



## **SUMMARY MINUTES**

Thursday, March 10, 2022

7:00 PM

3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200

Fairfax, VA 22031

*An in-person meeting and livestreamed via YouTube*

**1. Call to Order** Councilmember Snyder, Vice Chair

- ✓ Vice Chair Snyder called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.
- ✓ Vice Chair Snyder encouraged reflection and support of Ukraine, noting that the Northern Virginia region has always had open homes, hearts, and wallets for refugees.

**2. Roll Call** Mr. Davis, Authority Board Secretary

- ✓ Attendees:

Members: Vice Chair Snyder; Supervisor Alcorn, for Chairman McKay; Chair Wheeler; Board Member Karantonis, for Board Chair Cristol; Mayor Wilson; Mayor Davis-Younger; Mayor Rishell; Mayor Meyer; Mr. Bedell; Ms. Hynes; Mr. Kolb; Mayor Wood; Ms. Sinner; Mr. Horsley; Attending Remotely: Senator Boysko, Delegate LaRock; Not Attending: Chair Randall.

Staff: Monica Backmon (CEO); Michael Longhi (CFO); Jonathan Davis (Authority Board Secretary); Margaret Duker (Executive Asst./Clerk of Board); Keith Jasper (Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming); Harun Rashid (Transportation Planner).

Other Attendees: Dr. Dee Allsop (Co-CEO and Founding Partner, Heart + Mind Strategies); Tracy Baynard (McGuireWoods Consulting, LLC).

- ✓ Jurisdictional and agency staff as well as the public were able to view the meeting via the Authority's [YouTube Channel](#).

**3. January 11, 2022, Meeting Summary Minutes** Vice Chair Snyder

*Recommended Action: Approval of the January 13, 2022, Meeting Summary Minutes*

- ✓ Vice Chair Snyder opened the floor for a motion to approve the January 13, 2022, meeting summary minutes. Mayor Rishell so moved, seconded by Chair Wheeler. The minutes were unanimously approved.

## Presentation

### 4. TransAction Update Tracking Survey

Keith Jasper, Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming  
Dr. Dee Allsop, Co-CEO/Founder, Heart & Mind Strategies

- ✓ Mr. Jasper introduced Dr. Allsop, and began discussion on the purpose, mission, and benefit of the TransAction Tracking Survey conducted by Dr. Allsop's market and research company. The survey audience included residents 18 years of age or older within the jurisdictions of NVTA.
- ✓ Dr. Allsop's presentation highlighted key points of the TransAction Update Tracking Survey:
  - The pandemic saw an increase in remote workers, and many expect to continue to work remotely in some capacity after the pandemic.
  - The increase in remote working can also be observed in the increase in the percentage of residents who live/work in the same area. Most residents drive when traveling to a non-home worksite.
  - Investing in regional transportation is an important priority. Quality of life concerns show some changes that are likely due in part to the pandemic and increased numbers of residents working remotely.
  - Congestion continues to decline but remains the most significant issue while importance of transportation options continues to grow.
  - Congestion matters most to those older residents and those who drive to work while transportation options matter most to younger residents, Hispanics, and those with children.
  - Increases in usage are growing at a faster rate in 2021 for car-share, bike-share, and taxi service. Over one third (36%) would consider getting an electric vehicle.
  - The region continues to show increased perceptions that NVTA is doing a "Good Job" on addressing top priorities. Traffic continues to have a declining impact while transportation options grow.
  - Performance ratings are showing a growth trend on most tracked priorities. Safety, equitable access, and longevity are current perceptual equities. The priority areas to strengthen performance relate to affordability, connection, and reduced trip times.

## Action Items

### 5. Approval of May 12, 2022, as the Public Hearing Date for the FY2022-2027 Six Year Program

Ms. Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

*Recommended Action: Approval of May 12, 2022, as the Public Hearing Date for the FY2022-2027 Six Year Program*

- ✓ Ms. Backmon began the discussion by identifying the purpose and goal of the Public Hearing and added that April 15-May 22, 2022, would serve as the Public Comment period as well as May 04, 2022, as the Open House.
- ✓ Vice Chair Snyder opened the floor for questions and concerns, seeing none, entertained a

motion to approve May 12, 2022, as the Public Hearing date for the FY2022-2027 Six Year Program, and April 15-May 22, 2022, as the Public Comment period. Board Member Karantonis so moved; seconded by Ms. Hynes. The May 12, 2022, Public Hearing date and April 15-May 22, 2022, as the public comment period, was unanimously approved.

## **6. Approval of Investment Policy Changes**

Mr. Longhi, Chief Financial Officer

### *Recommended Action: Approval of Investment Policy Changes*

- ✓ Mr. Longhi began discussion by identifying the need for an update to the Investment Policy and noted that extending the maturities while also reducing the percentage of holdings in certain instruments would address the increasing size of the investment portfolio.
- ✓ Vice Chair Snyder opened the floor for discussion, and confirmed with Mayor Rishell, Chair of the Finance Committee, that the Finance Committee supported the policy as stated. Vice Chair Snyder asked for further explanation of the increase from 15% to 50% on some securities listed and Mr. Longhi explained that the World Bank Bonds have a higher credit quality than the U.S. Treasuries and agencies, and that more of them are becoming available. Vice Chair Snyder also confirmed with Mr. Longhi that the bonds are backed by the World Bank. Vice Chair Snyder entertained a motion to approve the Investment Policy changes. Ms. Hynes so moved; seconded by Mayor Wilson. The Investment Policy changes were unanimously approved.

## **7. Approval of FY2028 CMAQ/RSTP Recommendations to the Commonwealth**

### **Transportation Board**

Ms. Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

- ✓ Ms. Backmon began discussion by identifying the origin, purpose, and programming of the CMAQ and RSTP funds and added that the Authority makes programming recommendations on the CMAQ/RSTP funds to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB).
- ✓ Ms. Backmon stated that the RJACC discussed the proposed CMAQ/RSTP funding recommendations which included an application for the full funding of the Transportation Emissions Reductions Measures (TERMs) program.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon further noted that the region was informed that due to the use of the State's share of CMAQ funding for the Amazon/HQ2 projects, the Commonwealth cannot fund the TERMS program, a funding commitment the Commonwealth has maintained over the past thirty years. She added that the Authority was also informed that the region should now fund the TERMS program. Given that the region is still seeking to recoup \$38.5 million in revenue diverted to help pay Metro's State of Good Repair needs coupled with the concerns of the region undertaking an additional funding responsibility, Ms. Backmon noted that her recommendation is that the region fund half the cost of the TERMS program, which is significantly more than what the region has historically recommended.
- ✓ Vice Chair Snyder inquired whether the recommendation could be submitted making note of the Authority's concerns and expectation that this does not set a precedence.
- ✓ Mayor Rishell added to the discussion, noting her agreement with the comments that the

recommendation should not set a precedence, and further noted the historic commitment the Commonwealth has made to fully fund the TERMS program.

- ✓ Ms. Hynes joined the ongoing discussion by acknowledging her appreciation for the region's sentiments regarding funding the TERMS projects; however, noted that there remains opportunity to identify other sources of funding as more is learned from the IJA and potential grants from the EPA funding.
- ✓ Supervisor Alcorn referenced other funding sources like the EPA grants and inquired of Ms. Hynes whether this would also encompass, PM2.5 emissions reduction efforts.
- ✓ Ms. Hynes responded noting since the regulations are not yet written, much is still unclear about potential sources of dedicated revenue.
- ✓ Board Member Karantonis added that there are ongoing updates to EPA regulations, as such, the region could find itself back in non-attainment status making it even more expensive to reach attainment.
- ✓ Vice Chair Snyder concluded discussion by calling for a motion to approve the FY 2028 CMAQ/RSTP Recommendations to the CTB with the added comments from the Authority noting: the recommended funding will not set a precedence that the region should fund the total cost of the TERMS program; the funding history of the TERMS projects be identified; and request that other sources of dedicated funding for the TERMS program be identified. With no objection, Vice Chair Snyder entertained a motion to that effect. Board Member Karantonis so moved, seconded by Mayor Meyer. The recommendations were approved by a vote of 12 Yea; 1 Nay (Mr. Bedell).

**8. Approval of Arlington, Loudoun, Prince William Counties, City of Manassas Park, and Town of Leesburg Letters of Endorsement for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Applications**

Ms. Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

*Recommended Action: Approval of Letters of Endorsement Requests*

- ✓ Ms. Backmon submitted for the Authority's consideration, endorsement requests for regional jurisdiction's RAISE applications.
- ✓ Vice Chair Snyder opened the floor for discussion to entertain a motion to approve the requests for endorsement. Mayor Rishell noted that in some of the printed meeting packets, the motion did not include Manassas Park. Mayor Rishell moved to clarify the inclusion of Manassas Park in the motion and submitted the motion with that inclusion; Chair Wheeler seconded. The approval of the endorsement requests were approved unanimously.

## Information/Discussion

### 9. Travel Trends Update

Mr. Rashid, Transportation Planner

- ✓ Mr. Rashid began discussion by identifying a snapshot of 2020 and 2021 travel trends, and noted analysis and information utilized to enhance NVTA's ongoing long-range transportation planning efforts. It was noted that Northern Virginia traffic on freeways and major roadways were just 4% below pre-pandemic levels.
- ✓ Mr. Rashid also reported on WMATA ridership trends: Metrobus ridership being within 57% of pre-COVID usage, and Metrorail ridership being within 29% of pre-COVID usage.
- ✓ Vice Chair Snyder followed up with closing discussions on the usefulness of adding analysis on safety considering the trends indicated a 6% increase in traffic speeds.

### 10. Governance and Personnel Committee Report

Chair Wheeler, Chair  
Ms. Baynard, McGuireWoods, LLC

- ✓ Chair Wheeler reported that the Annual Performance Review for the Chief Executive Officer will be preceded by a self-assessment from the CEO at the beginning of April and subsequent comments from the Authority members by the end of April.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard began discussion of the General Assembly action referencing the previous discussion on CMAQ funds and the State's strategy for accessing IJA funds, noting that the CTB is expected to review staff recommendations in support of an implementation plan.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard continued noting that sine die is on Saturday adding that one of the major bills being discussed in the General Assembly is the proposed repeal of the grocery tax- to include when and how the repeal would be executed. Ms. Baynard highlighted the fact that one of the chief concerns of stakeholders about the proposed bills is that there are no permanent provisions for replacing the 0.5% revenue now being proposed as diverted revenue from the Commonwealth Transportation Fund.
- ✓ Senator Boysko affirmed Ms. Baynard's 2022 General Assembly overview, noting that the process of negotiations is fluid; however, the point has been made with key stakeholders in the development of this legislation that the preservation of funding is a priority.
- ✓ Delegate LaRock echoed concerns that funding for the benefit of local government and transportation must be backfilled in a sustainable, predictable fashion.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard finalized her 2022 General Assembly update by noting several bills and program funding sources being tracked that have an impact on the Authority and transportation funding.
  - SB 251 was amended to be a study hosted by VDOT with stakeholders in Planning District 8, to assess 20-year needs and the costs and associated revenue streams for pedestrian and bike facilities or traffic calming measures not connected to a roadway.

Ultimately the bill was set aside for discussion next year.

- Transportation Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP) amendments are moving forward with 25% of funds used for zero to low fare projects and 25% of the funds used for regional long distance commuter routes, and CTB would have discretion on how to utilize the remaining 50%.
  - HB 444 was amended to allow advisory bodies to host all virtual meetings if public access is made available.
- ✓ Vice Chair Snyder opened the floor for comments and questions. Chair Wheeler asked about the revenue sharing funds in regards to the budget. Ms. Baynard confirmed that the additional funds from 2021 would be available for local government projects. Vice Chair Snyder concluded the discussion on the 2022 General Assembly, noting the challenge but enormous benefits from funding sidewalks for local governments.

## 11. Finance Committee Report

Mayor Rishell, Chair  
Mr. Longhi, Chief Financial Officer

- ✓ Mayor Rishell reported that during the Finance Committee meeting on January 20, 2022, the Committee reviewed and approved the recommended investment policy changes; further adding that the Committee is recommending the three FY2023 budgets for Authority approval. These budgets will be presented for consideration at the Authority's April meeting.
- ✓ Mr. Longhi noted that all monthly indicators for investment performance, revenue and the operating budget are positive and had nothing further to add to the presented staff reports.
- ✓ Vice Chair Snyder noted the staffing needs are presented in the proposed FY2023 Operating budget recommended by the Finance Committee, and recommended review of the upcoming proposals.

## 12. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Ms. Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

- ✓ Ms. Backmon reported that the Programming and Planning Committee (PPC), Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and the Planning Coordinating Advisory Committee (PCAC) will be meeting in preparation for evaluation and analysis of the FY2022-2027 Six Year Program (SYP) and Public Comment Period scheduled for April 15-May 22, 2022.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon further reported that due to schedule conflicts and quorum concerns for the scheduled April 14, 2022 meeting, April 21, 2022, would be submitted as an alternative meeting date to achieve a quorum. She noted NVTA staff will contact Member's offices to determine maximum availability.
- ✓ Vice Chair Snyder opened the floor for additional discussion/comments, seeing none, adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM.

**Next Meeting: April 21, 2022, at 7:00 PM**

**NVTA Offices**