



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

**MINUTES**

Thursday, January 13, 2022

7:00pm

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 7:08pm.

**2. Annual Organizational Meeting Public Comments**

- ✓ Chair Randall welcomed everyone to the January 13, 2022, Annual Organizational meeting, and Public Comment session.
- ✓ She noted that every year in January, the Authority invites the public to submit input (either verbally or in written format) to the Authority for consideration, regarding how to best tackle transportation focused issues in the region.
- ✓ She added that this year, the Authority received 14 pre-submitted written public comments and one via voicemail (by the January 11<sup>th</sup> deadline). She noted that all written comments would be read by NVTA Staff, with one person scheduled to provide in person comments during the meeting.
- ✓ Chair Randall noted that there would be no responses made to any of the public comments as the Authority would proceed to take action on business matters right after listening to the last written public comment.
- ✓ With that, Ms. Hawksworth proceeded with updating everyone about some housekeeping items, noting each speaker (or read comments) were limited to three minutes.
- ✓ Mr. Stewart from the City of Fairfax kicked off the session with in-person comments on behalf of the Virginia Sierra Club.
- ✓ After Mr. Stewart, NVTA Staff proceeded to read all pre-submitted written comments received from the public by the deadline. The comment session ended with the voicemail message from Ms. Marlow from Arlington County.
- ✓ Chair Randall noted that the public can always continue to connect with the Authority or send future comments via email on NVTA's website. Also, if anyone needed more information regarding the multimodal projects funded by the Authority, one can visit the NoVA Gateway site as well to access details of projects broken out by jurisdictions, modes and more.
- ✓ In summary, transportation focused areas of interest from both written and verbal public comments ranged from a variety of projects and issues including the following:

- I-395 Arlington Road exit traffic diversion
- TransAction Update
- Construction on I-66 Outside the Beltway Project
- Criteria for Ranking Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Construction/Improvement Projects
- Consideration of Vehicle Miles Travelled as a key performance metric
- Percentage of funding for pedestrian/bicycle projects
- Concerns over the proposed Van Buren Road Extension in Prince William County
- Climate Change among other issues

### 3. Roll Call

Michael Longhi, CFO

- ✓ Voting Members: Chair Randall; Councilmember Snyder; Chairman McKay; Chair Wheeler; Board Chair Cristol; Mayor Meyer; Mayor Wilson; Mayor Rishell; Mayor Davis-Younger; Senator Boysko (attended remotely); Delegate Roem; Delegate Watts (attended remotely); 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); Harun Rashid (Transportation Planner); Erica Hawksworth (Communications and Public Affairs Manager); Mackenzie Love (Regional Transportation Planner); Margaret Duker (Board Clerk - Remotely).
- ✓ Other Attendees: Rob Dickerson (Council of Counsel – Prince William County); MinhChau Corr (Council of Counsel, Arlington County); Daniel Robinson (Council of Counsel – Fairfax County), Joanna Anderson (Council of Council- City of Alexandria); Tracy Baynard (McGuire Woods Consulting LLC – attended remotely).

### 4. Minutes of the December 9, 2021 Meeting

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

- ✓ Councilmember Snyder moved for the acceptance of the December 9, 2021, meeting minutes, seconded by Delegate Roem. Motion passed unanimously.

### Presentation

#### 5. 2021 Annual Report

Ms. Backmon, CEO

Ms. Hawksworth, Communications & Public Affairs Manager

- ✓ Ms. Backmon informed Authority members that the Authority is required by law to produce an annual report each year, where the Authority's expenditures and major accomplishments of the year are published.
- ✓ Starting with the map, Ms. Backmon paid tribute to the late Ms. Posner (former Council of Counsel Member from Fairfax County), noting how she loved seeing the range of multimodal projects, spread out all over the map which reflects the Authority's investments throughout the region.

- ✓ She noted that although not all of the 106 multimodal projects can be displayed on the map, more project details and information can be accessed from the NoVA Gateway site, broken down by mode, funding or jurisdiction.
- ✓ In her introduction, Ms. Hawksworth shared how this report showcases how Northern Virginia's taxpayer dollars are being put to work whilst simultaneously putting a stamp on the future of NoVA, as captured by the theme.
- ✓ More importantly, she shared what the investments the Authority is making to keep the region moving forward.
- ✓ As a tag team, Ms. Backmon and Ms. Hawksworth proceeded to highlight the following achievements from 2021:
  - Ms. Hawksworth pointed out that the Authority picture captures current Authority Members and the membership structure.
  - Ms. Backmon mentioned the 'Thank You' letter from Chair Randall in which she highlights the Authority's commitment to keeping Virginia moving forward, the need to fully restore funding to the Authority as the topmost priority of the Authority, and the great work of updating TransAction, the region's long range transportation plan, simultaneously with the FY2022-2027 Six Year Program, whilst keeping the core values of equity, sustainability, and safety top of mind.
  - The letter also expresses immense gratitude to citizens who provided valuable input in various ways during the public engagement period of the TransAction phase I update last year.
  - She noted that the report provides an update on activities conducted to date regarding the Six Year Program, which is the Authority's sixth funding program. She added that 26 applications were received, totaling \$1.2 billion. She noted NVTa Staff are currently working on revenue estimates, but the demand for projects will far out-reach estimated revenue.
  - Ms. Hawksworth pointed to the growing number of followers of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority on Facebook (16% increase) and Twitter (35% increase).
  - Additional highlights were related to the economic impact study last year which shows that the Authority's capital investment in Regional Multi-Modal Transportation is equal to \$3.3 billion in economic impact in Northern Virginia, a 130% return on investment. This helped create 30,000 jobs in the region.
  - In the area of innovation in transportation, NVTa unveiled the New Transportation Technology Strategic Plan (TTSP), a tool which will inform a proactive approach to the adoption of transportation technology in Northern Virginia.
  - The Authority is helping to shape planning and policy in the region with the Chief Executive Officer's participation in the Infrastructure Bill Roundtable Discussions with United States Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine.

- Overall, there were 8 project milestone celebrations in 2021. Some of which included the City of Alexandria’s ITS project DASH Bus ribbon-cutting celebration, Route 28 groundbreaking ceremony in the City of Manassas, the Town of Hillsboro’s re-opening of the enhanced Route 9 project and start of construction of the Northstar Boulevard Phase II.
- ✓ Looking ahead into 2022, Ms. Backmon noted that the Authority will continue with the update of TransAction and the two year update to the Six Year Program, as well as continue working with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) to develop the Regional Multi-Modal Mobility Program (RM3P), host the 7<sup>th</sup> NVTA and ITS-VA Annual Roundtable event and Annual NoVA Joint Transportation Meeting with the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), VDOT and DRPT, and start implementing and updating the TTSP.
- ✓ In closing, Ms. Backmon expressed appreciation to the citizens who continually provided feedback through various avenues, to inform the Authority of areas of transportation in need of more attention or action.
- ✓ Lastly, she acknowledged Ms. Cuervo, the first female NoVA District Administrator of VDOT who retired last year, for her immense support and partnership during her tenure as DA of VDOT, and helping achieve a lot of these initiatives.

### **Action Items**

**6. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair for CY2022** Nominating Committee

*Recommended Action: Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair*

- ✓ Mayor Rishell and Mayor Wilson were the CY2022 Nominating Committee.
- ✓ Mayor Rishell informed all members that she and Mayor Wilson are happy to nominate Chair Randall and Councilmember Snyder to be appointed as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for calendar year 2022.
- ✓ Board Chair Cristol moved Authority appointment of Phyllis J. Randall as Chair and David Snyder, as Vice-Chair, of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, for calendar year 2022; seconded by Chairman McKay. Motion passed with Chair Randall abstaining.
- ✓ Chair Randall read the names of Authority Members who were on the Finance Committee, Governance and Personnel Committee (GPC) and Planning and Programming Committee (PPC), noting those who did not need to be re-appointed and others who needed re-appointment to continue on the committee.
- ✓ She asked Authority members who wished to be on or off the standing committees to reach out to her soon as possible.

**7. Appointment of Town Member for CY2022** Ms. Backmon, CEO

*Recommended Action: Appointment of Town Member*

- ✓ Chair Randall noted that it was time to appoint another Mayor from NVTA’s Towns to serve as a non-voting member of the Authority.

- ✓ She noted that all the five Mayors in the towns with a population of 3,500 or more, were contacted about their interest in this appointment.
- ✓ She noted that Mayor Wood was recommended to serve on the Authority for CY2022 but could not be part of the evening's meeting as he was on travel.
- ✓ In the acceptance note read by Chair Randall to the Authority, she noted his readiness to join with other regional leaders to move the region's transportation network forward through proactive solutions.
- ✓ Chair Wheeler moved Authority appointment of Derrick Wood, Mayor of the Town of Dumfries, as the calendar year 2022 Town member to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority; seconded by Mayor Rishell. Motion passed unanimously.

**8. Adoption of Meeting Schedule for CY2022** Ms. Backmon, CEO

*Recommended Action: Adoption of Meeting Schedule*

- ✓ Board Chair Cristol moved Authority adoption of the Proposed Calendar Year 2022 Meeting Schedule; seconded by Mayor Davis-Younger. Motion passed unanimously.

**9. Approval of City of Fairfax Roadway Network Northfax West Regional Standard Project Agreement – 2020-049-2.** Mr. Longhi, CFO

*Recommended Action: Approval of Standard Project Agreement*

- ✓ Mayor Meyer moved approval of the proposed Standard Project Agreement 2020-049-2, City of Fairfax (Roadway Network Northfax West), in accordance with NVTA's approved Project Description Sheet as appended to the Standard Project Agreement; and Authorize the CEO sign on behalf of the Authority; seconded by Chairman McKay. Motion passed unanimously.

**10. Approval of the Reallocation of Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds for the Broad Street Multimodal Project for the City of Falls Church.**

Ms. Backmon, CEO

*Recommended Action: Approval of Reallocation Request*

- ✓ Councilmember Snyder moved Authority recommendation of Commonwealth Transportation Board Approval of the reallocation of \$440,000 of Regional Surface Transportation Program funds for the City of Falls Church to the Broad Street Multimodal Project; seconded by Chairman McKay. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/Information Items**

**11. Governance and Personnel Committee Report** Chair Randall, Chair  
**Update on 2022 General Assembly Session** Ms. Baynard,

McGuire Woods Consulting, LLC.

- ✓ Ms. Baynard provided a recap of the week's legislative events from the ongoing General Assembly session, noting that Delegate Keam from the Town of Vienna,

submitted a Bill, seeking to use NVTAs 70% revenues for sidewalks and circular intersections.

- ✓ It was noted that projects of this nature are currently eligible for funding and being approved by the Authority.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard stated that she discussed with Delegate Keam and will continue to inform him of how the Town can identify additional funding for projects of this nature.
- ✓ Delegate Roem noted her wish to abstain from voting on this as it would potentially come to the House for action.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard noted that General Assembly Members have until February 15<sup>th</sup> to act on any initial bills filed.
- ✓ She continued to note that she requested Senator Surovell walk her through the purpose of HB251 which would earmark some of NVTAs revenues for non-roadway bike/ped, sidewalks and trails, to which she said the Senator explained that if dedicated funding is set aside, it would encourage localities to pursue more pedestrian/bicycle and trail projects.
- ✓ Delegate Roem noted that she has a Bill in development which is geared in a different direction as Senator Surovell's.
- ✓ Delegate Roem explained that her Bill seeks funds for localities to use towards bicycle and safety projects among others. Adding that the goal is to provide for projects which do not always qualify for this kind of funding from other programs.
- ✓ Chairman McKay noted that he did not have an objection to Delegate Roem's Bill but from a precedent standpoint, he thinks Senator Surovell's is worse after reviewing it.
- ✓ He noted that if the issue is a lack of funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects, then more money should be made available by the General Assembly.
- ✓ He noted that he was ready to take a vote in opposition to Senator Surovell's Bill.
- ✓ Ms. Hynes noted that this Bill is really about creating trails but agrees with Chairman McKay that diverting current funding is not the way to go about it.
- ✓ Councilmember Snyder also pointed out that the Authority has always been committed to funding multi-modal projects and supports Chairman McKay in opposing this bill.
- ✓ Delegate Watts expressed her concern that the first priority of the Authority should be mitigating congestion. She pointed that separating funds for bicycle/pedestrian projects conveys a message that one mode is more of a priority than others.
- ✓ Senator Boysko agreed with Delegate Watts. Speaking as an Authority member, she noted that she believes the decision on what to fund should be made by the Authority and not the General Assembly.
- ✓ Chair Randall asked if Authority Members were ready to vote against Senator Surovell's Bill, noting that she understands if the General Assembly Members wished to abstain at this time.

- ✓ Chairman McKay proposed that a letter opposing this bill providing a history of bicycle/pedestrian projects which the Authority has funded, be drafted, and sent to Senator Surovell.
- ✓ Chair Randall noted her agreement with Chairman McKay.
- ✓ Board Chair Cristol added that the letter should specifically note bicycle and pedestrian projects funded.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard stated that she has noted the Authority's recommendations and will work with the CEO to submit this letter.
- ✓ Mayor Rishell remarked that she and Councilmember Snyder have been long serving members on the Authority and noted that she is really concerned that there seems to be no end in sight regarding the external attempts to reduce/divert the Authority's funding.
- ✓ Chair Randall stated that the Authority has a triple AA+ credit rating to protect, noting that if the General Assembly continues to interfere with the Authority's funding, it could potentially impact the credit rating.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard discussed various efforts to change the current fuels tax legislation.
- ✓ As follow up to her comments from last year and in reference to the proposed gas tax suspension, Delegate Watts noted that 53% of the gas tax goes to road maintenance. She pointed out that not all current contracts/projects can qualify for COVID funding, although the infrastructure funding is completely different. She expressed her concern noting that she is not sure how funding can be suspended for one year on the basis of these new federal funding (COVID relief and Infrastructure) being available.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon remarked that the proposed gas tax suspension will leave a hole and the question is, how will this hole be filled.
- ✓ Delegate Roem also stated that the Federal money will have a totally different approval structure and is not designed to replace any existing funding streams.
- ✓ Additionally, she pointed out that it could put projects like the CSX (Chessie Seaboard Transportation) Rail project with Virginia, Maryland and Washington DC, in jeopardy and that is not acceptable. She added that in a region like Northern Virginia this could hurt constituents more than help and that is dangerous.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard also updated the Authority on ongoing House Transportation Committee membership changes and the new Secretary of Transportation elect, Sheppard Miller III.
- ✓ Ms. Hynes informed Authority members that the new Secretary of Transportation-Elect, Shep Miller, is a successful businessman who was instrumental in the establishment of the Hampton Roads Transportation Commission (HRTAC), therefore someone well versed in the issues of transportation.
- ✓ She noted that she has had the pleasure of working with Secretary-Elect Miller as a Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Member.

## 12. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Ms. Backmon, CEO

- ✓ Ms. Backmon informed the Authority of updates not previously included in her CEO's report, noting that the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) has completed the Climate Change Mitigation Study. She noted that the plan from last year was to await the results of this study in order to incorporate into the TransAction update.
- ✓ She added that the new TPB Chair is Vice Mayor Sebesky of the City of Manassas. Chair Sebesky has proposed adopting climate change goals. She will outline a process for developing of a majority consensus on climate change goals and strategies to conform to the Long Range Plan update.
- ✓ In connection with this, TPB plans to survey some of the TPB member jurisdictions and agencies, acting on behalf of their jurisdictions, to propose some of the elements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to be included in the Long Range Plan update.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon noted that members of the TPB whom she has had discussions with propose to review these elements holistically in their effort towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the region.

## 13. Chair's Comments

### i. Committee Appointments

- ✓ Chair Randall reiterated her earlier comments about members contacting her regarding any Committee changes soon in order to finalize them.

## 14. Adjournment

- ✓ The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

**Next Meeting: February 10, at 7:00pm**

**NVTA Offices**