



TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, November 22, 2021, 7:00 pm
Live-streamed on [YouTube](#)

MEETING SUMMARY

I. Call to Order/Welcome

- Chairman Boice called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm at the NVTA Office.
- Attendees:
 - **Members:** Randy Boice, Karen Campblin, Amy Morris, Frank Spielberg, Pat Turner and, Dr. Shanjiang Zhu.
 - **NVTA Staff:** Keith Jasper, Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming; Dr. Sree Nampoothiri, Senior Transportation Planner; Mackenzie Love, Regional Transportation Planner and Harun Rashid, Transportation Planner.
 - **Consultants:** Dalia Leven (Cambridge Systematics Inc.)
 - **Others:** On YouTube live stream.

II. Summary of October 20, 2021, Meeting

- The motion to accept the meeting summary was approved unanimously.

III. TransAction: Weightings for Performance Measures

- Dr. Nampoothiri provided an overview of progress that has been made on the development and approval of TransAction Goals, Objectives, and Measures thus far, including Authority approval on November 18th, 2021.
 - i. Mr. Jasper added that the Authority recommended adding a note to the description of the Performance Measures which states: “transit may include High Occupancy Vehicles (HOV)”. Although the effects of HOV will be fully captured in the TransAction approach to modeling, the Authority determined that a direct mention of the mode was important in this context, to recognize the significance of its impacts.
 - ii. There was a brief discussion of how this modification may impact modeling, in which Ms. Leven noted that the full impacts were still being evaluated, since the change occurred a few days before this meeting.
- Dr. Nampoothiri described the process that will be undertaken to establish weightings for performance measures. He explained that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Planning Coordination and Advisory Committee (PCAC) and, Planning and



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

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- Programming Committee (PPC) will each be asked to recommend weights for the approved Performance Measures, for Authority approval in December.
- i. The weights suggested by each Committee in November will be averaged and rounded to the nearest 5%. The averaged weights, along with sums of these for each core value, will be presented to the NVTA Authority in December. The Authority may accept or modify these recommendations prior to approval.
 - ii. He then shared responses from the TransAction public survey, as a point of reference for the Committee to consider in recommending their own weightings.
- Chairman Boice then lead the Committee members in an open discussion of the Performance Measures and potential weightings. During this time, Committee members were also able to ask Ms. Leven and Dr. Nampoothiri technical questions, to inform their deliberations. The most salient topics of discussion and questions were:
 - i. Mr. Spielberg recommended that the Committee begin the process of assigning weights by dividing the total available points equally across the three TransAction goals, and then allocating points across the Performance Measures that comprise them.
 - ii. Chairman Boice recommended that Measures concerning congestion reduction be given priority, since that is NVTA's primary charge.
 - iii. There was discussion of the difference between Performance Measures A1 and A2, which focus on reducing delay for autos and transit, respectively.
 1. Ms. Leven explained that the two were combined in one measure in the past, but were disaggregated here, to allow for more nuance. She noted that equity considerations could be one reason to consider different weightings.
 2. Dr. Zhu indicated that he would prefer to align his recommendations for these measures with the percentage mode split between auto and transit travel observed in the region.
 - iv. There was discussion of the differences between Performance Measures C1; "Access to jobs by car, transit and bike" and C2, "Access to jobs by car, transit and bike for EEA populations"
 1. Ms. Campblin and Ms. Morris both described how historical disinvestment in areas with high concentrations of low-income and minority populations (which are now identified as Equity Emphasis Areas, or EEA, by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, or MWCOG) has resulted in greater need in those areas. Ms. Campblin added that an increased focus on those areas may help address that deficit.



- v. The Committee members each provided their recommendations for weightings for each Performance Measure, which were averaged together, in real-time. The Committee then rounded these averages to the nearest whole numbers.
 - 1. A motion was made and seconded to recommend these rounded averages for Authority approval, which ultimately passed unanimously.
- vi. The Performance Measures weightings recommended by the TAC are:

Technical Advisory Committee			
Goal		Performance Measure	Recommended Weight
Mobility	A1	Total Person-Hours of Delay in autos	16.0
	A2	Total Person-Hours of Delay on Transit	6.0
	B1	Duration of Severe Congestion	12.0
	B2	Transit person-miles in dedicated/priority ROW	8.0
Accessibility	C1	Access to jobs by car, transit, and bike	10.0
	C2	Access to jobs by car, transit, and bike for EEA populations	10.0
	D1	Quality of access to transit and the walk/bike network	12.0
Resiliency	E1	Potential for safety and security improvements	9.0
	F1	Vehicle Emissions	8.0
	G1	Transportation System Redundancy	9.0

IV. TransAction: Scenario Analysis

- Ms. Leven described how scenario analysis will be used in the TransAction update process to help provide a better understanding of uncertainty. She emphasized that this effort will explore plausible futures, not necessarily those that are preferred or predicted.
- Four scenarios are proposed for inclusion in the TransAction update process. Ms. Leven described each briefly, and asked for Committee feedback on a few specific points for each:
 - i. Pandemic-created ‘New Normal’
 - 1. In response to a question from Ms. Leven, the Committee members indicated that land use would likely need to be addressed, to some extent, to fully evaluate this scenario.



2. There was a consensus to wait as long as possible to determine if a potential post-pandemic aversion to riding transit should be evaluated, to have the most possible data to inform the verdict.
 - ii. Transportation Technology
 1. The Committee indicated that exploring the impacts of technologies on the operating costs of transit, may distract from the outcomes that impact that may more directly impact the functioning of the transportation system. (One example of this would be the potential impacts of like Connected/ Automated/ Shared/ Electric vehicles (CASEs) on staffing needs.)
 - iii. Transportation Policy/Mechanisms
 1. There was discussion about the different forms of roadway pricing that could be evaluated in this scenario, including VMT pricing, congestion pricing, cordon charges, carbon pricing and parking fees. Some Committee members expressed concerns about the equity of pricing. Ms. Leven indicated that analyzing a scenario that explored pricing mechanisms could help identify any equity issues and thus facilitate addressing them.
 - iv. Climate Change
 1. Ms. Leven offered two potential approaches to this scenario. The first is to evaluate what would happen if specific pieces of infrastructure were lost, due to things like flooding. The second is to combine aspects of the other three scenarios, to determine their joint impact on emissions. She also noted that the Regional Jurisdiction and Agency Coordination Committee (RJACC) expressed a desire to synergize with the work of MWCOG on climate change, rather than duplicating it. The Committee was interested in a scenario that would combine outcomes of these other three, but recommended waiting to see said outcomes before finalizing this approach.

V. NVTA Update

- Dr. Nampoothiri reminded the Committee that the Authority is expected to vote on weightings for the TransAction Performance Measures in their next meeting, which is scheduled for 6:00pm on Thursday, December 9th, 2021.

VI. Other



- Chairman Boice announced that Ms. Turner would be retiring from the TAC in January, after years of distinguished service. He thanked her for her commitment to the Committee and Dr. Nampoothiri expressed gratitude to her, on behalf of NVTA Staff as well.
- The Committee discussed if it would be necessary to meet in December. Dr. Nampoothiri advised the members that a meeting would likely not be needed unless the Authority action on weights for the TransAction Performance Measures requires the Committees to meet. However, the placeholder date of December 15th would be retained on NVTA calendars, should it be deemed appropriate to meet.

VII. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

DRAFT