



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
Monday, March 21, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

SUMMARY NOTES

I. Call to Order/Welcome

- Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.
- Attendees:
 - **PPC Members:** Mayor Wilson (City of Alexandria); Council Member Snyder (City of Falls Church); Mayor Rishell (City of Manassas Park); Chair Wheeler (Prince William County).
 - **Other NVTA Members:** None.
 - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (CEO); Keith Jasper (Principal); Sree Nampoothiri (Senior Transportation Planner).
 - **Jurisdiction/Agency Staff:** Proceedings were livestreamed on YouTube Live.
 - **Others:** Tom Harrington (Cambridge Systematics) on Zoom platform.

Action

II. Summary Notes of November 29, 2021, Meeting

- The November 29, 2021, Planning and Programming Committee meeting summary was approved unanimously.

Discussion/Information

III. FY2022-2027 Six Year Program: Status Update

- Mr. Jasper noted that the meeting packet includes a summary of the FY2022-2027 Six Year Program (SYP) applications, map of the project locations, and link to the project description forms.
- Mr. Jasper shared a handout of the template for the project evaluation summary that will be made available on April 15th for public comment, in addition to the items shared in the meeting packet. He added that the Authority at its March meeting approved the public comment period from April 15th to May 22nd with a public hearing on May 12th. Ms. Backmon added that an open house will be held on May 4th at the VDOT offices as part of the annual joint transportation meeting.
- Mr. Jasper noted that staff funding recommendations will be developed after the public comment period and shared with the Committees in June. It is important for

this Committee to make a funding recommendation to the Authority and publish it 15 days prior to the July 14th Authority meeting, at which the Authority is anticipated to adopt the SYP .

- Mr. Jasper walked the Committee through the different evaluation factors in the template. The applications will be listed by the ranking of Congestion Reduction Relative to Cost (CRRC) rating as Virginia Code says that the Authority should give priority to CRRC. The summary will also provide the TransAction rating and ranking that are based on the ten performance measures and associated weights the Authority had approved in November and December of last year. Long Term Benefit of NVTAs investment using its 70% Regional Revenues is another factor that will be presented, noting that it may take multiple SYP cycles to correct any imbalances in the benefit compared to the revenues generated. Several qualitative factors such as external funds and past performance also will be presented. In addition, public opinion and geographic and modal balance will also be considered while developing funding recommendations.
- In response to Chair Wilson's question on where jurisdictions stand on Long Term Benefit, Ms. Backmon noted that the assessment during last round of SYP showed Arlington County slightly underperforming. She added that the Authority has always considered geographic balance as a factor in funding decisions to ensure some balance.
- In response to a question about available funds for the SYP, Ms. Backmon noted that the finance team is still working on the projections and a final number is not yet available. She noted that this work is made difficult due to the pandemic, changes due to the NVTAs funding sources, and potential changes to the tax revenues being discussed at the General Assembly. She added that the total candidate request is nearly \$1.2 billion, and the available funds will be much less than that.

IV. TransAction: Status Update

- Mr. Jasper reminded that the Authority approved performance measures and weights in November and December of 2021. He noted that the next three cycles of SYP will be based on the updated TransAction.
- Mr. Jasper added that following Phase 1 that included current condition analyses, future projections, and public engagement, the TransAction update is now on Phase 2. This phase includes various analyses of future conditions, impact of projects, and scenario analyses. The projects include those from the comprehensive plans and transportation plans of the jurisdictions and agencies as well as several regional projects identified by the TransAction team to address the unmet needs and public inputs.
- Mr. Jasper reminded that the results of a perception survey conducted in December 2021 was presented to the Authority in March. The trends analysis showed that the high growth of population and employment in Northern Virginia will potentially increase the trips made in the region. However, the post-pandemic situation and several other factors may make changes in trip patterns.

- Mr. Jasper noted that a series of blogs are being published on NVTA's TransAction website to present an introduction to TransAction and different aspects of technical analyses.
- Mr. Jasper noted that a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Planning Working Group was established with staff from NVTA jurisdictions, state and regional agencies, District Department of Transportation, and Montgomery and Prince George Counties. This working group looked at not only potential BRT corridors within each jurisdiction, but at a regional system that crosses boundaries and identifies needs for service levels, vehicles, maintenance/storage facilities, electrification, technology, mobility hubs, etc.
- In response to Mayor Rishell's questions in regards to where this information is published, Mr. Jasper noted that this working group was established by NVTA to help specifically with the development of TransAction, and the outcome of this work is not yet on NVTA's website but will be posted as part of TransAction update.
- In response to Council Member Snyder's question about Envision Route 7 project, Mr. Jasper noted that this project is included in TransAction and coordinated with Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and the jurisdictions. Mr. Jasper added that NVTA funded the first tranche of funding for this project in 2014.
- Chair Wheeler and Mayor Rishell appreciated the complexity of the process and how the small staff work hard to accomplish a fruitful process and product.
- In response to Mayor Wilson's question on next steps and products, Mr. Jasper informed the members that a Work Session for TransAction will be held for the Authority, similar to the one held in the fall of 2021 regarding goals/objectives/performance measures/weights, to present and get feedback on the analytical results that may result in policies and programs. Mr. Jasper added that the discussions can lead to identifying projects to be included in the TransAction Plan.
- Council Member Snyder encouraged the staff to look at innovative solutions to connect the origins and destination of trips in the region that can reduce environmental impacts. Mr. Jasper noted that analyses of such nature are fundamental to the process and are being looked at. He added the biggest origin and destination of trips in the region is Fairfax County and a large part of the destination within Fairfax County is Tysons area. He added that the model-based analyses and scenario/sensitivity analyses look at different alternate futures to understand how TransAction performs under these scenarios.
- Mr. Jasper noted that the analyses will be completed by the end of June and all the results are expected to be shared with the public for comments during the summer with a public hearing in September.

V. NVTA Update

- Ms. Backmon informed that NVTA staff are working with staff from other regional agencies and transportation advocates on a letter to the Commonwealth expressing concerns about suspending gas tax.

- Ms. Backmon noted that an email will be sent soon to the Authority members regarding the planned TransAction Work Session. She reminded that the next Authority meeting is scheduled for April 21st.

Adjournment

VI. Adjourn

- The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 5 p.m. at the NVTA offices. The June meeting will be on Thursday, June 23, 2022, at 7:30 p.m.
- The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.