



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING COORDINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 25, 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 (Chair, Town of Vienna); Council Member Selonia Miles (Vice-Chair, Town of Dumfries); Board Member Karantonis (Arlington County); Supervisor Alcorn (Fairfax County); Council Member Bagley (City of Alexandria); Council Member Duncan (City of Falls Church); Council Member Stehle (City of Fairfax); Vice-Mayor Banks (City of Manassas Park); Council Member Friedrichs (Town of Herndon).
 - Remote – Supervisor Franklin (Prince William County); Council Member Milan (Town of Purcellville).
 - Alternate – Council Member Ralph Smith (City of Manassas, for Vice-Mayor Pamela Sebesky).
 - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (Chief Executive Officer); Keith Jasper (Principal, Planning and Programming); Sree Nampoothiri (Senior Transportation Planner); Harun Rashid (Transportation Planner). Consultant staff – Thomas Harrington.
 - **Other:** Noelle Dominguez (Fairfax County), Jaleh Moslehi (Town of Herndon).

II. Summary Notes of April 27, 2022 Meeting

- The April 27, 2022, meeting summary was approved, with abstentions from members who did not attend the April 27 meeting.

III. Status of TransAction Plan Update.

- Mr. Jasper provided a brief introduction on the current status of TransAction and the simultaneous FY2022-2027 Six Year Program update processes including ongoing travel model related analyses for TransAction, public comment summary analysis for the Six Year Program candidate project evaluations, and a timeline for committees' and Authority approvals and subsequent adoption.

- This was followed by a presentation by consultant staff, covering the following topics:
 - TransAction activities and schedule: Goals/objectives/performance measures were approved in Nov/Dec 2021; transportation perception survey and model analysis in winter/spring 2022; stakeholder meeting and NVTA work session in May. Upcoming events – public comment/hearing in summer/fall 2022; TransAction adoption in November 2022.
 - TransAction project list: With inputs from local jurisdictions and agencies, and with transportation needs and priorities identified via surveys and system analyses, a set of 429 projects now constitute the project list. Of which, 380 are bottom-up (inputs from jurisdiction/agency staff), and 49 are top-down projects (from systemwide gap analyses, surveys/perceptions, and stakeholder group). Other statistics and characteristics presented – project sponsors, modes, planning-level costs.
 - Initial modeling results: Current TransAction model was developed with Metropolitan Washington Council of Government- Transportation Planning Board (MWCOG-TPB)’s model system as a base and enhanced with fine-resolution traffic simulation in Northern Virginia and more recent travel modes. In long-range transportation planning analyses, existing/committed/planned projects are represented with two broad network conditions – No-Build (existing+committed projects), and Build (planned projects). The results from model analysis with Build conditions were presented. Model analyses is ongoing with mode-specific and other project groupings to identify individual project performance.
 - Scenario analysis: To deal with uncertainty in the travel demand forecasting process there are three scenarios being analyzed – pandemic-created ‘New Normal’, transportation technology, and transportation policy/mechanisms. These scenarios are – plausible futures, but not preferred/predicted; assumptions-based with proxy metrics; and to identify potential investment obsolescence. These scenarios were analyzed with the No-Build condition, and results show substantial impacts for several performance metrics.
- In response, committee members asked a number of verifying questions, and suggested assumption inputs on these topics. Below is a brief summary of these questions and NVTA/consultant staff responses:
 - *In considering extra-territorial big-ticket transit projects, was Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)’s Blue-Orange-Silver Line Study consulted?* Yes, staff is aware of this and other studies to identify core-capacity and other major transit bottle-neck issues in the region.
 - *Explain the Build model result of increasing emission.* This is the model result of from all 429 projects being considered. NVTA cannot fund all considered projects based on geographical and funding restraints. As TransAction is a needs-based document, it includes projects in Maryland which NVTA legally cannot fund. Therefore, the Build analyses is not the preferred or realistic outcome. For example, in scenario analyses, we observe substantial emission reduction with a set of assumptions, e.g., autonomous and electric vehicle penetration rate in the market. Additionally, the model is not run for individual projects as is done for the Six Year Programs.

- *Explain accessibility results and other land use assumptions.* Households and employment locations in the travel model are derived from MWCOG-TPB's cooperative land use forecasts, which is a reflection of local jurisdictions' plans and aspirations in Comprehensive Plans.
- *Scenarios did not consider alternative land use?* No, land use planning is local jurisdictions' responsibility which NVTA does not participate in.
- *Any consideration for emerging aerial modes, e.g., Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), EVTOL (electronic vertical take-off and landing) vehicles?* Not in this analysis. NVTA's Transportation Technology Committee (TTC) was formed to plan for emerging technologies and transportation sector innovations and was charged with creating the Transportation Technology Strategic Plan (TTSP). NVTA staff intends to consider these emerging modes with guidance from TTC/TTSP.

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

- Dr. Nampoothiri provided a verbal update stating staff are currently analyzing public comments on the candidate projects and will provide a summary report at the June Authority meeting. As staff incorporated public comments in the evaluation process, draft staff funding recommendations will be presented to NVTA's standing/statutory committees in June. The summary of public comments will be posted on the program page, and shared via other public outreach efforts.

V. NVTA Update

- NVTA Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Backmon, mentioned staff will be monitoring the Special Session that convenes on June 1st and will report back.

VI. Adjourn

- Chair Colbert adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.