



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING COORDINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE Wednesday, July 28, 2021, 6:30 pm Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

SUMMARY NOTES

I. Call to Order/Welcome Chair Colbert

- Chair Colbert welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
- Attendees:
 - **PCAC Members:** In-person – Chair and Mayor Colbert (Town of Vienna); Supervisor Walter Alcorn (Fairfax County); Supervisor Sylvia Glass (Loudoun County); Supervisor Margaret Angela Franklin (Prince William County); Vice-Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker (City of Alexandria); Council Member Phil Duncan (City of Falls Church); Vice-Mayor Sebesky (City of Manassas).
Mayor Olem, Town of Herndon, represented Council Member Alam (Town of Herndon).
Remote - Vice-Chair and Council Member Selonia Miles (Town of Dumfries); Board Member Libbey Garvey (Arlington County); Council Member Stehle (City of Fairfax); Vice-Mayor Preston Banks (City of Manassas Park); Vice-Mayor Marty Martinez (Town of Leesburg).
 - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Keith Jasper (Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming); Harun Rashid (Transportation Planner).
Consultant: Dalia Leven (Cambridge Systematics).

Action

II. Summary Notes of April 28, 2021 Meeting

- The April 28, 2021, meeting summary was approved, with abstentions from members who did not attend the April 28 meeting.

Discussion/Information

III. TransAction: Goals and Objectives

Mr. Jasper/Ms. Leven

- NVRTA staff is updating its long-range transportation plan, TransAction. Mr. Jasper presented an overview of the planning process and associated tasks/timeline. He highlighted that public outreach and engagement will play a big role throughout this planning process. In this and subsequent committee meetings, staff is seeking committee members' inputs for the Plan's goals, objectives, and measures. These are dictated by three over-arching principals, also described as core values of – Equity, Safety, and Sustainability. According to current timeline, committee members will recommend a set of goals/objectives/performance measures, and associated weights, to Authority for adoption in November.
- Project consultant Ms. Leven, then discussed core values in details, presenting a table showing how the core values will be holistically addressed for each stage of planning process and products – identifying needs/projects; performance measures; scenario analyses; regional policy development. Responding to a question from Mayor Olem, Ms. Leven explained that safety and equity issues will be addressed by specific objectives and related performance measures, rather than as a part of scenario analyses.
- Following the recently adopted vision statement, there are three broad goals identified to guide the analytical process – Mobility, Accessibility, and Resiliency. Ms. Leven presented their definitions, and a set of potential objectives/performance measures to address these goals. These objectives and performance measures are at a preliminary stage, and shown for illustrative purposes only. During this presentation following questions and comments were addressed:

How the core values will manifest in these three goals? Associated objectives for each goal will reflect core values.

How will the plan address future residential and employment growths in and around small towns like Herndon? Current estimates and forecasts of residential/employment growths are derived from a process known as Cooperative Forecasts in National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board. These will be utilized in a travel demand model to analyze during needs assessment.

Why the core value of safety is not identified as a goal? Because safety is an inherent and fundamental principle in transportation facility design. Also, it is difficult to forecast safety-related metrics.

Make sure the framework of objectives/performance measures represent all modes of travels, including non-motorized and micro-mobility options. Yes, the measures will be designed to analyze any potential modal shifts to non-motorized options. Ms. Leven pointed to list of measures that can address this issue.

We may need to re-think commute time thresholds for auto and transit trips. These were derived from current practices in peer metro region, and staff are open to suggestions.

We need to make sure smaller communities' efforts to support transit by increasing land use densities around high-capacity transit stations are reflected adequately. Under Resiliency goal, safety should be defined more explicitly, are we measuring safety of a facility or security of its users? For example, if we are to ensure cyber-security for automated vehicle deployment, we need to address safety more explicitly.

- In addition to needs assessment, and evaluating sets of projects to address them in a quantitative analytical model framework, the planning process will employ scenario analyses to describe range of uncertainties in the forecasting process. These scenarios are not necessarily the preferred or the 'most likely' future. Ms. Leven presented four scenarios for consideration: Technology – connected/automated/shared/electric vehicles; Transportation pricing/incentives; Climate change; Post pandemic new normal – Telework and e-commerce growth. This presentation was followed by below questions/comments:

Under these scenarios, how will we test 'concentrated' versus 'dispersed' land use growths? During this round of plan update, planning team does not intend to test specific land use scenarios, unless to consider post-pandemic land use shifts. Citing results from similar exercises in last round of TransAction update, Mr. Jasper explained that unless there is a drastic change in land use allocation assumption, staff do not expect broadly different results.

- Next step: Planning team will fine-tune the goals/objective/measure framework with inputs from this and other statutory/standing committees, jurisdiction and agency staff working group sessions, and public inputs from various outreach events. The updated version will be presented in the September meeting.

IV. NVTA Update

Ms. Backmon

Ms. Backmon reminded committee members of the Call for Regional Transportation Projects for NVTA regional funds, as a part of its FY2022-2027 Six Year Program update. Following topics were discussed - deadlines related to submission of applications and related government body resolutions, current estimate of revenues to be allocated, needs for coordination among jurisdictions and agencies (multi-jurisdiction projects), and project eligibility.

V. Adjourn

Chair Colbert emphasized the need for participation in the TransAction survey and other public outreach events, and mentioned the next meeting to be held on September 22. Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.