

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**MEMORANDUM**

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

FROM: Monica Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: July 7, 2022

SUBJECT: Approval of Public Comment Period and September 8, 2022, as the Public Hearing Date for TransAction

- 1. Purpose.** To seek Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) approval of September 8, 2022, as the Public Hearing date and Monday, August 1, 2022, until midnight on Sunday, September 18, 2022, as the Public Comment Period for the TransAction 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 TransAction Update.

Suggested Motion: *I move Authority approval of September 8, 2022, as the Public Hearing Date and Monday August 1, 2022, until midnight on Sunday, September 18, 2022, as the Public Comment Period for the TransAction Update.*

- 2. Background:** TransAction is updated on a five-year cycle and, when adopted, provides a legislatively mandated eligibility filter for candidate projects to be included in subsequent Six Year Program updates. For example, the current TransAction adopted in October 2017, provided the eligibility basis for projects included in the FY2018-2023, FY2020-2025, and FY2022-F2027 Six Year Programs.

TransAction is a fiscally and geographically unconstrained plan, meaning that projects are not required to have any reasonable expectation of funding to be included, nor do they have to be physically located in Northern Virginia. Similarly, inclusion of any project in TransAction does not represent a funding commitment from NVTA or any other government or corporate entity.

TransAction will also offer commentary on the likely transportation challenges and opportunities that Northern Virginia will face in 2045, including the extent to which it may help to accomplish NVTA's vision and goals (mobility, accessibility, and resilience) while embracing NVTA's three core values (equity, safety, and sustainability).

- 3. Discussion:** The Public Hearing will be held at 7:00pm at NVTA's offices, immediately prior to the Authority's regular monthly business meeting on September 8. As with the Public Hearing for the FY2022-2027 Six Year Program held on May 12, 2022, the TransAction Public Hearing

will offer a hybrid format, enabling interested parties to submit testimony in-person or remotely.

As with the Six Year Program public comment period, the bulk of public comments are expected to be submitted electronically using an online comment form accessed via the TransAction website (www.NVTATransAction.org). To streamline the analytical process, the option to submit comments to a dedicated email account will not be offered, but voicemail, USPS, and hand delivery to NVTA's offices will be available for those who are unable, or chose not to, utilize the online form option or the Public Hearing.

Options will be explored to provide virtual interaction opportunities during the public comment period. A comprehensive and targeted outreach campaign using digital media will be activated to raise awareness of the public comment period. NVTA staff will coordinate with the region's public information officials to spread the word, and request that Authority and committee members provide public outreach as well.

The public comment period will not begin until August 1 to minimize the potential for confusion between TransAction and post-adoption messaging associated with the FY2022-2027 Six Year Program. The latter is anticipated to continue during the second half of July, during which time final preparations for the TransAction public comment period will be made.

The public comment packet will be forwarded to Authority members and staff will be the end of July. The packet will comprise two components:

- a. Draft 24-page TransAction Plan document, summarizing travel conditions in 2045 and analyzing the impacts associated with the more than 400 regional projects identified to address future needs, together with an evaluation of uncertainty associated with long-range transportation planning; and
- b. Draft TransAction Project List comprising the more than 400 regional projects which have an estimated cost of more than \$75 billion.

Together, these two components represent TransAction. The full public comment packet, project mapping, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and other supporting information will be available on the TransAction website.

4. **Recent Briefings**

Following the Authority work session on goals, objectives, and weighted performance measures on October 28, 2021, NVTA staff and consultant team hosted a second Authority work session on May 19, 2022, at the Fairfax City Hall. This second work session provided an opportunity to brief Authority members on the draft TransAction Project List and findings from the preliminary TransAction analysis, as well as to seek feedback and guidance moving forward.

During the March and May meeting cycles, NVTA staff briefed committee members on the TransAction Update. Committees briefed were the Authority's two Statutory Committees – Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Planning Coordination Advisory Committee (PCAC) – and the Planning and Programming Committee (PPC). NVTA staff will provide future

briefings to committee members in July and during the fall, in readiness for seeking committee endorsements of the NVTA staff recommendations in the November 2022 meeting cycle.

5. Next Steps

Subject to Authority approval of September 8, 2022, as the date of the TransAction Public Hearing:

- a. **August 1 – September 18, 2022:** Public comment period;
- b. **September 8, 2022:** Public Hearing at NVTA (prior to regularly scheduled Authority meeting);
- c. **October 13, 2022:** Briefing on public comments to NVTA at its regularly scheduled Authority meeting;
- d. **November 2022:** Release of NVTA staff recommendations for review and endorsement by TAC, PCAC, and PPC; and
- e. **December 8, 2022:** Authority adoption of TransAction.