



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING COORDINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 6:30 pm Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

SUMMARY NOTES

I. Call to Order/Welcome

Vice-Chair Miles

- Vice-chair and Council member Miles welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.
- Attendees:
 - **PCAC Members:** In-person – Vice-Chair and Council member Miles (Town of Dumfries); Board Member Garvey (Arlington County); Vice-Mayor Bennett-Parker (City of Alexandria); Council Member Duncan (City of Falls Church); Vice-Mayor Sebesky (City of Manassas); Vice-Mayor Banks (City of Manassas Park); Council Member Friedrichs (Town of Herndon).
Remote – Council member Stehle (City of Fairfax); Council member Milan (Town of Purcellville).
 - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (Chief Executive Officer); Keith Jasper (Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming); Harun Rashid (Transportation Planner).
Consultant: Thomas Harrington (Cambridge Systematics).

Action

II. Summary Notes of September 22, 2021 Meeting

- The September 22, 2021, meeting summary was approved, with abstentions from members who did not attend the September 22 meeting.

III. Approval of Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures for TransAction Update

Mr. Jasper

- In the September 22, 2021 committee meeting, NVTAs staff briefed committee members on the broader planning context and importance of a framework of Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures, and associated weights. Mr. Jasper reminded members of a previously-discussed timeline for development and approval process of this framework for Authority's adoption in December.
- Mr. Jasper presented on TransAction's goals to improve mobility, increase accessibility, and improve resiliency; and their relations to planning core values of equity, sustainability, and safety. These core values are associated with multiple goals, objectives, and performance measures. While goals dictate what we want to achieve, objectives are measurable actions to achieve identified goals, and performance measures show advancements towards each objective. Each of these performance measures can be weighted differently to reflect the region's priorities. Staff has refined the set of goals, objectives, and performance measures with feedbacks from this and other statutory/standing committees.
- This presentation was followed by questions/comments from members:

How do we measure robustly for the quality of access to bike/ped network, and safety/security improvements? The impacts of non-motorized facility improvements will be analyzed by post-processing of model outputs, details will be shared later. For safety measure, staff will follow a methodology developed by VDOT for the SmartScale process.

In measuring transportation-related emission, will all vehicle types be considered? Yes. Travel model simulation will provide average speed values for various congested conditions, which will be utilized to calculate emissions based on vehicle types.

How will the TransAction address overall regional priorities; is it scalable, where large and smaller jurisdictions will be treated equally? TransAction planning process is closely coordinated with similar approach in National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board. In addition to quantitative analyses with this set of performance measures, investment decisions are also guided with qualitative evaluations to ensure geographic and modal balance.

Explain how current measure for resiliency is different than the previous iteration?

Will this measure include multimodal options? The current version includes a specific requirement of system redundancy as dictated by a Commonwealth code (HB 599). Experience suggests during an emergency situation, such as homeland security, there are very limited mode shifts.

Following this discussion, the set of goals, objectives, and performance measures was unanimously approved to recommend for Authority adoption.

Discussion/Information

IV. TransAction Online Survey: Interim Findings

Mr. Harrington

- A survey was conducted between August 6 and September 19 of this year, to seek feedback on travel behaviors, transportation needs and priorities of Northern Virginia citizens. The survey did not apply a random sample recruitment method, and therefore does not statistically represent the population of the region. Mr. Harrington explained various media platforms for outreach activities, shared geographic distribution of responses received, and broad summary findings.
- The survey contained questions to cover following topics:
 - Pre and post-pandemic travel modes, and factors that will affect these mode choices.
 - Effective incentives to utilize transit modes.
 - Likely usage of emerging transportation technology based on various conditions.
 - Transportation priorities, e.g., improve access to jobs, improve multimodal connectivity, improve safety etc.
- Results of responses were tallied by geographic areas – ‘Core’ jurisdictions (Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church); ‘Inner’ jurisdictions (Fairfax County/City); and ‘Outer’ jurisdictions (Loudoun, Prince William, Manassas and Manassas Park cities). The top priorities were “more transit, walking, biking options”, “reduce traffic congestion” and “improve travel time predictability”, but the order varied by geographic area.
- Mr. Harrington responded to some clarifying questions from members on question formats. He stated that one major take-away was responses to mode choices after pandemic, which will be utilized in the scenario analyses. Members expressed their overall satisfaction on staff outreach efforts.

V. TransAction: Preliminary Discussion on Weightings for Performance Measures

Mr. Jasper

- Mr. Jasper outlined the following process to assign weights to each performance measure:
 - Recommendations for each measure, as received from each committee members, will be averaged and rounded to nearest 5%.
 - Weights for individual measures will effectively be summed for each core value, additionally reflecting the priority associated with each.
 - A final set of weights for each measure will be presented for Authority’s approval in November/December cycle. Authority members may accept or modify these recommendations prior to approval in December.
- For each of the measures, survey responses (item IV above) were tallied to derive citizens’ priorities. This was done as an illustrative example to aid members’ decision-making process, and by no means to assert any priorities from any groups or staff. In response to a member’s question, Ms. Backmon stated that NVRTA staff is looking forward to receiving committee recommendations, and does not have any particular priority other than adhering to relevant Commonwealth codes for NVRTA.

VI. NVTA Update

Ms. Backmon

- Ms. Backmon reminded committee members of a special session for Authority members to be held on October 28, to discuss these goals, objectives, and performance measures. She stated that the session will be informative in nature, and contains no action items.

VII. Adjourn

Vice-Chair Miles mentioned the next meeting to be held on a rescheduled date of December 1. Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.