

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Vice Chair David Snyder, Transportation Technology Committee Chair

DATE: December 1, 2022

SUBJECT: Transportation Technology Committee Report

1. **Purpose:** To inform the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) on recent activities of the NVTA Transportation Technology Committee (TTC).
2. **Background:** The Transportation Technology Committee met on November 30, 2022, at 8:30am. The meeting was held virtually and live streamed to YouTube.
3. **Action Item: Summary Notes of July 6, 2022, Meeting**
The meeting summary for the July 6, 2022, meeting was unanimously approved.
4. **Discussion Items:**
 - a. **Transportation Technology Committee (TTC) Membership Update**

The TTC was established by NVTA's Chief Executive Officer in 2019. Since that time the Committee has championed development of the inaugural Transportation Technology Strategic Plan (TTSP). As the Plan evolves, the work of the TTC will shift from fostering its development to guiding implementation and updates. This change also creates an opportunity for a refresh of TTC membership, which has resulted in four individuals joining the Committee:

 - Brad Stertz - Director of Government Affairs for Audi and Co-Founder and Chairman of PAVE
 - Chris Bast - Director of EV Infrastructure Investments, Electrification Coalition
 - Mike Fontaine - Associate Director, Virginia Transportation Research Council
 - Walter Alcorn - Supervisor, Hunter Mill District, Fairfax County

b. Transportation Technology Strategic Plan (TTSP) Progress Update

The Committee received an update on implantation of the TTSP. This has included outreach to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Signal Operations Group that was undertaken in accordance with TTC guidance for staff to explore ways to facilitate advancement of transportation technology projects in the region. NVTA staff will begin attending quarterly meetings of Signal Manager's Meetings in 2023.

Outreach and education efforts are also underway, in accordance with the TTSP Action Plan. This includes participation in external events such as a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Listening Session on Emerging Trends and Technologies, and

development of a series of InNoVation Lunch and Learns. This series was designed to create opportunities for pragmatic information exchange about technologies or innovations that are feasible immediately or in the near future (1-5 years) and supported by the TTSP. The sessions held this fall and winter are targeted at practitioners in the region and not recorded or live streamed. However, staff is seeking feedback from attendees and may consider expanding the reach of similar events in the future if the Lunch and Learn concept is proven to be worthwhile.

Finally, staff informed the Committee that the Authority unanimously approved the updates to the TTSP during their November meeting that were previously endorsed by the TTC. The three endorsed and approved updates are:

- Expansion of scope for existing strategy #4, as well as a revision to its title;
- Expansion of existing strategy #8; and
- Addition of a 9th strategy.

NVTA staff will begin work to integrate these updates into the TTSP, which will also include updating its Action Plan, this winter. An updated version of the Plan will be posted to NVTA's Transportation Technology webpage upon completion. There was a robust discussion on recent research relating to technology and the desire to have a speaker from the utility industry who could address the capability of the grid to reliably serve the desired growth in electric private and transit vehicles.

c. TransAction Update

The TTC was informed that public comment and feedback from stakeholders has been incorporated into TransAction, the long-range transportation plan for Northern Virginia. NVTA's statutory committees have endorsed the final drafts of TransAction and its project list for adoption by the Authority, which is anticipated to take action in December 2022. There are currently 17 projects in the draft Plan that are designated specifically as technology related. Other projects, while not listed as technology focused, include relevant elements such as electric vehicles for transit purposes. It is hoped that the work of the TTC will help foster inclusion of advanced technologies in projects designated as highway, BRT, transit or bike/ped that will seek and receive 6-year program funding.

d. NVTA Updates

NVTA's 2023 Legislative Program is now under development. It includes four priorities, including to support use of effective transportation technology. The Authority is anticipated to adopt this program in December 2022.

- 5. Next Steps:** The next meeting of the Committee will be scheduled in coordination with the members.