



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING COORDINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 27, 2022, 6:30 pm
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

MEETING SUMMARY

I. Call to Order/Welcome

- Mayor Colbert, Chair of the Committee, welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
- Attendees:
 - **PCAC Members:** In-person – Mayor Colbert (Town of Vienna); Board Member Karantonis (Arlington County); Supervisor Glass (Loudoun County); Supervisor Franklin (Prince William County); Council Member Bagley (City of Alexandria); Council Member Duncan (City of Falls Church); Vice-Mayor Banks (City of Manassas Park); Council Member Friedrichs (Town of Herndon); Council Member Milan (Town of Purcellville).
Remote – Vice Mayor Martinez (Town of Leesburg).
 - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (Chief Executive Officer); Sree Nampoothiri (Senior Transportation Planner); Harun Rashid (Transportation Planner).
 - **Other:** Noelle Dominguez (Fairfax County), Jaleh Moslehi (Town of Herndon).

II. Summary Notes of March 23, 2022 Meeting

- The March 23, 2022, meeting summary was approved, with abstentions from members who did not attend the March 23 meeting.

III. Status of FY2022-2027 Six Year Program Update.

- NVTA staff is currently collecting public comments on candidate projects. Public comment period started on April 15, and will end on May 22, 2022. Staff shared all project-related materials that are published to solicit for comments, explained in detail the evaluation results, and outlined a timeline to adopt the funding program at the July Authority meeting. The following items were presented to Committee members:
 - A summary list of twenty-six candidate projects. The list includes project title, requested funds, total project costs, and primary and supporting modes of the proposed project.
 - A map showing project locations/extents and modal classifications.
 - Summary results of quantitative and qualitative evaluations. These are described in detail below.
 - Project rankings by Congestion reduction relative to cost (CRRC) ratings. Following Virginia code, the evaluation process must prioritize the CRRC scores. CRRC is calculated with cumulative annual person hours of delay reduction from

the year of project completion to the future analysis year (2045 in this cycle), divided by total project cost.

- Project rankings by a set of performance measures (TransAction ratings). In December last year, Authority approved a set of 10 performance measures.
- Dr. Nampoothiri explained the analytical process in detail, focusing on the quantitative and qualitative metrics in the summary result spreadsheet. Quantitative scores are based mostly on travel model analyses, with some metric derived with off-model tools. Quantitative metrics include – person-hours of delay reduction for autos (model), person-hour-delay reduction for transit (model), reduction in congestion duration (model), growth in person-mile-travel in dedicated right of way (model), growth in total access to jobs (model), growth in access to jobs from equity emphasis areas (model), ped-bike-transit environment (off-model), safety (off-model), emissions reduction (model), increase in person-hour travel (PHT) for surge demand (model), and long term benefit (model).
- Qualitative scores are based on criteria like project readiness, other funding leverage, applicants’ past performance to advance projects, etc. Public comments play a significant role in the staff funding recommendation. At this point, only project rankings are presented, without staff recommendation for funding. At the end of public comment period on May 22nd, staff will synthesize public comment summaries with quantitative/qualitative scores, and present draft funding recommendation at the June Committee meetings.
- In response to members’ questions, staff mentioned that an estimate of revenue available for this program cycle will be presented for Authority’s approval in May. During this question/answer session, staff clarified results of some performance measures, identifying needs to re-check scores for the metric of surge PHT increase. A discussion then ensued highlighting past staff experience to effectively utilize public comments in the decision-making process.

IV. Status of TransAction Plan Update

- Dr. Nampoothiri updated Committee members on current activities of ongoing plan update process:
 - Coordinate a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) planning working group. This is to facilitate and derive planning level guidelines to develop a regional BRT network and supporting projects in Northern Virginia and connections to neighboring jurisdictions such as District of Columbia, Montgomery County, and Prince Georges County.
 - Compile a project list to meet regional transportation needs. This process involves soliciting project ideas from local jurisdictions and transportation agencies, to form a ‘bottom-up’ set of projects. To fill up gaps that may exist in this list, ‘top-down’ project ideas are also being developed by the staff and consultant team.
 - Scenario analyses to address uncertainties in the planning/forecasting process. Following scenarios are being considered for analyses – Pandemic-created “New Normal”; Transportation Technology (focusing on Connected/Automated/Shared/Electric vehicles); and Transportation Policy/Mechanisms (transportation pricing and incentives). There is a potential fourth scenario involving assumptions related to climate change issue.
- Consultant staff is currently analyzing a set of projects to show their regional impacts in meeting identified transportation needs in Northern Virginia. Results of

this analysis will be shared in next month's meeting. Next steps in the planning process include a public comment period, public hearing, and adoption of TransAction later this year.

- Committee members shared suggestions for the scenario analyses, highlighting the current pressing issue of climate change. In response, Ms. Backmon stressed on the need to achieve a balance in approach to address climate change, with NVTAs Core Values of TransAction (e.g., equity).

V. NVTAs Update

- NVTAs Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Backmon, mentioned staff are closely following recent developments with the gas tax holiday bill at the General Assembly Special Session.

VI. Adjourn

- Chair Colbert adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.