



# Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

## MINUTES

Thursday, January 14, 2021

7:00pm

3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200

Fairfax, VA 22031

Meeting conducted on WebEx and Live Streamed via YouTube

1. **Call to Order** Chair Randall
  - ✓ Chair Randall called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.
2. **Roll Call** Margaret Duker, Clerk
  - ✓ Voting Members: Chair Randall; Council Member Snyder; Chairman McKay; Chair Wheeler; Board Member Cristol; Mayor Meyer; Mayor Wilson; Mayor Rishell; Mayor Davis-Younger; Senator Boysko; Delegate Watts; Delegate Roem; Ms. Hynes; Mr. Kolb.
  - ✓ Non-Voting Members; Mayor Burk; Ms. Cuervo; Ms. Mitchell.
  - ✓ Staff: Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Michael Longhi (CFO); Keith Jasper (Principal, Planning and Programming); Harun Rashid (Transportation Planner); Peggy Teal (Assistant Finance Officer); Erica Hawksworth (Communications and Public Affairs Manager); Dev Sen (Financial Analyst); Margaret Duker (Board Clerk).
  - ✓ Other Attendees: Rob Dickerson (Council of Counsels); Joanna Anderson (Council of Counsels); Daniel Robinson (Council of Counsels); Tracy Baynard (McGuire Woods Consulting LLC); Cathy McGhee (VDOT).
3. **Adoption of Resolution 21-01 to Find Need to Conduct Meeting by Electronic Communication Means during Governor's declared State of Emergency during COVID-19 Pandemic** Chair Randall

*Recommended action: Adoption of Resolution 21-01 for Electronic Meetings During COVID-19 Pandemic*

  - ✓ Chair Randall made the motion to adopt Resolution 21-01 to Find Need to Conduct a Meeting by Electronic Communication Means during Governor's declared State of Emergency during COVID-19 Pandemic; seconded by Council Member Snyder. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Annual Organizational Meeting Public Comments**
  - ✓ Chair Randall proceeded with the Annual Organizational Meeting where residents in Northern Virginia were invited to provide the Authority

comments regarding what transportation focus areas, they would like to see in 2021 and also how best to tackle the issue of congestion in the region.

- ✓ Overall, a total of 13 citizens phoned into the organizational meeting to provide live public comment with each speaker being given up to three minutes to speak.
- ✓ Written comments from the public were provided electronically to Authority Members prior to the meeting.
- ✓ Citizens expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to provide comment and also applauded the Authority for the valuable investments made in the region resolving transportation issues whilst improving and enhancing multi-modal infrastructure.
- ✓ Comments included a range of transportation issues involving bike infrastructure, sidewalk improvements, road widening, transit availability, walkable communities among others.
- ✓ In summary, citizens called on the Authority to consider the following:
  - Expand rail into Maryland; extend Bus Rapid Transit from Fort Belvoir along Route 1 towards Dumfries
  - Support the expansion of bike infrastructure, bike routes, trails and adding protection/separation from main routes
  - Support more walkable communities/sidewalk improvements
  - Support more projects which reduce greenhouse gas emissions
  - Continue to invest in a multimodal network which promote biking/walking and are connected to transit
  - Support more dedicated bus lanes
- ✓ Chair Randall thanked all who participated in providing comments, noting how valuable it is to the Authority.

#### **5. Minutes of the December 17, 2020 Meeting**

*Recommended action: Approval [with abstentions from those who were not present]*

- ✓ Delegate Roem moved for the acceptance of the December 17, 2020 meeting minutes; seconded by Senator Boysko. Motion passed 11-0-3 with Chairman McKay and Board Member Cristol abstaining due to absences, and Mayor Davis-Younger (who was not a member of the Authority at that time).

### **Organizational Action Items**

#### **6. Appointment of Authority Chair and Vice-Chair for CY2021**

Chair Wheeler,  
Nominating Committee

*Recommended action: Approval of Appointments*

- ✓ Chair Wheeler moved Authority approval of Phyllis J. Randall as Chair, and Council Member David Snyder as Vice-Chair of the Northern Virginia

Transportation Authority, for calendar year 2021; seconded by Chairman McKay. Motion passed by 13-0-1 with Chair Randall abstaining.

- ✓ Chair Wheeler extended her congratulations to Chair Randall and Vice-Chair Snyder on taking on these leadership roles.
- ✓ Both Chair Randall and Council Member Snyder thanked Members of the Authority for this appointment noting that they looked forward to serving the Authority.

**7. Appointment of Town Representative for CY2021**

Ms. Backmon,  
Executive Director

*Recommended action: Approval of Appointment*

- ✓ Chair Randall moved Authority appointment of Mayor Kelly Burk, from the Town of Leesburg, as the calendar year 2021 Town Representative to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority; seconded by Senator Boysko. Motion passed unanimously.
- ✓ Mayor Burk thanked the Authority for this appointment, noting that she has always been a strong advocate for the Towns and she looked forward to working with everyone on the Authority.

**8. Adoption of Authority Meeting Schedule for CY2021**

Ms. Backmon,  
Executive Director

*Recommended action: Adoption of Meeting Schedule*

- ✓ Chair Randall explained to the Authority that consistent with prior practice, the Authority will continue to meet the second Thursday of every month with the month of August being an exception since there are no meetings.
- ✓ She also pointed out that due to the second Thursday in November being Veteran's Day, the proposed meeting date has been moved back a week to the following Thursday.
- ✓ Chair Randall moved adoption of the Authority Meeting Schedule for calendar year 2021; seconded by Board Member Cristol. Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Appointments**

Before moving onto the next item on the Agenda, Chair Randall announced new committee appointments to the Governance and Personnel, Finance and Planning and Programming Committees for the 2021 calendar year.

- ✓ She noted that the following Members will make up the Governance and Personnel Committee:
  - **Chair:** Hon. Phyllis Randall, Loudoun County
  - **Vice-Chairman:** Hon. Jeffrey C. McKay, Fairfax County
  - Hon. Katie Cristol, Arlington County
  - Hon. Michelle Davis- Younger, City of Manassas (**New Appointment**)
  - Hon. Ann Wheeler, Prince William County
- ✓ The Finance Committee will be comprised of the following members:
  - **Chair:** Hon. Jeanette Rishell, City of Manassas Park

- **Vice-Chairman:** Hon. Jeffrey C. McKay, Fairfax County
- Hon. Katie Cristol, Arlington County
- Hon. Phyllis J. Randall, Loudon County
- Hon. Vivian Watts, Virginia House of Delegates (**New Appointment**)
- ✓ The Planning and Programming Committee will be comprised of the following members:
  - **Chairman:** Hon. Justin Wilson, City of Alexandria
  - **Vice-Chairman:** Hon. David Snyder, City of Falls Church
  - Hon. David Meyer, City of Fairfax
  - Hon. Jeanette Rishell, City of Manassas Park
  - Hon. Ann Wheeler, Prince William County

### Action Item

- 9. Approval of Fairfax County RSTP Transfer Request from Multiple Projects to Cinderbed Road Bikeway** Ms. Backmon, Executive Director  
*Recommended action: Approval of Transfer*
- ✓ Chairman McKay moved approval of the reallocation of Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds for Fairfax County; seconded by Council Member Snyder. Motion passed unanimously.

### Presentations

- 10. 2020 Annual Report – A Year in Review: Planning for Evolving Needs**  
 Ms. Hawksworth, Communications and Public Affairs Manager
- ✓ Ms. Backmon proceeded to introduce and showcase the hardcopy 2020 Annual Report which highlights the accomplishments, programs, initiatives and events of the past year.
  - ✓ In her introduction, Ms. Backmon informed Authority Members that the digital copy of the previous year’s 2019 Annual Report competed with the likes of ESPN and Microsoft in a competition and was named a ‘Visual Storytelling Finalist’ in Ragan Communications’ 2020 Video, Visual & Virtual Awards.
  - ✓ She also briefly made mention of the coaster and the foldout map inserted in the report which shows each of the adopted multimodal transportation projects in the FY2020-2025 Six Year Program Update, as well as the modal and geographic orientation of projects within the region.
  - ✓ Ms. Hawksworth, Communications and Public Affairs Manager who championed this report, then proceeded with a recap.
  - ✓ She noted how despite all the challenges the pandemic presented last year, the Authority was able to still move ahead in making significant investments in the region’s transportation network with some of the highlights being:

- The adoption of the Authority’s Fifth Funding Program during the FY2020-2025 Six Year Program Update on July 9, 2020: \$539 million programmed on 21 multimodal transportation projects.
- Conducted a ‘COVID-19’ Transportation and Opportunities Analysis with AECOM to monitor pre-pandemic and COVID era travel trends and changes to determine how to prioritize future needs.
- Unveiled NoVA Gateway, a new tool which enables users to search by location, transportation mode and more to provide up to date information on ongoing and completed NVTA funded projects in the region.
- The Authority celebrated five NVTA-funded project milestones in the Town of Leesburg, City of Falls Church, Town of Hillsboro, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria.
- The Authority presented in over 25 events during 2020, thereby helping to shape planning and policy discussions within the region.
- Work is ongoing to update TransAction, the Authority’s long-range transportation plan.
- Tax payer’s dollars are hard at work through the investment in regionally significant multimodal transportation projects across the region. The investment in 106 projects could potentially yield 130% return on investment in the long-term.

**11. Regional Multimodal Mobility Program Update**

Ms. Cathy McGhee,  
Director of Research and Innovation

- ✓ Ms. McGhee informed Members of the Authority that the goal of the Regional Multimodal Mobility Program (RM3P) is to leverage collaborative use of real-time data by public and private sectors, and to improve travel, safety, reliability and mobility by giving the public the needed tools to make better informed travel choices.
- ✓ She added that the program began with VDOT’s Integrated Corridor Management (ICM) plans then NVTA came onboard via a Smart Scale application as the program fit within the long-range transportation plan, TransAction.
- ✓ The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation is also a co-sponsor of RM3P.
- ✓ The Program is comprised of five elements; the Data Exchange Platform, AI Based- Decision Support System, Multi-Modal Analytical Planner, Commuter Parking Information System, and Dynamic Incentivization, all working together to optimize transportation systems performance in the region.
- ✓ The RM3P boundary is road and transit corridors in Northern Virginia including I-95, I-495 and I-66 with the rollout focused on these corridors.
- ✓ Ms. McGhee further noted that through an ATCMTD (Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment) FHA grant, it is now possible to expand the Program elements of the AI Based-

Decision Support and Commuter Parking Information Systems into Fredericksburg.

- ✓ She noted that the Program has engaged with various stakeholders in the industry like public agencies and private partnerships, by listening to them to garner valuable input via polling, RFI (Request for Information), summits and other methodologies for the program and continue to do so as they advance towards vendor procurement for the program.
- ✓ She made special mention of the tremendous contribution of NVTAs Principal of Planning and Programming, Keith Jasper and Transportation Planner, Mackenzie Jarvis to the Program.
- ✓ Anticipated benefits from the Program include coordinated responses to travel disruptions, improved safety, collaborative planning, reliable commutes and more.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon also chimed in noting that looking at the comprehensive nature of this program, the various localities have all been valuable stakeholders, offering input as they progressed with the rollout of the Program.

### Discussion/Information Items

#### **12. 2021 General Assembly Update (Verbal Report)**

Ms. Baynard,

McGuire Woods Consulting, LLC

- ✓ Ms. Baynard reminded everyone of the legislative focus areas for 2021:
  - To protect the Authority's revenue, its ability to meet its mission, and further highlight the shortfall of \$32 million due to the Authority.
  - To support the flexibility to hold virtual meetings in times of health and safety concerns.
  - To support Covid-19 Federal relief funds for transit providers.
- ✓ She noted that some General Assembly initiatives which she recommends for the Authority to follow include:
  - Senators Bell/Ebbin and Delegate Krizek, Patrons of a bill sought by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC), to have a budget amendment which seeks a one-time \$30 million in State General Fund assistance to enable WMATA Compact Members meet their FY2022 operating obligations for Metro. Ms. Baynard added that she will be working with legislative liaisons to provide assistance to secure the one-time funding for the WMATA compact members operating budget.
  - She also noted that the implementation of the 2020 Grantor's Tax deferred rate is due on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. She noted that the full rate implementation was pushed out due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, since the economy has still not recovered fully, there could be a move to push this implementation further back, thus the need to be mindful of it.

- Another is the introduction of the safety bill HB 1903 (Carr) which permits localities to reduce speed limit on local roads to less than 25mph but not less than 15mph. She noted that this was one of the bills NVTA supported during the last Session but did not pass and has been reintroduced this year.
- The Governor has proposed a \$50 million one-time General Fund transfer to enhance and expand capital rail for passenger rail service along the U.S 29/I-81 corridor. This will create an additional roundtrip service for Burke, Manassas, Charlottesville and other cities.
- The Chair for House Transportation, Delegate McQuinn, has called for DRPT to conduct a study into transit, equity and modernization needs over a two-year period. An interim report is due at end of 2021 and more discussion with respect to timing are ongoing with DRPT Executive Director, Ms. Mitchell.
- Virginia is programmed to receive \$252.7 million in federal transportation COVID relief funds. The federal guidelines regarding the funding are broad and flexible and more details maybe forthcoming when Secretary of Transportation, Shannon Valentine meets with the appropriation.
- Ms. Baynard further mentioned the clean energy bill co-sponsored by Senator Boysko which proactively looks at ways to attain the clean energy standards within the electronic transportation industry.
- Senator Boysko added to that noting she had requested of the Speaker of the House to conduct a study last year into the electronic transportation industry. From that study, they found that there was inadequate infrastructure for the business industry. As a result, this bill will help put the needed infrastructure in place and thereby promote more use of electronic transportation for the business communities.
- Also noted that Delegate Cole proposed HB 1910. A bill that creates an alternate process for the creation of regional transportation authorities in Virginia. There are currently four of such regional transportation entities in Virginia; Northern Virginia, Hampton Roads, I-81 and Central Virginia.
- This bill enables two or more localities to come together to address their local transportation needs, using their own revenue. However, it does not provide new state dedicated revenue sources thus still a work in progress.
- ✓ Delegate Watts commented that the HB 1910 Bill has no elected officials involved thus she is concerned about how public funds are going to be used without having public officials being accountable for it, noting some legal issues need to be evaluated.
- ✓ Delegate Roem noted she shares similar concerns as Delegate Watts but noted that most localities are faced with the issue of how to come up with short term funding solutions for their local priorities and this may need some amendments but could be an avenue to be looked at to bridge some of the funding issues localities are currently faced with.

- ✓ Delegate Watts went on to mention that the three current Authorities have their funding sources but this Bill's proposal is mainly a model to coordinate funding.
- ✓ Mayor Meyer chimed in regarding the aggregation of the Commonwealth's funding. He noted that there are some localities within the Commonwealth of Virginia, which oppose increases in taxes, or any form of taxation as an avenue to raise revenue to address the many transportation issues within the region. He pointed that these are issues for the Commonwealth and do have grave consequences for those localities in the long-term.
- ✓ Chair Randall thanked everyone for their participation and feedback.

**13. Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

- ✓ No verbal report given.

**14. Adjournment** - Meeting adjourned at 9:22pm.

**Next Meeting: February 11, 2021 at 7:00pm**  
NVTA Offices