

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**MEMORANDUM**

FOR: Chair Phyllis J. Randall and Members
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

FROM: Monica Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: March 3, 2022

SUBJECT: Approval of Public Hearing Date and Comment Period for the FY2022-2027 Six Year Program Update

- 1. Purpose.** To seek Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) approval of May 12, 2022, as the Public Hearing Date and Friday, April 15, 2022 until midnight on Sunday, May 22, 2022, as the Public Comment Period for the FY2022-2027 Six Year Program (SYP) Update. This action will enable NVTA staff to initiate necessary actions associated with the advertisement and posting requirements for the public comment process for the FY2022-2027 Six Year Program.
- 2. Suggested Motion:** *I move approval of May 12, 2022, as the Public Hearing Date and Friday April 15, 2022 until midnight on Sunday, May 22, 2022 as the Public Comment Period for the FY2022-2027 Six Year Program Update.*
- 3. Background.** At its July 9, 2020 meeting, the Authority adopted its FY2020-2025 SYP following the adoption of inaugural SYP in 2018. The SYP is updated on a two-year cycle alternating with the Commonwealth's SmartScale Program, which is also on a two-year cycle. Development of the Authority's FY2022-2027 SYP, using FY2026 and FY2027 regional revenues will follow a similar version of the process used for the previous SYPs. This process was initiated by a Call for Regional Transportation Projects (CfRTP) in July 1, 2021, targeted at eligible jurisdictions and agencies. The deadline for applications was October 1, 2021 and for Governing Body resolutions was December 3, 2021.
- 4. Discussion.** Working with NVTA's consultant team, NVTA staff have been evaluating the 26 candidate projects over the past several months. NVTA staff will complete this work in the coming weeks, in readiness for the formal public comment period, starting on April 15, 2022 and ending at midnight on May 22, 2022. More details on the public comment period, and a summary of the evaluations of the 26 candidate projects, will be provided at the Authority's meeting on April 14, 2022, as well as to NVTA's Statutory Committees and the Planning and Programming Committee during their March 2022 meeting cycle.

In the past, NVTA staff, supported by jurisdiction and agency staff, have hosted an Open House immediately prior to the SYP Public Hearing at NVTA's offices. The Open House provides an informal opportunity for interested members of the public to discuss candidate projects with NVTA, jurisdiction, and agency staff. For the FY2020-2025 SYP, while the Public Hearing occurred in a modified hybrid format, NVTA staff did not host an Open House due to health and safety concerns related to the pandemic.

For the FY2022-2027 SYP, the Open House will once again be held in-person, but in a different location and on a different evening than the Public Hearing. This is possible due to the scheduling of the annual joint meeting of state and regional transportation entities (required by the Code of Virginia) on May 4, 2022, at VDOT's NoVA District Offices. This joint meeting demonstrates the high levels of coordination in Northern Virginia, while providing a valuable opportunity for citizens to discuss candidate SYP projects alongside other transportation issues in the region. NVTA and VDOT staff are already coordinating on logistical details, and more information will be shared at the Authority's meeting on April 14, 2022.

5. **Next steps.** Subject to Authority approval of May 12, 2022 as the date of the FY2022-2027 SYP Public Hearing:
 - a. **March 2022:** Commencement of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Planning Coordination and Advisory Committee (PCAC), and Planning and Programming Committee (PPC) reviews;
 - b. **April 2022:** NVTA staff implement necessary advertisement and related actions associated with the Open House, Public Hearing, and Public Comment Period;
 - c. **April 14, 2022:** Release of candidate project list and evaluations by the Authority;
 - d. **April 15 – May 22, 2022:** Public comment period;
 - e. **May 4, 2022:** Open House at VDOT;
 - f. **May 12, 2022:** Public Hearing at NVTA (prior to regularly scheduled Authority meeting);
 - g. **June 2022:** Release of NVTA staff project recommendations for review and endorsement by TAC, PCAC, and PPC;
 - h. **July 14, 2022:** Authority adoption of FY2022-2027 SYP.