



# Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

*The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia*

Thursday, January 9, 2020  
7:00 p.m.  
3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200  
Fairfax, VA 22031

## AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Randall
  - A. **Chair Randall called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.**
  
- II. **Roll Call** Ms. Duker, Clerk
  - A. Voting Members: Chair Randall; Mayor Parrish; Chair Wheeler; Chairman McKay; Mayor Meyer; Mayor Wilson; Councilmember Snyder; Vice-Mayor Banks Ms. Hynes; Mr. Kolb
  - B. Non-Voting Members; Mayor Wood, Ms. Cuervo, Mr. Horsley;
  - C. Staff: Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Michael Longhi (CFO); Keith Jasper (Principal, Planning and Programming); Sree Nampoothiri (Transportation Planner); Harun Rashid (Transportation Planner); Ria Kulkarni (Transportation Planner); Mackenzie Jarvis (Transportation Planner); Richard Stavros (Investment and Debt Manager); Erica Hawksworth (Communication and Public Affairs Manager); Dev Priya Sen (Financial Analyst); Margaret Duker (Board Clerk); Peggy Teal (Assistant Finance Officer); various jurisdictional and agency staff.
  - D. Chairman McKay and Mr. Kolb arrived at 7:09pm and 7:11pm respectively.
  
- III. **Minutes of the January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Meeting**
  - Mayor Wilson moved the approval of the January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 minutes; seconded by Mayor Parrish. Motion carried with abstentions by Vice-Mayor Banks.

## Presentation

- IV. **2019 Transportation Perception Survey** Mr. Keith Jasper, Planning and Programming Manager
  - ✓ Mr. Jasper gave an introduction of the Six Year Program Tracking Survey noting that the research was aimed at gathering information regarding how Northern Virginians feel about transportation, and how NVTA and other regional bodies and local governments are recognized with respect to transportation in the region. He added that the survey was conducted by an independent research company, Heart + Mind Strategies, which is based in Reston.

- ✓ Dr. Allsop with Heart + Mind Strategies presented a detailed overview of the survey, citing the following:
  - ✓ Residents are seeing a lot of improvements in the implementation and planning of Transportation initiatives within the region.
  - ✓ Residents in the area are seeing significant improvements in areas of transportation, per the 600 respondents to the survey.
  - ✓ He added that three things which account for higher ratings are:
    - Reduced commute time by 3 minutes compared to three years ago (2016).
    - Overall improved performance of a variety of transportation initiatives (56% 2019; 51% 2016; 43% 2015)
    - News media has a more positive tone in terms of coverage of what is being done versus negative coverage.
  - ✓ He noted people who drive to work each day regard a 36-minute commute time as acceptable, which is an overall improvement about how people feel about transportation.
  - ✓ The survey tracked awareness of the Authority and TransAction; with one in three people having heard about NVTA and half of that about TransAction.
  - ✓ Most of the positive ratings come from respondents who are aware of and follow the activities of the NVTA.
  - ✓ Dr. Allsop noted there is an 9-point increase in the positive awareness of NVTA.
  - ✓ The survey showed low-income groups and minorities who depend more on public transportation are among those rating the organization highly, which is a good indicator that the region is serving those who are most in need of transportation services.
  - ✓ Fewer people cited transportation/congestion as a negative factor with others regard housing affordability and range of housing choices as impacting their quality of life.
  - ✓ Factors which influence where people choose to live and work included low crime, affordability, commuting and access to good public transportation.
  - ✓ Regarding whether the region was doing good or bad in terms of performance, there was a 43% to 68%. This is an indication that the performance across a number of initiatives is higher. For instance, affordable transportation was up by 8 points; using latest technology to increase efficiency was up by 5 points; new highways and road improvements was up 6 points and new public transportation was up 7 points.
  - ✓ Trip/commute times and affordability were which could be improved.
  - ✓ On the not so positive side, over 60% of feedback had to do with stories regarding Metro-WMATA.
  - ✓ Traditional methods of how people are informed is changing noting; television and radio have declined and social media increased.

- ✓ How people perceive self-driving cars is changing with growing positive acceptance.
- ✓ When respondents were asked how they would like to fund future construction and maintenance of infrastructure, high on the list were incentives for people to use HOV so there would not be the need to build more roads, plus vehicle tags/registration and variable pricing.
- ✓ Dr. Allsop noted the changing landscape in transportation options namely, a rise in the use of Uber; which increased by 50 points; use of Scooters rose by 17% and Zipcar was up 6 points as well as bikeshare.
- ✓ The percentage of people who are online shopping weekly has also gone up.
- ✓ Chair Randall commended the overall positive feedback.
- ✓ Ms. Hynes ask if there was a lot of variability in responses depending on where people lived.
- ✓ Dr. Allsop responded that yes, there was a lot of variability involved.
- ✓ Mayor. Parrish further noted that it would be good to track where these responses are going overtime and asked whether the people surveyed were spread throughout the region.
- ✓ In response, the Dr. Allsop confirmed that yes, the respondents were representative of the NOVA region, showing the map where they came from on the presentation.
- ✓ Mayor Wood inquired whether the percentage of people who use HOV has gone up.
- ✓ Dr. Allsop responded that the overall feedback regarding HOV/Express lanes is positive but noted 21% negative feedback regarding the rise in tolls.
- ✓ Vice-Mayor Preston Banks asked if the survey factored in income disparity.
- ✓ Dr. Allsop responded that no quotas are set for income representation but rather, quotas are set in terms of age, gender, ethnicity and geography to ensure the survey captures a good representation of income and associated demographics.
- ✓ Chairman McKay added that he had looked at the demographics and seen that 16% of respondents were age 44 or younger and wished to know how seniors view the network.
- ✓ Dr. Allsop answered that the overall response for the age groups was standard but if there was anything outstanding, it would be noted in the results.
- ✓ Ms. Hynes asked Dr. Allsop who are the 'Influencers' as noted in the presentation.
- ✓ Dr. Allsop responded that they are people who are seriously interested in transportation issues and care so much that they are constantly following closely and keeping themselves and others informed. They could be supporters or opposers.
- ✓ Chair Randall asked if the origin/destination graph produced as part of TransAction, be overlaid with slide 24, which is about factors influencing

where people wish to live/work noting that where people want to live/work is connected to the amenities that they wish to have.

- ✓ She also wanted to know whether there were any specific questions about tolling.
- ✓ Dr. Allsop responded that there was a question about tolling with the majority of people saying it was important but at the same time, the least important in comparison to other initiatives in the region.
- ✓ Chair Randall further inquired whether there was any question about slug lines/ridesharing.
- ✓ Dr. Allsop responded that there was a question about broader initiatives about improvements/performance of projects in the region.
- ✓ Chair Randall asked whether the question had to do with transit and what people want to see regarding the transit network, adding that it will be helpful to share this data with the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission.
- ✓ To wrap it up. Mr. Jasper noted that moving forward, this information is complementary to TransAction, and will be key to the update of TransAction.

**V. Approval of the Public Hearing Date and Public Comment Period for the FY2020-2025 Six Year Program Update** Ms. Backmon, Executive Director  
*Recommended action: Approval of Public Hearing Date and Public Comment Period*

- ✓ Ms. Backmon informed the Authority that the update of the SYP is for fiscal years 2020 through 2025.
- ✓ She also requested approval of the Public Hearing Date and Public Comment period.
- ✓ She noted that the Authority April meeting date is the third Thursday of the month due to Spring Break and Passover occurring in the prior week.
- ✓ She requested the Public Hearing document be released March 13<sup>th</sup>, noting that the public will be able to provide comments online as well as engage variety of other ways.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon added that General Assembly action in 2018 requires a joint public meeting with the Authority, DRPT, NVTC and the CTB, is in the process of being scheduled.
- ✓ As proposed the Public Hearing Open House will start at 5:30pm, and the presentation will begin at 7:00pm.
- ✓ Chair Randall noted that she was not sure if most Authority members would be able to make it to the April meeting due to local government budget hearings and requested members send feedback within a week, noting if the date would be suitable for them.
- ✓ Chair Randall stated that she envisages that most members may not be able to attend the April meeting considering budget meetings so a more feasible date for the Public Hearing is the May 14<sup>th</sup> which is the regularly scheduled Authority meeting.

Mayor Parrish moved May 14<sup>th</sup> as the Public Hearing, with the Public Comment period beginning on April 17<sup>th</sup> and ending on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, for the FY2020-FY2025 Six Year Program; seconded by Mayor Wilson. Motion passed unanimously.

**VI. FY2020 Regional Revenue Fund Appropriation Cancellation for Fairfax County Parkway Widening** Mr. Longhi, CFO  
*Recommended action: Approval of De-appropriation*

- ✓ Mr. Longhi presented the cancellation request from Fairfax County, noting that the cancellation of the appropriation enables the County to maintain compliance with Policy 29.
- ✓ This action does not change the project's status as an adopted project in the Authority's FY2018-2023 Six Year Program.

Chairman McKay moved the Authority cancel the FY2020 \$67 million appropriation for the Fairfax County Widening from Ox Road to Lee Highway Widening Project, reclassifying funds in the Regional Revenue Fund from appropriated to restricted; seconded by Mayor Meyer. Motion passed unanimously.

**VII. Approval of FY2026 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Recommendations to the Commonwealth Transportation Board** MS. Backmon, Executive Director  
*Recommended action: Approval of the CMAQ/RSTP Recommendations*

- ✓ Ms. Backmon noted that a total of 33 CMAQ/RSTP applications were received for this cycle.
- ✓ The estimated total available funding is \$77 million.
- ✓ Once approved by the Authority, the recommended projects will go to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for final approval.

Councilmember Snyder moved Authority approval of the recommended list of projects to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for FY2026 CMAQ and RSTP funding; seconded by Chairman McKay. Motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. Request for NVTAs Letter of Support for INFRA Grant for DRPT, Prince William and Fairfax Counties** Ms. Backmon, Executive Director  
*Recommended action: Approval of NVTAs Letters of Support for INFRA Grant*

- ✓ Ms. Backmon informed the Authority about requests for NVTAs letters of support for three INFRA Grant Applications.
- ✓ the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), Fairfax and Prince William Counties requested letters of support.
- ✓ Prince William County requested a letter of support for the Route 15 Improvements with Railroad Overpass Project.
- ✓ DRPT requested a letter of support for the Long Bridge Expansion Project.
- ✓ Fairfax County requested a letter of support for the Richmond Highway Widening Project (Mount Vernon Memorial Highway to Sherwood Hall Lane).
- ✓ These projects are in TransAction, the region's long range transportation plan, and the provision of these letters is consistent with NVTAs Strategic Plan Goal to actively seek federal funds for projects.

Chair Wheeler moved Authority endorsement of Prince William County's INFRA Discretionary Grant applications for the Route 15 Improvements with Railroad Overpass Project, DRPT's Long Bridge Expansion Project and Fairfax County's Richmond Highway Project, for the INFRA Discretionary Grant Program funding; seconded by Chairman McKay. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Discussion/Information**

#### **IX. Governance and Personnel Committee**

Chair Randall

##### **A. 2020 Legislative Update**

Ms. Baynard, McGuireWoods  
Consulting, LLC

- ✓ Chair Randall introduced Ms. Baynard commenting on what a phenomenal job she's been doing with providing General Assembly updates regarding the ongoing legislative session and invited her to proceed with the legislative update to the Authority.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard noted that there were two main bills in the process:
  - The Governor's Omnibus Bill (HB 1414) which would provide \$30 million to the Authority in funding restoration;
  - Delegate Watt's Bill (HB 729) which would provide \$70 million to the Authority which includes the \$30 million in HB 1414 and \$40 million from State revenues.
- ✓ Chair Randall inquired whether Delegate Watt's bill includes funding to the Authority as provided in the I-81 bill.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard responded no, stating that the funding from the I-81 bill will result in a total restoration of \$90 million to the Authority.
- ✓ She stated that the goal is to get the provisions of Delegate Watt's bill inserted into the Governor's Omnibus Bill.
- ✓ Chair Randall asked if protective language would be part of the Bill.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard responded that for now, the Speaker's goal is to focus on funding, noting that the issue of protective language could be incorporated at a later time.

- ✓ She added that the protective language is not only about the Authority, adding that regions like Hampton Roads, Central Virginia and I-81, could build a coalition to seek protective language to safeguard the regional funds.
- ✓ Councilmember Snyder inquired about the safety provisions in the bill.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard responded that the safety provisions advanced by the House and Senate include the following:
  - Lower speed limit in some commercial and local areas
  - Open alcohol container
  - A handheld bill (could be standalone)
  - A seatbelt bill (could be standalone)
- ✓ Chairman McKay thanked Ms. Baynard for her update noting that he supports the passage of HB729 but noted that the bill does not have a lot of the elements of the Omnibus Bill.
- ✓ Chair Randall strongly encouraged all to support Delegate Watt’s bill, noting that Authority members need to make contact with their Delegates and Senators and communicate support.
- ✓ Councilmember Snyder expressed support for Delegate Watts bill, and wanted to know what action could be taken to communicate support.
- ✓ Chair Randall noted that a letter of support could be sent, to be signed by Chair Randall and Mayor Parrish on behalf of the Authority.
- ✓ Chairman McKay noted that he has had a lot of discussions with Senator Barker and proposes writing a letter of support for this bill notwithstanding a budget amendment that makes the Authority whole.

**X. Finance Committee Report** Mayor Parrish, Chair

- ✓ Mayor Parrish updated the Authority on the upcoming Finance Committee meeting, noting there has been a lot of discussion regarding budget guidance and investments.
  - A. Investment Portfolio Report** Mr. Longhi, CFO  
No verbal report given.
  - B. Monthly Revenue Report** Mr. Longhi, CFO  
No verbal report given.
  - C. Operating Budget Report**  
No verbal report given.

**XI. Executive Director’s Report** Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

- ✓ Ms. Backmon reminded Members about the upcoming ITS/NVTA Roundtable event on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2020. She informed members that attendance for the event is free for Authority members and encourage members to contact her if interested in attending.

**XII. Chair’s Comments**

- ✓ Chair Randall asked Authority members to identify alternate designee who would be attend Authority meetings in the event that the member is unable to attend and to send that information to Ms. Backmon.

**XIII. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

**Correspondence**

**Next Meeting: March 12, 2020 at 7:00pm**  
NVTA Offices