mayor Davis-Younger, Mayor Wilson; Mayor Rishell; Mayor Meyer; Senator Boysko; Delegate Roem; Ms. Hynes; Mr. Kolb.
  - ✓ Non-Voting Members; Mayor Burk; Ms. Cuervo; Mr. Horsley.
  - ✓ Staff: Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Michael Longhi (CFO); Keith Jasper (Principal, Planning and Programming); Sree Nampoothiri (Senior Transportation Planner); Peggy Teal (Assistant Finance Officer); Dev Sen (Financial Analyst); Margaret Duker (Board Clerk).
3. **Other Attendees:** Rob Dickerson (Council of Counsels); Joanna Anderson (Council of Counsels); Daniel Robinson (Council of Counsels); Steve MacIsaac (Council of Counsels); Tracy Baynard (McGuire Woods Consulting LLC); Jay Corbalis (JBG Smith).
4. **Adoption of Resolution 21-03 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 21-03 for Electronic Meetings During COVID-19 Pandemic*

  - ✓ Delegate Roem made the motion to adopt Resolution 21-03 to Find Need to Conduct a Meeting by Electronic Communication Means during Governor's declared State of Emergency during COVID-19 Pandemic; seconded by Mayor Rishell. Motion passed unanimously.
  - ✓ Vice-Chairman Snyder encouraged Authority Members to take a minute to reflect on the events of the past year as all look forward to a future filled with more hope and good fortune.
  - ✓ He also announced that since this was the last meeting for Ms. Cuervo, who was retiring, he would like to take the opportunity on behalf of the Authority, to express his appreciation to her for her incredible leadership, invaluable contribution and dedication to the region.

## 5. Minutes of the February 11, 2021 Meeting

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

- ✓ Senator Boysko moved for the acceptance of the February 11, 2021, meeting minutes; seconded by Chairman McKay. Motion passed unanimously.

### Presentations

#### 5. Potomac Yard Metro Station Project Status Update Mayor Wilson, City of Alexandria

- ✓ Mayor Wilson proceeded with an update of the Potomac Yard Metro Station, noting that the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) partnered with the City of Alexandria and other entities to make this project possible with a \$69.5 million investment.
- ✓ Other funding sources came from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), US Department of Federal Highway Administration Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Funding, contributed to the overall budget of \$370 million for the project.
- ✓ In addition, the City of Alexandria is using \$175 million from General Obligation Bonds and \$25 million of Special Tax District funds to fund \$200 million of the overall project cost.
- ✓ Mayor Wilson noted that NVTA's return on investment include both local and regional benefits with the primary benefit being the creation of a new Metro System access point.
- ✓ Some of the secondary returns on investment when the construction of the Potomac Yard Metro Station is complete are:
  - Greater local and regional mobility as it will expand access to the greater Washington, DC region and facilitate new transportation projects;
  - Reduced congestion by an estimated 5,000 cars daily;
  - Increased daily Metro ridership by an estimated 11,000;
  - In addition, the Station is key to maximizing potential Potomac Yard development opportunities which will include the National Landing and Amazon HQ2 campuses in the North Potomac Yard Innovation District;
    - He added that with the help of Arlington County and other Partners, they have been able to work with property owners for a Virginia Tech Campus to be established adjacent to the Metro Station.
- ✓ Overall, the station will be a catalyst for transportation, economic and environmental development and further promote community infrastructure.
- ✓ Mayor Wilson noted that the City received a notice to proceed for the project in September 2018 and a groundbreaking was held in December 2019.

- ✓ The Station is currently under construction and estimated to open its main station in March 2022.
- ✓ Mayor Wilson ended his presentation with pictures of the ongoing construction of the South/North Pavilion, Knuckle Pier/Pedestrian Bridge, South Conduit Duct Banks and other areas of the Station.

## **6. National Landing Transportation Update**

Mr. Jay Corbalis, JBG Smith

- ✓ Mr. Corbalis from JBG Smith, was next to present on the transformation that is underway in National Landing in the area of mobility, noting that JBG Smith is primarily focused on transit-oriented areas in the D.C region especially National Landing.
- ✓ He added that in addition to the Company's role as the development partner for Amazon and Virginia Tech, they control over 6 million square feet of existing property and more than 7 million square feet of future development.
- ✓ Due to decades of strategic investment by Arlington County, the Commonwealth and other partners, National Landing is at the forefront of urban mobility with over \$4 billion worth of projects planned or underway in the area.
- ✓ Mr. Corbalis pointed that the Mobility Next Report (a copy of which was included in the Authority Meeting packet), provides a snapshot of each of the key projects planned for National Landing and, how these projects will collectively transform the area into America's most connected downtown. Once these projects are completed, they would be able to offer many modes of transportation to various places within the region and National Landing.
- ✓ Mr. Corbalis noted that the Crystal City Station and the Intermodal Connector are two projects which he would like to highlight given the opportunities these projects would bring to the region in the area of regional mobility and economic development.
- ✓ He noted that prior to the pandemic, the existing Crystal City Station served about 1900 passengers a day with a single platform. However, this will be replaced with a new station which can accommodate a multi-directional service which is a key component of the Virginia transforming rail initiative and expected to be completed in 2024.
- ✓ The Crystal City Intermodal Connector was also one of the five projects which was included in Virginia's historic agreement with Amazon to bring their second headquarters to the Commonwealth.
- ✓ Adding that Arlington will launch a public planning process this Spring as a first step in its federal environmental approval process.
- ✓ This step requires planners to review all potential options to help determine whether this project will be a bridge or an alternate facility. As a result, no decision has been made by Arlington County as of yet.
- ✓ He further noted that the two projects would physically connect as one continuous facility, connecting the DCA Airport to the Station and further allowing for easy connections to the existing bus transit system.
- ✓ This would create two significant opportunities:

- Expand access to transit Commuters by bringing MARC (Maryland Area Regional Commuter) trains across the river into National Landing, especially for employers looking to take advantage of the skilled workforce in the region.
  - Promote access to housing, by putting nearly a 100,000, additional moderately priced homes within commuting distance in National Landing.
- ✓ To this end, partners of JBG Smith in Maryland and the Greater Washington Partnership have been working together to promote this effort. Additionally, the Maryland Legislature recently passed a law requiring the Maryland Department of Transportation to pursue operating the MARC trains into Virginia.
  - ✓ Mr. Corbalis noted that though no decision has been made yet, the possibility of having Amtrak serve the new station in the future is under consideration. If that eventually happens, this would put the Airport within a short distance of the majority of the Commonwealth, thereby creating new possibilities for global mobility.

### **Action Items**

#### **7. Approval of the TransAction and Six Year Program Update Contract Award to Cambridge Systematics, Inc.**

Mr. Longhi, CFO

##### *Recommended Action: Approval of Contract Award*

- ✓ Mr. Longhi informed Authority Members that this contract is for TransAction and the two-year updates to the Six Year Program.
- ✓ The process kicked off in December of 2019 with an Open House to interested consultants, followed by the issue of the Request for Proposal (RFP).
- ✓ Of the four firms which submitted proposals, there were teams of subcontractors within each of those prime firms.
- ✓ The evaluation team consisted of eight members from regional jurisdictions and one NVRTA staff member to make a total of nine voting members.
- ✓ VDOT also shared staff with expertise in modeling for the evaluation of the technical proposals.
- ✓ He added that after reaching a consensus for the top two firms, the evaluation team took another look at submitted price proposals to determine the best value from both firms.
- ✓ Following a round of negotiations conducted by NVRTA's CFO with support from Staff, the two firms were requested to submit their Best and Final Offer.
- ✓ The negotiations resulted in cost reductions to bring proposal within the Authority approved budget, and the technical and staffing enhancements recommended by the evaluation team.
- ✓ A review of these offers helped achieve significant cost reductions as well as reaffirmed the previous recommendations of the evaluation team to award the Contract to Cambridge Systematics.

- ✓ It was noted that Cambridge Systematics will bring some level of in-house modeling which is compatible with what is being done by member jurisdictions and the MWCOG TPB. The proposed modeling solution also has regional, statewide and national user group communities.
- ✓ Mayor Rishell moved Authority approval of the proposed TransAction and Six Year Program Update Contract award to Cambridge Systematics Inc. and; authorization for the Executive Director to sign the attached Contract Award Notice; seconded by Ms. Hynes. Motion passed unanimously.

## 8. Approval of Revisions to Policy 19 – Local Distribution (30% Funds)

Ms. Sen, Financial Analyst

### *Recommended Action: Approval of Policy Changes*

- ✓ Ms. Sen informed Authority Members that the Local Distribution (30% Funds) was last revised in December 2020, to reflect the Commonwealth Transportation Fund Transfer and Regional Congestion Relief Fee revenues received by the Authority.
- ✓ She explained that the reason for the revision was due to the fact that the two revenue streams were to be distributed:
  - Based on locality data of where the transaction occurred for Grantor’s Tax.
  - Based on the percentage ratio of each jurisdiction’s Sales Tax to the combined total amount of Sales Tax received for that month for the Commonwealth Transportation Fund Transfer, since there was no locality data with that revenue stream.
- ✓ Adding that recent discussions with VDOT’s CFO revealed that the Interstate Operations and Enhancement Program was changed by the 2020 Omnibus Transportation Bill; in that the estimated revenue was reduced from \$20 million to \$13.3 million.
- ✓ Also, the transfer of the revenue was changed from monthly to (ideally) annually in the first month of the fiscal year. The timing of distributions in future years is dependent on the Interstate Operations and Enhancement Program Fund cash flow, and may end up being semiannual or quarterly.
- ✓ It came to light that moving the Interstate Operations and Enhancement Program from monthly transfers would result in significant loss of parity between jurisdictions based on variances in Sales Tax receipts on a month-to-month basis.
- ✓ Highlighting the significant variances among the jurisdictions through three charts in the Staff Report, Ms. Sen noted that the proposed draft revision to Policy 19 moves the distribution to be based on the ratio of the prior 12 fiscal months of Sales Tax receipts.
- ✓ Noting that this proposed policy change addresses any future revenues which do not have jurisdiction data in an attempt to reduce future policy changes.
- ✓ Ms. Sen noted that the policy changes are consistent with previous preferences express by the RJACC that such distributions be as consistent and equitable as possible.

- ✓ Ms. Hynes moved for the Authority to approve the attached changes to the Authority's Policy 19 – Local Distribution (30% Funds); seconded by Board Member Cristol. Motion passed unanimously.

**9. Endorsement of Prince William County's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) application for the Route 123 Improvements at I-95, Route 1, and Old Bridge Road Project** Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

*Recommended Action: Endorse INFRA Application*

- ✓ Ms. Backmon informed the Authority that this was part of the blue-sheeted agenda item sent out to Members.
- ✓ She added that Prince William County is requesting the Authority's endorsement of their Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) application for their Route 123 Improvements at I-95, Route 1, and Old Bridge Road Projects.
- ✓ Noting that this is an \$889 million federal grant program recently announced by the federal government.
- ✓ Per the discretionary grant program, large projects must be at least \$25 million and small projects at least \$5 million.
- ✓ Also, at least 25% of the funding must be awarded to rural projects and infrastructure and Prince William has noted so in their application.
- ✓ She added that the grant application deadline is March 19, 2021, and the County is anticipating requesting up to \$100 million for the designated projects.
- ✓ Chair Wheeler moved Authority endorsement of Prince William County's (INFRA) discretionary grant program application for the Route 123 Improvements at I-95, Route 1, and Old Bridge Road Project; seconded by Mayor Davis-Younger. Motion passed unanimously.

**10. Approval to Cancel/Transfer - Town of Dumfries Standard Project Agreement 2015-053-1, Widen US Route 1 – Brady's Hill Rd to Route 234** Mr. Longhi, CFO

*Recommended action: Approval of Standard Project Agreement Cancellation*

- ✓ Mr. Longhi noted that this is the first of a two-step process to transfer the project execution responsibility for the Route 1 Widening Project, from the Town of Dumfries to Prince William County.
- ✓ He added that owing to the complexities of the Route 1 Corridor, the project is being transferred to Prince William County since they have done substantial work on that corridor and can leverage that experience for the project.
- ✓ He noted that the Authority has committed just under \$130 million on this project.
- ✓ Mr. Longhi noted that the Town of Dumfries requested this transfer and Prince William County is willing to take on the project's responsibility.
- ✓ Chair Wheeler moved Authority cancellation of Standard Project Agreement 2015-053-1, the widening of US Route 1 – Brady's Hill Rd to Route 234, with the Town of Dumfries; seconded by Mayor Rishell. Motion passed unanimously.

- ✓ Chair Wheeler noted that both the Dumfries Town Council, and the Prince William Board of Supervisors have approved a memorandum of understanding as the project will be of great benefit for both the Town and the County.

**11. Approval of Regional Revenue Fund Standard Project Agreement 2015-053-1 Prince William County, Widen US Route 1 – Brady’s Hill Rd to Route 234**

Mr. Longhi, CFO

*Recommended action: Approval of Standard Project Agreement*

- ✓ Mr. Longhi continued that with the Town of Dumfries project cancellation, the proposed Standard Project Agreement 2015-053-1 with Prince William County, will allow the County to become the project sponsor and access \$123 million in remaining funding for the project.
- ✓ Chair Wheeler moved Authority approval of Standard Project Agreement 2015-053-1 with Prince William County, and designate Prince William County as the project sponsor for the remaining \$122,860,000, in approved but unappropriated project funding; and authorize the Executive Director to sign on behalf of the Authority; seconded by Mayor Davis-Younger. Motion passed unanimously.

**12. Approval of the City of Fairfax Request for Additional Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Concessionaire Payment Funding**

Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

*Recommended action: Approval of Additional Funding Request*

- ✓ Ms. Backmon presented the City of Fairfax’s request to the Authority noting that as part of the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Project, the Concessionaire paid the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), a concession fee to fund additional transportation improvements in the corridor.
- ✓ As part of the projects recommended by the Authority to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), the City of Fairfax received \$13.6M in Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Project Concessionaire funding for the George Snyder Trail project.
- ✓ With the design now at 65% phase, the current project estimate has exceeded the available funding of \$13,975,000 by \$3,660,000.
- ✓ As a result, the City is requesting the Authority’s recommendation to the CTB for the \$3.6 million in additional Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Concessionaire Fee Payment, to fully fund the George Snyder Trail Project.
- ✓ Mayor Meyer moved Authority recommendation of \$3,660,000 in additional Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Concessionaire Payment funds to fully fund the George Snyder Trail project; seconded by Chairman McKay. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/Information Items**

**13. Governance and Personal Committee Report**

**2021 General Assembly Update** Ms. Baynard, McGuire Woods Consulting, LLC

- ✓ Before Ms. Baynard’s update, Vice-Chairman Snyder took the opportunity on behalf of the Authority to thank all State Delegates and State Senators for a

successful 2021 General Assembly Session conducted in an unusually challenging environment.

- ✓ Ms. Baynard then proceeded with her update to the Authority highlighting certain key policy discussions which took place during the General Assembly Session.
- ✓ She noted that greater focus was on the role of transportation infrastructure in impacting greenhouse gases and carbon emissions.
- ✓ This included the electrification of transportation infrastructure with a bill by Senator Boysko, who is also an Authority Member, regarding electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- ✓ There was also a bill on resiliency which was approved to establish state standards for vehicle emissions.  
She noted some transportation related funding opportunities including:
  - \$83.5 million dedicated to improving the VRE Manassas line service.
  - Up to \$32.4 million was dedicated to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), to fill a funding gap for the State of Good Repair (SGR), and \$10 million for the Northern Virginia Metro Compact Members to assist in fulfilling FY2022 subsidies.
  - Funding was also dedicated to multiple multimodal trails with efforts to establish a policy.
  - About \$10 million for transit access to establish fare-free pilot transits for both rural and urban communities.
  - City of Falls Church received \$10 million for a pilot project with Virginia Tech.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard added that the Governor has until midnight on March 31<sup>st</sup> to sign these items into law.
- ✓ Senator Boysko thanked Ms. Baynard for being an advocate for the region and further added that she was pleased with the way the General Assembly were able to move bills forward.
- ✓ Vice-Chairman Snyder inquired whether there was anything at the federal level to discuss.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard responded that there was no federally-related update, noting that people are looking to see if Congress and the Administration can create an effective infrastructure bill.
- ✓ Vice-Chairman Snyder wanted to know what that might mean for the State. In response, Ms. Baynard noted the House and Senate have introduced a bill requesting the federal government to help fund the operating activities of Metro in addition to the capital needs.
- ✓ Vice-Chairman Snyder expressed his gratitude to Ms. Baynard for all her work and input and asked that if there is anything the Authority could do proactively in this regard, she should let them know.

**14. Finance Committee Report**

Mayor Rishell, Chair

- ✓ Mayor Rishell updated the Authority regarding the activities of the last Finance Committee Meeting with the following highlights:
  - The Finance Committee’s last meeting was on February 18<sup>th</sup> and are scheduled to meet again on March 18, 2021.
  - At the last meeting, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend Authority approval of the revisions to Policy 19 so as to ensure jurisdictional parity for the 30% local distribution revenue.
  - The Committee also received information on TransAction and the Six Year Program Update Contract and voted unanimously to recommend that item for Authority approval.
  - Lastly, the Finance Committee continued with budget development discussions.

**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.

**15. Planning and Programming Committee Report**

Mayor Wilson, Chair

- ✓ Mayor Wilson provided a brief update of the last Planning and Programming Committee meeting, noting that at the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, Members reviewed the draft Transportation Technology Strategic Plan and discussed eight strategies to be used going forward.
- ✓ He added that they discussed some pretty great topics like next generation technologies which make transportation more efficient and he looks forward to advancing in those discussions at the next committee meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

**16. Planning Coordination Advisory Committee Report**

Mayor Colbert, Chair

- ✓ No verbal report given.

**17. Technical Advisory Committee Report**

Mr. Boice, Chair

- ✓ No verbal report given.

**18. Executive Director’s Report**

Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

- ✓ Ms. Backmon informed Authority Members that the Transportation Technology Committee (TTC), chaired by Council Member Snyder, have been working on developing the Transportation Technology Strategic Plan (TTSP), noting Mayor Rishell and Mr. Kolb, are also members of the TTC.
- ✓ She noted that the TTSP is currently under review by Committee Members and anticipates bringing it before the Authority for adoption in April.

- ✓ Ms. Backmon stated that the NVTA and the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) of Virginia hosted its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Roundtable and the first time as a virtual event, with more than 100 participants on the WebEx platform.
- ✓ She thanked all Authority Members for their participation and support of the event, noting that she has received a great deal of positive feedback regarding the success of the event.
- ✓ Jordan Pascale, Transportation Writer at WAMU and DCist, was the moderator for the two rounds of panelists who discussed ‘Smart Future’ and ‘Resilient Future’ respectively.
- ✓ On a different note, Ms. Backmon pointed that this was the last meeting for Ms. Cuervo, District Administrator for the Northern Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), who is retiring after 33 years. Ms. Backmon expressed her profound appreciation for her years of service, noting that she has been such an excellent partner to the Authority and the region.
- ✓ She informed her that the Authority had a farewell present for her and that will be sent her way soon.
- ✓ Other Members of the Authority expressed similar sentiments stating how great it has been working with her over the years, and she will be greatly missed on the Authority.
- ✓ Ms. Cuervo thanked all for their kind comments.
- ✓ Vice-Chairman Snyder thanked Ms. Backmon and Staff for the excellent Roundtable, and asked whether the materials and recording at the event were available for Members.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon responded that yes, the links for the presentations and full recording were available on the Authority’s website and will also be emailed to all Authority Members.

**19. Chair’s Comments**

- ✓ To end the meeting, Vice-Chairman Snyder shared his sentiments, saying *“I was thinking over the past year how lucky our colleagues were who ended their public service at the end of 2019. And then I thought, they were the lucky ones, but we are the fortunate ones, because we are the ones who get to help the public through this really historic, unprecedented challenge to make a much better world even than the pretty great world we had before this”*.

**20. Adjournment:**

- ✓ Board Member Cristol moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mayor Rishell. Motion passed unanimously.
- ✓ Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

**Correspondence**

**Next Meeting: April 8, 2021 at 7:00pm**