



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

MINUTES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

6:00pm

3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200

Fairfax, VA 22031

Meeting conducted in person and live streamed via YouTube

1. **Call to Order** Chair Randall
 - ✓ Chair Randall called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.
2. **Roll Call** Margaret Duker, Clerk
 - ✓ Voting Members: Chair Randall; Councilmember Snyder; Chairman McKay; Chair Wheeler; Board Member Cristol; Mayor Meyer (joined 6:12pm); Mayor Wilson; Mayor Rishell; Mayor Davis-Younger; Delegate Roem; Delegate Watts; Ms. Hynes, Mr. Kolb.
 - ✓ Non-Voting Members; Mr. Lynch; Mr. Horsley (for Ms. Mitchell).
 - ✓ Staff: Monica Backmon (CEO); Michael Longhi (CFO); Keith Jasper (Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming); Sree Nampootheri (Remotely; Senior Transportation Planner); Harun Rashid (Transportation Planner); Erica Hawksworth (Communications and Public Affairs Manager); Margaret Duker (Board Clerk).
 - ✓ Other Attendees: Mayor Colbert (Town of Vienna and PCAC Chair); Rob Dickerson (Council of Counsel – Prince William County); MinhChau Corr (Council of Counsel, Arlington County); Daniel Robinson (Council of Counsel – Fairfax County), Joanna Anderson (Remotely; Council of Council- City of Alexandria); Tracy Baynard (McGuire Woods Consulting LLC), Dalia Leven (Cambridge Systematics).
3. **Minutes of the November 18, 2021 Meeting**

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

 - ✓ Mayor Wilson moved for the acceptance of the November 18, 2021, meeting minutes; seconded by Mayor Rishell. Motion passed with two abstentions from Chairman McKay and Mayor Davis-Younger as they were not in attendance at the last meeting.
 - ✓ Board Member Cristol made an amendment to be noted for the record that she agreed with Councilmember Snyder's comments on VMT (Vehicle Miles Travelled) on page 6 of the November meeting minutes.

Presentation

- 4. NOVA Gateway Update (Live Demo)** Mr. Rashid, Transportation Planner
- ✓ Ms. Backmon provided an initial introduction of the NoVA Gateway system, noting that previously, project applications for the Six Year Programs, reimbursements submissions and updates were all done manually.
 - ✓ With the introduction of the NoVA Gateway system, all these processes have been moved online.
 - ✓ Ms. Backmon noted that with the Authority's support, further enhancements have been made to the system which has made it possible for project applications, reimbursements, project updates to be made online, thereby facilitating a seamless process.
 - ✓ She further added that this system has enabled better tracking of project reimbursements. It is also user-friendly and provides reporting capabilities.
 - ✓ Mr. Rashid proceeded with a live demonstration of how to use the NoVA Gateway to access project details noting that the system currently shows 106 projects, totaling \$2.5 billion.
 - ✓ He added that one can use filters to customize information needed from the system.
 - ✓ One such enhancement is the addition of a new table which shows a list of all projects by project code. Projects can be further sorted by jurisdictions or other formats.
 - ✓ He continued noting with each project selected by a user, the system customizes its output to generate a visual map and chart reflecting specific project details.
 - ✓ Mr. Rashid pointed that each project has a primary mode as well as supporting modes. Additionally, a user can select to view a project in a specific locality or all NVTA funded projects in that locality.
 - ✓ He added that there are two links for each project. The first takes a user to the NVTA application while the second link makes it possible to view other relevant websites (for localities) associated with the project.
 - ✓ Noting that these are details which the jurisdictions have provided and verified for their projects and are populated on the front-end by NVTA staff.

Action Items

- 5. Adoption of 2022 Legislative Program** Chair Randall, Chair
Ms. Baynard, McGuire Woods Consulting, LLC.
- Recommended Action: Adoption of Legislative Program*
- ✓ Chair Randall informed the Authority that at the GPC meeting earlier that evening, the GPC recommended an amendment to the Legislative Program and asked Ms. Baynard to elaborate further.

- ✓ Ms. Baynard informed the Authority that the first goal in the Legislative Program is to protect the Authority's dedicated revenues.
- ✓ She explained that at the GPC meeting, Members were informed that a member of the Virginia Senate is looking for a dedicated revenue source for to fund bicycle/ pedestrian projects and is considering a Bill to set aside some of the Authority's revenues for that purpose.
- ✓ She noted that the GPC discussed this and the fact that earmarking funds complicates the already reduced revenues of the Authority.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard noted that NVT A Staff has provided information to the Senator about the work of the Authority including some of the previously funded bicycle and pedestrian trail projects.
- ✓ She stated that it is not yet known if the Senator will proceed with this proposed Bill as nothing has been pre-filed as of yet.
- ✓ Chair Randall pointed that it would help to add language educating the Senator that his goals are already being addressed by the Authority.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon noted that the Authority funds multimodal projects without the use of earmarks.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard agreed and read the suggested amended language noting the Authority's position which states, "The Authority funds multimodal projects using a prioritization process as required by law. We oppose any action that bypasses the prioritization process and mandates specific spending on other uses".
- ✓ Chairman McKay stated that he is very concerned about the precedent of this move as this could leave the Authority with less funding for bicycle /pedestrian projects and could be a major issue for localities as local funding matches for projects may have to be increased, leaving less for localities for other needs. He noted that this attempt by the Senator indicates a presumption that the Authority does not care about bicycle/pedestrian trail projects, and he rejects that.
- ✓ He noted that not only does the Authority fund pedestrian and bicycle improvements, when road projects are funded, the pedestrian and bicycle network is also enhanced.
- ✓ Chairman McKay noted the need to be proactive about sending this message as it is against the work of the Authority and the strict prioritization processes which the Authority adheres to in funding projects.
- ✓ Chair Randall added that the 30% revenues received by localities can be used for bicycle/pedestrian trail projects if a locality wishes to do so. The legislative program language should make this clear.
- ✓ Board Member Cristol stated that if any member of the General Assembly is concerned about bicycle/pedestrian trails, she recommends they take action to restore the Authority's funding diverted in 2018.
- ✓ Delegate Roem explained that most of the available funding for bicycle or pedestrian trail projects is usually not enough for the localities to complete the projects, adding that at a time when there have been noted surpluses, it is essential to have some unrestricted funding set aside at the State level to help take care of such needs.

- ✓ Ms. Hynes informed Authority Members that she was at a conference where the impact of the Infrastructure Program at the Federal level was discussed.
- ✓ She added that there is a new Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) program called Vulnerable Road Users. Under this program, if 15% of road fatalities from 2016 to 2020 are bicycle and pedestrian related, the State would be required (with the Commonwealth Transportation Board's (CTB) involvement), to set aside 15% of funding for bicycle and pedestrian improvements.
- ✓ She noted that additional guidance would be provided but wanted to give the heads up about such a program from the federal level.
- ✓ Chair Randall noted that if federal funds are earmarked for this purpose, then some funding should be provided to the Authority to help implement. In response to Delegate Roem's comment about the State having surpluses, Chair Randall stated that she believes localities would be interested in this information.
- ✓ Delegate Watts remarked on the different layering involved with this upcoming federal program and noted that this is not something to define at the NVTa level.
- ✓ Councilmember Snyder noted that he will abstain from the voting of the legislative language amendment but noted that Ms. Hynes and Delegate Roem rightly pointed out the gap in locality funding for such projects and hopes NVTa will work to amend it.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard read the proposed language amendment with suggested edits from Authority Members.
- ✓ Chairman McKay motioned for the acceptance of this amended language to the legislative program, seconded by Chair Randall. Motion passed with one abstention from Councilmember Snyder.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard further updated members that Governor Northam has announced funding for outdoor recreation. She will be updating the Authority as more details are announced.
- ✓ Further, the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investments (OIPI), will be releasing a study on trails later this month. She pointed that this includes information which could advise the CTB on federal funding for trails.
- ✓ It was also noted that Governor-Elect Youngkin will be announcing cabinet positions. Additionally, any action on the gas tax will require passage by both the House and Senate before it becomes law.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard also added that there will likely be a re-forecasting of the transportation revenues as part of the December revenue review. Due to the surplus, the CTB plans to re-dedicate \$258.6 million towards the Revenue Sharing Program. This means that projects that were pushed to out years FY2025 and 2026, will now be recommended for funding in FY2024.
- ✓ However, to do this, the CTB will have to waive the Revenue-Sharing Program spending cap of \$100 million.
- ✓ Ms. Hynes confirmed that this was a one-time option agreement.

- ✓ Delegate Watts noted that it was important to be aware that when one pays gas tax, 53% goes to fixing potholes, whilst the remainder goes to maintenance. As such any attempt to suspend gas tax ultimately impacts the ability to fix potholes.
- ✓ Chairman McKay moved Authority adoption of the 2022 State and Federal Legislative Priorities, inclusive of any changes directed by the Authority; seconded by Board Member Cristol. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of the Weighting of the Performance Measures for the TransAction

Update

Mr. Jasper, Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming

Recommended Action: Approval of Weighting

- ✓ Following Ms. Backmon's introduction, Mayor Colbert joined Authority Members to provide an update on the Planning Coordination Advisory Committee (PCAC) activities leading to their vote on the weights and measures associated with the TransAction update.
- ✓ She noted that the PCAC had great discussions during the weighting process. She noted that although some members were of the view that congestion was the most important performance measure and needed a higher weight associated with it, others believed that Equity Emphasis Areas and other performance measures should have higher weights attributed to them.
- ✓ However, once the votes were taken and averaged, the weighting balanced out.
- ✓ Mr. Jasper expressed appreciation to Mayor Colbert and the PCAC Members for the great work done.
- ✓ He noted that the first action on the TransAction update was taken last month when the Authority approved the goals, objectives, and performance measures.
- ✓ He stated that the second part of the TransAction action being requested of the Authority is to approve the weights associated with the performance measures.
- ✓ He pointed that any changes or additions to the weights will have to total 100 points and comply with the Virginia Code.
- ✓ He informed the Authority that there are ten performance measures and the allocation of weights are well balanced, although some of the measures overlap with others.
- ✓ He noted that the three core values of equity, safety and sustainability have all been incorporated in the weighting process, adding that 60% of the weightings support equity, 65% support sustainability whilst 40% support safety.
- ✓ Mayor Rishell inquired as to how delay in transit is measured.
- ✓ Ms. Leven responded that a delay in transit would be measured by looking at transit vehicles such as buses, being stuck in traffic , to derive the measurement.
- ✓ Chair Randall also asked whether safety is inherent in each of these measures.
- ✓ Mr. Jasper responded that the Authority fundamentally funds projects which it foresees to improve safety. He explained that the safety performance measure is specifically included as it is required by legislation.

- ✓ Councilmember Snyder noted that looking at the recommended weightings associated with the performance measures, he is highly impressed with the end results.
- ✓ Board Member Cristol noted that she was equally pleased with the thoughtfulness and consideration which went into the process and associated with Councilmember Snyder's comments.
- ✓ Mayor Rishell also commented that she feels better knowing that 65% of the weightings is congestion-related.
- ✓ Councilmember Snyder moved Authority approval of the weightings of the performance measures for the TransAction update; seconded by Chairman McKay. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Approval of Reallocation of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for Arlington County Ms. Backmon, CEO

Recommended Action: Approval of Reallocation Request

- ✓ Board Member Cristol noted that the County appreciates the opportunity to use Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds for this project.
- ✓ Board Member Cristol moved Authority approval of the reallocation of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for Arlington County; seconded by Ms. Hynes. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Information Items

8. Planning Coordination Advisory Committee Report Mayor Colbert, Chair

- ✓ Discussed as part of Agenda item #6.

9. FY2022-2027 Six Year Program Status Update Ms. Backmon, CEO

- ✓ Ms. Backmon updated the Authority about the status of the FY2022-2027 Six Year Program, noting that the Call for Projects was successfully accomplished with jurisdictions using the NoVA Gateway portal to submit applications online.
- ✓ She continued that NVTAs Staff have been reviewing project applications and conducting various verifications and analyses.
- ✓ She stated that the candidate project list includes 26 applications from nine jurisdictions, with a combined request of \$1.2 billion.
- ✓ She noted that upcoming milestones are as follows:
 - Conduct project evaluations including TransAction ratings, Congestion Reduction Relative to Cost (CRR), Long Term Benefit (LTB) and qualitative analyses from December 2021 through January 2022.
 - Release candidate project list and evaluations by the Authority in April of 2022.
 - Have Public comment period, NVTAs Public Hearing/Open House and jurisdictional Town Hall meetings between April through May 2022.
 - Release Staff recommendation of projects in June 2022.
 - Present FY2022-2027 SYP in July 2022 for Authority adoption.

10. Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2022

Ms. Backmon, CEO

- ✓ Ms. Backmon informed Members that as with prior practice and for planning of individual schedules, she recommends that the Authority continue to meet the second Thursday of the month for Calendar Year 2022, with the exception of the month of August when there is no meeting.
- ✓ She added that the Authority may want to consider whether to change the meeting date for the month of April since that falls on Holy Thursday.
- ✓ Chair Randall pointed to the possibility of the July meeting date conflicting with another meeting.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon noted that the July meeting will be a pivotal one for the Six Year Program and will be necessary to have a quorum for the meeting.
- ✓ After a brief discussion, it was noted that the other meeting may not conflict with the July Authority meeting.
- ✓ Delegate Roem noted that her term on the Authority may be coming to an end. However, she is willing to speak to the incoming Speaker of the House to continue to serve, even for a short term.
- ✓ Chair Randall expressed her appreciation to Delegate Roem and noted that she will make recommendations to the Speaker as well in that same regard.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon added that the final 2022 Schedule will be presented to the Authority in January for adoption.
- ✓ Delegate Roem asked whether the January 13, 2022, meeting could be moved to an earlier date.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon responded that a number of factors would have to be considered and she will look into it.

11. Governance and Personnel Committee Report

Chair Randall, Chair

- ✓ Discussed with Item 4.

12. Planning and Programming Committee Report

Mayor Wilson, Chair

- ✓ No verbal report given.

13. Technical Advisory Committee Report

Mr. Boice, Chair

- ✓ No verbal report given.

14. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Ms. Backmon, CEO

- ✓ Ms. Backmon informed the Authority that the public is invited to the next Joint Transportation Meeting with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC), Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI), and Virginia Railway Express (VRE).
- ✓ She noted that there would be a public comments session with Ms. Hynes as the facilitator of the meeting so members who would like to attend should register online.

- ✓ Ms. Backmon also informed the Authority to ‘Save the Date’ for the 7th Annual Northern Virginia Transportation Roundtable event, slated for Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at 8am.
- ✓ She noted that various meeting formats, including having it in person are under consideration and more details will be announced early next year.

15. Chair’s Comments

i. Appointment of Nominating Committee

- Chair Randall informed the Authority that the January will be the annual organizational meeting where the Authority Chair and Vice-Chair are selected. Chair Randall appointed Mayor Rishell and Mayor Wilson to serve as the Nominating Committee who will make recommendations on these appointments.
- Chairman McKay responded that in order to streamline the process, he recommends that the various Committee membership information be circulated amongst the Authority for all to know the members in each committee.
- Ms. Backmon agreed to circulate the NVTA Committee roster.

16. Adjournment:

- ✓ In the absence of further discussion, Chair Randall thanked all members for attending the evening’s meeting and adjourned at 7:18pm.

Next Meeting: January 13, at 7:00pm - Annual Organizational Meeting
NVTA Offices