

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Monica Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: March 2, 2023

SUBJECT: Chief Executive Officer's Report

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

A. Transportation Planning Board (TPB) Visualize 2050

Transportation Planning Board (TPB) has started the process of updating its long-range transportation plan, Visualize 2050. The current version, Visualize 2045, was adopted by the TPB in June 2022. As per TPB Resolution [R19-2021](#) (June 2021), the TPB resolved to initiate the full update of the Plan that consider multiple build scenarios and analysis of each scenario's impact on the region's adopted goals and targets, including greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It further resolved that "the development of such plan will be based on the concept of "zero-based budgeting" where all projects, including those currently included in the Plan, must be resubmitted for consideration in such Plan, provided that projects currently under construction or currently funded with federal, state, regional, local or private funds shall be exempt from such requirement." Zero-based budgeting (ZBB) is commonly used in financial world as a budgeting approach that involves developing a new budget from scratch every time versus starting with the previous period's budget and adjusting it as needed ([Deloitte, 2023](#)).

At the TPB Board meeting on February 15, 2023, the Board approved a [Technical Inputs Solicitation Policy Guide](#). This guide noted that "the TPB member agencies will re-examine all projects, programs, and policies in the current Plan and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and resubmit them for the Plan and TIP update. Specifically, the intent is to enable the submissions to better reflect TPB planning priorities, be more aligned with the TPB's policy framework, be more reflective of TPB scenario findings, and be more responsive to other findings from related TPB analysis." Accordingly, TPB staff provided two lists: exempt projects (green list) that has projects in the current Financially Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) and are under construction or have funding identified; and non-exempt projects (orange list) that are in the current CLRP but do not have funding identified. The accompanying [staff memo](#) noted "There are also projects for which funding is reasonably expected to be available, yet no funding has been committed or spent. A zero-based budgeting approach will help focus efforts on projects that are in a developmental stage where the TPB goals and priorities can be used to influence the scope of such projects, including dropping them from further consideration if they do not meet TPB goals and objectives."

NVTA staff reviewed the “green” and “orange” lists and identified several NVTA-funded projects that are not included in either list. NVTA staff communicated this with Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Northern Virginia jurisdictions, and agencies. VDOT staff is following up with TPB staff for more clarification. NVTA staff urge the jurisdictions and agencies to actively participate in the process and ensure NVTA-funded projects are included in the CLRP and air quality conformity analysis.

B. 8th Annual Northern Virginia Transportation Roundtable

The 8th Annual Northern Virginia Transportation Roundtable take place on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, from 8 a.m. to noon. It will be hosted in partnership with the Intelligent Transportation Society of Virginia (ITSVA) and is being generously sponsored by Cambridge Systematics Inc., Chmura and HDR Inc. We look forward to hosting this event in-person, at the Fairfax offices of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, across the street from NVTA offices.

The event will focus on a theme of “Building Momentum” and address topics related to NVTA’s Core Values of Equity, Safety, and Sustainability as well as innovative transportation solutions. Registration was opened to the public on February 9th, after it was formally announced at a joint event hosted by ITSVA and VDOT in Richmond. We have already received an influx of registrations and anticipate interest in the event will continue to grow as we share additional information about the event, such as our slate of speakers, in the near future.

C. Transportation Technology Strategic Plan (TTSP)

The Transportation Technology Strategic Plan (TTSP) identified nine roles that NVTA could follow in pursuing a proactive approach to technology that aims to maximize benefits and minimize potential negatives of innovation. One of these roles will be featured in each edition of NVTA’s Driven By InNoVAtion newsletter this year. The first such spotlight can be found in the February edition, which explored the role to Advocate.

Staff continue to work to update NVTA’s Transportation Technology Strategic Plan (TTSP), in accordance with the changes that were unanimously approved by the Authority in November 2022. A revised version of the Plan will be posted to NVTA’s Transportation Technology webpage upon completion.

D. NVTA Travel Model Update

Staff have coordinated with the TransAction travel model consultant team for an educational and idea exchange event on March 10th at 10 a.m. at NVTA offices to present on NVTA’s innovative travel modeling approach. Lead practitioners and researcher on this topic will cover the following: challenges in integrating regional travel demands with meso-scopic traffic simulation; NVTA experiences to apply such an integrated toolset; and recent advances in the field. Transportation planners from federal, state, Metropolitan Planning Organization, and county level have confirmed their attendance. The event will be a 2-hour in-person event, without any online streaming.

E. Town of Dumfries NVTA Annual Report Presentation

On February 7th, I presented NVTA's Annual Report and most recent Economic Impact Analysis at the Town of Dumfries Town Council meeting. In addition to highlighting NVTA's overall investment in the region, I also highlighted the nearly \$130 million NVTA is investing in the Town of Dumfries' Route 1 (Fraley Blvd) Widening: Brady's Hill Road to Dumfries Road project.

F. Virginia's Springfield Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Headquarter Press Conference

On February 15th, I attend a Press Conference held by Virginia lawmakers to push for the relocation of the FBI headquarters to Springfield, Virginia. Key Virginia officials each provided remarks including Governor Glenn Youngkin, Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, U.S. Representatives Gerry Connolly, Don Beyer, and Abigail Spanberger, Fairfax Board of Supervisors Chairman and Authority Member Jeff McKay, and Loudoun Board of Supervisors and Authority Chair Phyllis Randall, among others. Chair Randall highlighted NVTA's investment in the Springfield area as well as NVTA's Equity Core Value alignment with the FBI's criteria of advancing equity.

G. American Council of Engineering Companies Metropolitan Washington (ACEC/MW) Virginia Transportation Luncheon

On February 16th, I attended ACEC/MW's Virginia transportation luncheon where Chris Berg, Director, Office of Transportation Sustainability, VDOT; Amanda Stout, Deputy Chief Officer for Project Delivery, District Department of Transportation; Christopher Ziemann, Transportation Planning Division Chief, City of Alexandria; and Michael McLaughlin, Chief Operating Officer, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority gave presentations on their organization's newest initiatives and projects.

H. Groundbreaking on Northstar Boulevard from Evergreen Mills Road to Route 50

On February 24th, NVTA in partnership with Loudoun County, the Federal Highway Administration, and Virginia Department of Transportation, broke ground for the start of construction on Northstar Boulevard, Phase I, from Evergreen Mills Road to Route 50. Matthew F. Letourneau, Dulles District Supervisor, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors; Tony Buffington, Blue Ridge District Supervisor, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors; Jim Zeller, Assistant Director, Capital Projects, Transportation, Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure; Thomas L. Nelson, Jr., P.E., Virginia Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration; William C. Cuttler, P.E., Deputy District Engineer, VDOT; and Erica Hawksworth, Communications and Public Affairs Manager, NVTA provided remarks during the milestone celebration.

I. University of Illinois Planning Colloquium

On February 24th, I presented to University of Illinois Planning Colloquium where I highlighted NVTA's unique planning and programming role in Northern Virginia with students enrolled in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. I shared an overview of the roles and responsibilities of NVTA and provided a thorough outline of the process in which NVTA uses to develop TransAction.

2. Monthly Factoid Talking Point

- A. Per the Authority’s enabling legislation, the Authority recommends to the CTB priority regional transportation projects for receipt of federal and state funds. On June 9, 2022, NVTa signed a resolution for the support of 19 Northern Virginia projects, in addition to 46 Northern Virginia projects, to the Commonwealth of Virginia’s SMART SCALE Transportation Project Prioritization Process.

App ID #	Locality/Agency	Project Name
9005	Alexandria City	Metroway Extension
9123	Arlington County	Arlington Blvd/Washington Blvd interchange ramp 1
9177	Arlington County	Arlington Blvd / Manchester St Left Turn Lane Extensions
9119	DASH Alexandria Transit Company	DASH Facility Electrification
9149	Fairfax City	George Snyder Trail Eastern Extension
9063	Fairfax County	Frontier Drive Extension
9023	Fairfax County	Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements
9036	Fairfax County	Seven Corners Ring Road (Phase 1)
9277	Manassas Park City	Route 28-Centreville Road Corridor Improvements
9278	Manassas Park City	Park Central Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements
9282	Prince William County	Route 234/Clover Hill Rd Intersection Improvements
9395	Prince William County	Route 1 & 123 Interchange and Intersection
9341	Prince William County	Route 294 (Prince William Parkway) Corridor
9207	Prince William County	Van Buren Road Improvements: Route 234 to
9260	Prince William County	Route 234 Business (Battleview to Godwin)
9168	Prince William County	Route 234 and Sudley Manor Dr Intersection Improvements
9328	Prince William County	US 29 (Lee Highway) Corridor Improvements
9088	Prince William County	Rte 1 Widening from Cardinal Dr/Neabsco Rd to Rte 234
9089	Prince William County	Route 123 and Old Bridge Rd Intersection Improvements

3. Upcoming Events & Report Updates

A. NVTa Standing Committee Meetings

- **Governance and Personnel Committee:** The NVTa Governance and Personnel Committee is scheduled to meet Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.
- **Finance Committee:** The NVTa Finance Committee is scheduled to meet Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

4. Regional Projects Status Report

The updated Regional Projects Status Report (attached) 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 March 1, 2023.			
NVTA's Regional Fund Program FY2014 - FY2027		Upcoming Public Information Meeting(s):	
Total Revenue Allocated	\$3,121,078,666	NOTE: For latest information on project events, please refer to the "Events and Meetings" section on our home page - https://thenovaauthority.org/ For full status information, please check NVTA web page on regional fund projects - https://thenovaauthority.org/funded-projects/	
Total Amount Appropriated	\$2,007,135,169		
Total Amount Reimbursed	\$701,791,251		
Total Number of Individual Projects	122		
Number of Standard Project Agreements (SPAs)	162		Revenue Allocated
Closed out, project completed	42		\$340,201,635
Closed out, project ongoing	16		\$84,539,752
Executed, funded phase underway	52		\$1,072,918,112
Executed, funded phase not started	10	\$455,971,000	
Appropriated, no SPA yet	6	\$29,504,670	
Approved, no appropriation yet	36	\$1,137,943,497	
Substantive Status Updates (January 2023 - February 2023)**			
Project Title (program year)	Updated Status	% Reimbursed	
Arlington County			
Intelligent Transportation System Improvements (FY2018-2023)	Phase 2 - A pre-construction meeting of an intersection held in January. Additional intersection for ITS upgrade added (along Crystal/Pentagon City corridor).	16.8%	
Fairfax County			
Frontier Drive Extension & Interchange Improvements (FY2015-16/2018-2023)	The Intersection Modification Report (IMR) was approved, with Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' approval of the Limited Access Changes in February 2023.	FY2015-2016: 100% FY2018-2023: 0%	
Loudoun County			
Route 15 Bypass Widening: Battlefield Parkway to Montresor Road (FY2018-2023)	The Limestone Branch floodplain study was approved by Building and Development (Loudoun County). Resubmitted phase I 100% plans to B&D, Town of Leesburg, and VDOT.	0.0%	
Northstar Boulevard - Shreveport Drive to Tall Cedars Parkway (FY2018-2023)	Phase 1 - North & South bound bridge deck, median and guard rails compete. Phase 2 - Groundbreaking occurred on February 24, 2023.	FY2018-2023: 6.54%	
Prince William County			
North Woodbridge Mobility Improvements (FY2020-25)	100% plan submitted to VDOT for review and comment. Process to purchase stream and wetland credits has begun.	6.0%	
Route 28 Widening: Route 234 Bypass to Linton Hall Road (FY2014/FY2015-16/FY2017/FY2018-23)	Project received final acceptance from VDOT. This project is now complete.	FY2014: 100% FY2015-16: 100.0% FY2017: 28.7% FY2018-23:100.0%	
City of Fairfax			
Intersection Improvements at Eaton Place/Chain Bridge Road (FY2018-2023)	City of Fairfax held an open house on February 22, presented alternatives for signalized intersections, and solicited feedback from the public.	0.0%	
No Updates in Current Cycle			
Project Title (program year)	Last Update Received	% Reimbursed	
Arlington County			
Boundary Channel Drive Interchange (FY2014)	September 2022.	100.0%	
Glebe Road Corridor ITS Improvements (FY2015-16)	September 2022.	31.2%	
WMATA			
Blue Line Traction Power Upgrades (FY2017)	January 2023.	70.1%	

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