



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
Monday, June 23, 2022, 7:30 p.m.
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

SUMMARY NOTES

I. Call to Order/Welcome

- Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
- Attendees:
 - **PPC Members:** Mayor Wilson (City of Alexandria); Mayor Meyer (City of Fairfax); Mayor Rishell (City of Manassas Park); Council Member Snyder (City of Falls Church); Chair Wheeler (Prince William County).
 - **Other NVTa Members:** Mary Hynes (Governor's Appointee, CTB Member).
 - **NVTa Staff:** Monica Backmon (CEO); Keith Jasper (Principal); Sree Nampoothiri (Senior Transportation Planner); Ian Newman (Regional Transportation Planner).
 - **Jurisdiction/Agency Staff:** Rich Roisman (Arlington County)
 - **Others:** Proceedings were livestreamed on YouTube Live.

Action

II. Summary Notes of March 21, 2022, Meeting

- The March 21, 2022, Planning and Programming Committee meeting summary was approved with abstention from Mayor Meyer who was absent at the last meeting.

III. FY2022-2027 Six Year Program

- Mr. Jasper presented the highlights of previous funding programs totaling nearly \$2.5 Billion including ratio of available funds to requested funds, number of projects and funds allocated by mode, the low percentage of added lane miles from NVTa funded roadway projects, and added centerline miles of dedicated right of way for NVTa funded transit projects.
- In response to Mayor Rishell's question on time period of lane mile increase due to NVTa funding, Mr. Jasper noted that the NVTa funding identified here is the revenues approved between FY2014 and FY2025, though some of the projects are yet to be constructed. Ms. Hynes suggested to include lane miles of bike and pedestrian infrastructure added to enhance this evaluation, in the future.

- In response to Ms. Hynes' question of the dedicated line miles are counted as part of total lane miles added, Mr. Jasper noted that they are not.
- In response to Mayor Rishell's question if the lane miles for bus rapid transit (BRT) are new or repurposed, Mr. Jasper noted that these are new lanes.
- Mr. Jasper showed graphs detailing number of applications, requested amounts, and total project costs by mode.
- Mr. Jasper further explained the evaluation process that includes four major criteria – eligibility (included in TransAction and governing body resolution in support), quantitative criteria (congestion reduction relative to cost (CRRC) ratio, TransAction rating, long term benefit), qualitative considerations (past performance, external funds, etc.), and public comments.
- Mr. Jasper explained the long-term benefit analysis in detail and noted that Arlington County is under-performing, Prince William County is over-performing, and other localities are performing in an approximately balanced manner.
- Mr. Jasper noted that the Committee received a briefing about the public comments at the last meeting.
- Mr. Jasper walked the Committee through the staff recommendations and the rationale. 17 projects are recommended for full funding request while 3 projects are recommended for partial funding (preliminary engineering/design phase only). He emphasized that the recommendations include a continued emphasis on the Route 1 and Fairfax County Parkway Corridors, continued emphasis on decarbonization and intelligent transportation system, and the modal and geographic balance of the program. He noted that all the transit, bike-ped, and technology projects submitted are being recommended for full funding.
- Mr. Jasper presented the modal and jurisdictional breakdown of the projects recommended for funding.
- Mayor Wilson expressed enthusiasm at fully funding all technology, transit and bike-ped projects in this program and expressed a need to encourage more applications for these types of projects.
- In response to Mayor Rishell's question on most common issues raised in public comments, Mr. Jasper explained that the opposition comments came from a community that is nearby the project location that was concerned about increased traffic and the supporting comments came from a community that is slightly away who think that this project will reduce the cut through traffic happening in their community. He added that there were a few comments that opposed roadway projects in general. He added that the staff is encouraging jurisdiction staff to take a look at the comments so they can address these as the projects move forward.
- Mr. Jasper noted that the staff recommendations for this program will make the total NVTa funding of additional lane miles increase by 1.82%. He added that though additional funds are recommended for two BRT projects, since these are continuation projects, there is no additional dedicated right of way added.
- Dr. Nampoothiri informed the Committee that Technical Advisory Committee and Planning Coordination Advisory Committee unanimously endorsed the staff recommendations. He noted that the Committees discussed the relationship between

Ballston-MU West Entrance project and the Metro state of good repair funding that diverted NVRTA revenues in 2018, rationale for partial funding certain projects, other funding sources, nature and geographical spread of public comments, clarification on long term benefit, and the rationale for discussing centerline roadway miles while NVRTA's approach is multimodal.

- Mr. Jasper noted that the recommendations from this Committee will be posted on the NVRTA website and will be considered by the Authority for adoption at its July 14, 2022, meeting. He added that the call for projects for the next SYP cycle will probably be in May 2023 and that will be based on the project list that will be part of TransAction update, which is expected to be adopted by the end of the year
- Mayor Rishell made a motion to approve the FY2022-2027 Six Year Program Staff Recommendations, seconded by Mayor Meyer. The motion passed unanimously. Recommended project list is provided as an attachment.
- Mayor Rishell complimented NVRTA staff for all the work carried out and explaining the process and rationale of recommendations in detail. Other Committee members expressed their agreement.

Discussion/Information

IV. TransAction: Status Update

- Mr. Jasper noted that the team is preparing the draft TransAction Plan document and project list, which will be published for public comment. The public comment is expected to start in early August and run through end of September with an anticipated public hearing at the Authority meeting on September 8, 2022. After further review by the Authority and Committees in Fall, the Authority is expected to adopt the Plan by the end of the year.
- Ms. Hynes asked how big ideas on the core values were to be incorporated in the Plan. She noted region-wide improvements to bus stops could be an example that will increase accessibility.
 - Mr. Jasper noted that a regional BRT system that includes bus routes, stops, stations, transfer points, bike-ped access, technology, etc.
 - Ms. Hynes expressed the general perception that BRT is synonymous with high quality express bus and may not be the ideal service for local routes.
 - In response to Mayor Wilson's question if it meant a regional common approach for such projects, Ms. Hynes noted that there is a need to understand how to operationalize the three core values.
 - Mr. Jasper noted that one way to operationalize core values is to add questions in the project application that can address the support for core values. Ms. Hynes encouraged the staff to develop meaningful ways to understand/evaluate these factors.
 - Ms. Backmon noted the difficulty of transit agencies (e.g. PRTC/OmniRide) to serve population during different times of the day.
 - Ms. Backmon noted that NVRTA coordinates across jurisdictional boundaries to meet the many goals of NVRTA including attaining geographical and modal

balance, but ultimately it is the prerogative of the jurisdictions to decide which projects they want to apply for NVTAs funding, .

- Mr. Jasper noted that the surveys pointed to a need for travel options other than driving
- Council Member Snyder wondered if there is a Northern Virginia approach to reduce emissions, such as investing in bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Mr. Jasper noted that the Commonwealth of Virginia is also planning on programs/projects that will help in decarbonizing the transportation field. Ms. Hynes encouraged everyone to understand the bike-pedestrian fatalities/injuries in Northern Virginia and how projects that address it can be funded.
- Ms. Hynes suggested NVTAs staff talk to the Commonwealth department of Transportation staff to explore federal grant opportunities.

V. NVTAs Update

- Ms. Backmon reminded that the next Authority meeting is on July 14th and the main agenda item is the adoption of FY2022-2027 SYP.

Adjournment

VI. Adjourn

- The date for next meeting will be decided later.
- The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.