

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY****MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** Monica Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

**DATE:** October 6, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Chief Executive Officer's Report

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**1. Purpose:** To inform the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) of items of interest not addressed in the agenda.

**A. Transportation Technology Strategic Plan (TTSP)**

The inaugural InNoVation Lunch and Learn will take place on Thursday, October 20th at 11:00am. It will focus on connectivity and automation in transit, with John Zarbo, Operations Section Chief for the Fairfax County Department of Transportation speaking about deployment of the Relay Shuttle in Merrifield. NVTA staff have contacted an array of practitioners across the region about attending these events, and staff will conduct a survey after the event to seek their feedback.

A few small updates have been made to the Transportation Technology Strategic Plan (TTSP), to reflect the adoption of TransAction Goals. These have been noted in the change log posted on the NVTA website. More substantive changes were endorsed by the Transportation Technology Committee (TTC) in July, and which will be presented to the Authority in the coming months. The TTC will also meet in late October or early November to discuss ongoing implementation of the TTSP.

**B. Regional Multi-Modal Mobility Program (RM3P) Update**

Cathy McGhee, Chief Deputy Commissioner and RM3P Program Principal, recently participated in an annual event hosted by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce that focused on the future of transportation. During that event she spoke about RM3P and provided information about the Dynamic Incentivization program element which will send travelers personalized incentives to change their behaviors to avoid problems RM3P identifies along their route with the goal to keep those traveling through the region moving. This is one of the three RM3P program elements that are currently under active procurement.

**C. Program Information Management and Monitoring System (PIMMS)**

In September, staff worked with the consultant to finalize major enhancements and error fixes for Phase four of the development contract. As a reminder, there are several automated report functions developed in this phase for efficient financial oversight with enhanced Standard Project Agreement (SPA) administration. For example, staff from

multiple entities will have unique access to a SPA when it is being administered by these entities. Another notable enhancement is granting an administrator role with limited functionalities to a jurisdiction/agency staff where he/she can then manage staff access to various functions in PIMMS within that jurisdiction/agency. After all these enhancements are in production and available, staff will notify project sponsors with a list of instructions.

Project sponsors are now utilizing the system for all project administration tasks: reimbursement requests, cost/schedule updates (when necessary), and monthly project status updates. In the last two update cycles, all project status information was updated via PIMMS, making the process more efficient than manual email-based transactions.

#### **D. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Listening Session**

NVTA staff member Mackenzie Love, who is the staff lead for TTC, was recently invited to participate in a FHWA Listening Session. The objective of the meeting was to seek input from practitioners that could be useful in developing a framework for effectively integrating Emerging Trends and Technologies (ETT) into Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO.) Other participants represented State DOTs, Transit Agencies, other FHWA entities (state and division offices), Transportation Authorities, and Mayor's Offices and Cities from across the country each of which had a demonstrated track record of planning for and/or implementing innovative transportation solutions.

Lessons learned through NVTA's co-sponsorship of the Regional Multi-Modal Mobility Program (RM3P) and development of its own Transportation Technology Strategic Plan (TTSP), were well received by attendees and FHWA staff. These included but were not limited to utilizing a goal-oriented approach that does not focus on specific technologies but instead on how any given technology could further pre-established needs, and the importance of evaluating any potential innovative solution through the lens of Core Values. Additionally, inputs shared by others throughout the session validated content and approaches used in NVTA's ongoing efforts to proactively prepare for innovation.

#### **E. APA Transportation Planning Division Elections**

NVTA staff member Mackenzie Love has been elected to serve as Vice Chair of Chapter Coordination for the American Planning Association's (APA) Transportation Planning Division (TPD.) This will be her third consecutive term on TPD's Executive Board, for which she is currently Secretary-Treasurer.

The primary responsibility of the Vice Chair of Chapter Coordination is to recruit and work with members of state chapters of APA to serve as Chapter Liaisons to represent TPD; encourage inclusion of transportation-related content at state-level functions; and host other transportation-related events. Through this work Mackenzie will have unique

opportunities to gain insights about transportation initiatives across the country that could be useful to NVTA's ongoing research and to develop networks of connections that could be leveraged in seeking speakers for NVTA events.

**F. Scenario Analysis for TransAction Presentation to Transportation Planning Board (TPB) Technical Committee's Travel Forecasting Subcommittee**

NVTA's Regional Transportation Modeler Harun Rashid and Feng Liu from Cambridge Systematics presented on current scenario analyses at NVTA to the Travel Forecasting Subcommittee. Mr. Rashid laid out the regional planning context of this analysis, the assumptions, and take-away from the results. Dr. Liu focused on NVTA modeling framework, with its enhancements over TPB's version 2.4 CUBE model, and shared results of the Plan's No-Build and Build conditions.

**G. Planning Coordination Advisory Committee (PCAC) Vacancy**

PCAC Member, Vice Mayor Martinez, representing the Town of Leesburg, has resigned from the PCAC. We thank him for his nearly two years of service. NVTA staff will contact the Town of Leesburg to fill the vacancy on the Committee.

**H. NVTA 20<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

NVTA staff are anticipating hosting an anniversary celebration on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, after the monthly Authority meeting, to celebrate NVTA's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of HB2313. In the coming months, staff will coordinate a location, save the dates, and coordinate with past Authority members and key personnel.

**I. Virginia Municipal League Conference**

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, I presented on a panel at the Virginia Municipal League Conference along with Mayor Wood; Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission Executive Director Kevin Page; Northern Virginia Transportation Commission Executive Director Kate Mattice; Acting Executive Director of the Central Virginia Transportation Authority, Chet Parsons; and Virginia Senate Finance Committee Special Projects Deputy and Legislative Fiscal Analyst for the areas of Agriculture and Forestry, Natural Resources, and Transportation, Jason Powell. We discussed topics including the future of revenues, the current issues surrounding transportation and funding and how the authorities interact with other entities as well as each other.

**J. US Senator Mark Warner's Long Bridge Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Announcement**

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, I attended the ceremonial announcement of the \$20 million allocation from the RAISE program to support the Long Bridge Bike and Pedestrian Crossing Project. U.S. Senator Mark Warner; D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser; Arlington County Vice Chair, Christian Dorsey; Alexandria Vice Mayor, Amy Jackson; and the

Executive Director of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) DJ Stadtler, all spoke at the event and discussed the importance of providing more multimodal options for residents. The RAISE Grant was made possible by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), passed in 2021.

**K. Committee for Dulles Luncheon**

On September 29th, I attended the Committee for Dulles Luncheon where Loudoun County Administrator, Tim Hemstreet; Prince William County Interim County Executive Elijah Johnson; and Fairfax County Executive, Bryan Hill, spoke on a panel addressing topics that included transportation and housing.

**L. Arlington County's Boundary Channel Drive Interchange Groundbreaking**

On September 28th, I spoke at the Boundary Channel Drive Interchange Groundbreaking, along with Chair Cristol and officials from VDOT. NVTA has invested more than \$4.3 million in regional revenues to advance the Boundary Channel Drive project, which was one of the first projects ever funded as part of the Authority's inaugural FY2014 funding program.

**M. Prince William Parkway and University Boulevard Intersection Improvements Project Groundbreaking**

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Prince William Parkway and University Boulevard Intersection Improvements Project Groundbreaking where Chair Randall and Chair Wheeler provided remarks. NVTA has invested more than \$24 million on this project to reduce traffic congestion and increase vehicle and pedestrian safety.

**N. Jefferson Area Regional Transit Partnership Monthly Meeting Presentation**

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, I was invited to present at the Regional Transit Partnership Monthly Meeting. The Charlottesville area is exploring creating a transit authority; asking if I could provide insights to NVTA's legislation, structure, funding, planning and programming, and coordination throughout the region.

**O. Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance Annual Meeting**

On Sept 21<sup>st</sup>, I attend Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance Annual Meeting. Chair Wheeler spoke on the importance of transportation in the region, and the President of OpinionWorks and pollster for the Baltimore Sun Steve Raabe, shared key findings from the Alliance's recent Regional Transportation Survey conducted this in September. The Alliance will share these findings with NVTA in the near future.

**P. LeadVA Transportation Panel**

On September 16th, the Lead Virginia Class of 2022 invited Richard Golinowski, senior vice president, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, and me to participate in a panel discussion on how transportation defines life in the Northern Virginia region. The panel was moderated by John Markowitz, Deputy Secretary of Finance, Commonwealth of Virginia. We discussed topics such as travel trends, the economic impact of

transportation investments, the state of transportation funding, and future plans for the transportation network.

**Q. Opening Event for Western Segment of the New 66 Express Lanes**

On September 12th, I attended the opening ceremonies for the Western Segment of the Transform I-66 Express Lanes where Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sheppard “Shep” Miller III, Chairman McKay and Chair Wheeler provided remarks. The opening of the nine-mile stretch of express lanes span from Route 29 (Lee Highway) in Gainesville to Route 28 in Centreville, providing mobility options to travelers in the region.

**2. Monthly Factoid Talking Point:**

**A.** On December 9, 2021, the Authority adopted 10 weighted performance measures that align with NVTA’s Core Values of Equity, Safety, and Sustainability and achieve the goals of Mobility, Accessibility, and Resiliency. The weighted performance measures were calculated to keep with NVTA’s legislatively mandated charge to give priority to reducing congestion and also demonstrate a clear desire to ‘reward’ projects that support travel choices that go beyond driving alone.

Goal	Objective	Performance Measure	Weight	Alignment with Core Values
<b>Mobility:</b> Enhance quality of life of Northern Virginians by improving performance of the multimodal transportation system	A. Reduce congestion and delay*	A1. Total Person-Hours of Delay in autos	10	
		A2. Total Person-Hours of Delay on Transit	10	
	B. Improve travel time reliability*	B1. Duration of Severe Congestion	10	
		B2. Transit person-miles in dedicated/priority ROW	10	
<b>Accessibility:</b> Strengthen the region’s economy by increasing access to jobs, employees, markets, and destinations for all communities	C. Improve access to jobs*	C1. Access to jobs by car, transit, and bike	10	
		C2. Access to jobs by car, transit, and bike for EEA populations	10	
	D. Reduce dependence on driving alone by improving conditions for people accessing transit and using other modes	D1. Quality of access to transit and the walk/bike network	15	
		<b>Resiliency:</b> Improve the transportation system’s ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions.	E. Improve safety and security of the multimodal transportation system	10
F. Reduce transportation related emissions	F1. Vehicle Emissions	10		
	G. Maintain operations of the regional transportation system during extreme conditions*	G1. Transportation System Redundancy	5	

**Core Values:**

- Equitable**
- Sustainable**
- Safety**

\* Measure included in HB 599 rating process.

**B.** NVTA’s adopted FY2022-2027 Six Year Program included the full funding of 17 projects and partial funding of three projects. NVTA’s performance measure analysis of the 20 multimodal projects showed that the addition of the projects to the transportation network did not increase vehicle emissions.

**3. Upcoming Events & Report Updates:**

**A. NVTA Standing Committee Meetings**

- **Planning and Programming Committee:** The NVTA Planning and Programming Committee is scheduled to meet November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, at 5:00pm.

- **Governance and Personnel Committee:** The NVTA Governance and Personnel Committee is scheduled to meet Thursday, November 10th, 2022, at 5:30pm.
- **Finance Committee:** The NVTA Finance Committee is scheduled to meet Thursday, November 10th, 2022, at 6:00pm.

**B. NVTA Statutory Committee Meetings:**

- **Technical Advisory Committee:** The NVTA Technical Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet Wednesday, October 19th, 2022, at 7:00pm.
- **Planning Coordination Advisory Committee:** The NVTA Planning Coordination Advisory Committee's is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26th, 2022, at 6:30pm.

- 4. Regional Projects Status Report:** Please note the updated Regional Projects Status Report (Attachment A), which provides a narrative update for each project and the amount of project reimbursements requested and processed to date.

**Link to the Projects Status Report:** <https://thenovaauthority.org/funded-projects/>

**Attachment:** Regional Funding Program Projects Status Report

## NVTA Funding Program Project Status Summary Report

As of September 30, 2022.		
<b>NVTA's Regional Fund Program FY2014 - FY2027</b>		<b>Upcoming Public Information Meeting(s):</b>
Total Revenue Allocated	\$3,120,908,894	1. <b>Arlington County:</b> Virtual Public Information Meeting for CC2DCA Intermodal Connector project, October 25 at 7 p.m.
Total Amount Appropriated	\$1,873,560,727	2. <b>City of Manassas:</b> Virtual Public Information Meeting for Liberia Avenue 3rd Lane Eastbound project, October 13 at 7 p.m.
Total Amount Reimbursed	\$670,527,477	
Total Number of Individual Projects	122	<b>NOTE:</b> For latest information on project events, please refer to the "Events and Meetings" section on our home page - <a href="https://thenovaauthority.org/">https://thenovaauthority.org/</a>
SPAs	162	For full status information, please check NVTA web page on regional fund projects - <a href="https://thenovaauthority.org/funded-projects/">https://thenovaauthority.org/funded-projects/</a>
Currently Active	63	
Completed	55	
Not Yet Executed	44	
<b>Substantive Status Updates (during August-September 2022)**</b>		
<b>Project Title (program year)</b>	<b>Updated Status</b>	<b>% Reimbursed</b>
<b>Arlington County</b>		
Crystal City Streets (FY2017)	Segment 1 of Transitway under construction.	28.0%
Boundary Channel Drive Interchange (FY2014)	A ground-breaking ceremony was held on September 8, 2022; construction activities are underway.	50.7%
Crystal City Metrorail Station East Entrance and Intermodal Connections (FY2018-23)	Virtual community meeting was held on September 6, 2022. 30% Design Plans expected to complete by December 2022.	63.5%
ART Operations and Maintenance Facilities (FY2018-23)	Construction Notice-To-Proceed issued to contractor on June 14, and a ground-breaking event was held on June 15. All construction related permits issued, contractor is planning various site activities.	7.1%
<b>Fairfax County</b>		
Route 28 Widening: Prince William County Line to Route 29 (FY2015-16/FY2017/FY2018-23)	Land rights have been acquired on eight parcels. In November 2021, Shirley Construction submitted revised plans to include four noise barriers. Project completion date has been delayed by these.	FY2015-16: 86.5% FY2018-23: 3.6%
Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit - Phases I & II (FY2018-23)	A public information meeting was held on May 3, to provide design updates. Community Charm Conversations for Stations is complete. 60% Design Plans ongoing.	5.6%
<b>Loudoun County</b>		
Route 15 Bypass Widening: Battlefield Parkway to Montresor Road (FY2018-23)	Phase 1: 100% design plans, and floodplain study alteration submitted to the Loudoun County B&D & VDOT in August.	0.0%
Northstar Boulevard - Shreveport Drive to Tall Cedars Parkway (FY2018-23)	Phase 1 - Abutment Stem wall complete & bridge girders are installed.	6.5%
<b>Prince William County</b>		
Route 28 Corridor Roadway Improvements - East of 234 (Manassas Bypass) (FY2015-16/FY2018-23)	Survey and base plan preparation are being completed. A virtual Public Information Meeting was held on September 13. Soils and geotechnical investigations are scheduled for November 2022.	FY2015-16: 89.2% FY2018-23: 0.0%
Construct Interchange at Prince William Parkway and University Blvd (FY2018-23)	Construction contract award approved by the Board on May 10, 2022. Construction Notice to Proceed was issued on July 11. A ground-breaking ceremony was held on September 27.	11.2%
North Woodbridge Mobility Improvements (FY2020-25)	50% Design Plans submitted in May. Public hearing was held on June 7, 2022 and comments are being addressed. County is coordinating with Service Authority for design accommodation of existing facilities.	0.0%
Construct Interchange at Route 234 and Brentsville Road (FY2018-23)	Construction is underway. Pedestrian bridge design is anticipated for completion August 2023.	26.2%
<b>City of Alexandria</b>		
Alexandria Duke St Transitway (FY2018-23)	Advisory group meetings were held on August 17/September 15, to review corridor concepts.	0.1%
West End Transitway (FY2015/FY2018-23)	Design contract has been executed. A kickoff meeting is being planned.	37.6%
<b>Town of Herndon</b>		
East Elden Street Improvements & Widening (FY2015-16)	VDOT rejected all bids (August 24), and is reviewing the cost estimate.	24.7%
<b>Town of Leesburg</b>		
Construct Interchange at Route 15 Bypass and Battlefield Parkway (FY2018-23)	A Public Meeting was held on September 21, to provide project information, answer questions, and get written feedback from public. Presentation to Town Council planned for November to endorse preferred alternative.	24.7%

\*\*Substantive changes: SPA appendices A/B, Project administration, Start/completion of phases, Groundbreaking/ribbon-cutting ceremonies, Public information meetings, Major engineering progress.

## NVTA Funding Program Project Status

Summary Report

No Updates in Current Cycle		
Project Title (program year)	Last Update Received	% Reimbursed
<b>Arlington County</b>		
<b>Columbia Pike Multimodal Street Improvements - East (FY2015-16)</b>	June 2022.	10.0%
<b>Intelligent Transportation System Improvements (FY2018-23)</b>	July 2022.	14.7%
<b>VRE</b>		
<b>Franconia-Springfield Platform Improvements (FY2015-16)</b>	July 2022.	8.8%
<b>WMATA</b>		
<b>Blue Line Traction Power Upgrades (FY2017)</b>	July 2022.	70.1%

\*\*Substantive changes: SPA appendices A/B, Project administration, Start/completion of phases, Groundbreaking/ribbon-cutting ceremonies, Public information meetings, Major engineering progress.