



## **SUMMARY MINUTES**

Thursday, June 8, 2023

7 p.m., EST

Northern Virginia Association of Realtors

8407 Pennell Street

Fairfax, VA 22031

*This meeting was conducted in person and livestreamed via [NVTA's YouTube Channel](#)*

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Randall

- ✓ Chair Randall called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

### **2. Roll Call**

Mr. Davis, Board Secretary

- ✓ **Membership: Attendees** Chair Phyllis J. Randall, Vice Chair David Snyder, Chairman Jeff McKay, Chair Ann Wheeler, Board Member Katie Cristol, Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger, Mayor Jeanette Rishell, Mayor Catherine Read, Senator Jennifer Boysko, Mayor Derrick Wood, Mr. Anthony Bedell, Ms. Mary Hynes, Mr. Jim Kolb, Ms. Maria Sinner, and Mr. Todd Horsley. **Non-Attendees** Mayor Justin Wilson and Supervisor Pat Herrity.
- ✓ **Staff Attendees:** Chief Executive Officer Monica Backmon, Executive Assistant to the CEO Amanda Sink, Chief Financial Officer Michael Longhi, Board Secretary Jonathan Davis, Communications and Marketing Coordinator Abigail Hillerich, Assistant Finance Officer Peggy Teal, Investment & Debt Manager Dev Priya Sen, Senior Accountant Adnan Malik, Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming Keith Jasper, Senior Transportation Planner Dr. Sree Nampoothiri, Regional Transportation Modeler Harun Rashid, Regional Transportation Planners Ian Newman, Griffin Frank, and Hannah Pajewski.
- ✓ **Council of Counsels:** Mr. Daniel Robinson-Fairfax County, Ms. MinhChau Corr-Arlington County, Ms. Christina Zechman Brown-City of Alexandria.

*Members of the Public, jurisdiction and agency staff were in person and were able to watch the meeting livestreamed via [NVTA's YouTube Channel](#)*

### **3. Approval of May 11, 2023 Meeting Summary Minutes**

Chair Randall

- ✓ Board Member Cristol moved Authority approval of the May 11, 2023, Meeting Summary Minutes, seconded by Chair Wheeler. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **4. Approval of Letter of Endorsement for Prince William County's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Application**

Ms. Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

- ✓ Ms. Backmon acknowledged Prince William County's request for endorsement of their forthcoming application under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Charging and

Fueling Infrastructure Grant Program (CFI) and noted that the County intends to utilize the CFI funds toward a total of eight electric charging stations at the Chinn Aquatics and Fitness Center and Library which are located adjacent to an Equity Emphasis Area. Prince William County's application requests \$800,000 and federal funding is critical to this project moving forward.

- ✓ Chair Wheeler moved Authority approval of the Letter of Endorsement for Prince William County's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Application, seconded by Mayor Davis-Younger. Chair Randall gave the compliment that Prince William County is expanding access to an Equity Emphasis Area, which is one of NVTA's goals. Chair Randall then opened the floor for a vote on the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**5. Approval of Letter of Endorsement for the City of Fairfax's FY2023 Safer Streets for All Grant Application**

Ms. Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

- ✓ Ms. Backmon acknowledged the City of Fairfax's request for endorsement on their forthcoming FY2023 Safer Streets for All (SS4A) grant application and noted that the SS4A Program was established to provide \$5 billion in appropriated funds over 5 years. The City of Fairfax will utilize the funds to develop a citywide Safety Action Plan given the city is located at the crossroads of several major regional corridors and has a significant volume of local and regional traffic to, from, and through the city daily.
- ✓ Mayor Read moved Authority approval of the Letter of Endorsement for the City of Fairfax's FY2023 Safer Streets for All Grant Application, seconded by Chairman McKay. Mayor Read acknowledged the City's hard work to create a walkable city for residents and visitors and noted that improving safety helps the needs of future generations. Chair Randall also noted that these efforts help meet NVTA's goal of sustainability. Seeing no further discussion, Chair Randall opened the floor for a vote on the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS**

**6. Travel Trends Update**

Mr. Rashid, Regional Transportation Modeler

- ✓ Mr. Rashid noted that this update is the 10<sup>th</sup> of a series since June 2021. He acknowledged the continued monitoring of travel trends in Northern Virginia to enhance NVTA's transportation planning efforts as they may influence project-funding recommendations in future Six Year Program update cycles. He also noted that understanding the effects on travel patterns after the COVID-19 pandemic is an objective for the presented analysis:

- Air Travel Trends: Mr. Rashid reported that air travel at Reagan National Airport appears to have reached, and in some months surpassed, pre-pandemic levels since summer of last year.

- Highway Travel Trends: Mr. Rashid reported on the first quarter of 2023 (January -March) as it marks the third anniversary of the governor’s stay at home Executive Order #51 (March 12, 2020). During this quarter, traffic volumes on Northern Virginia’s highways were on average 6% below pre-pandemic level. He noted that corresponding travel speeds were on average 7% above.
  - Transit Ridership: From the same period (first quarter of 2023) Mr. Rashid reported that OmniRide ridership experienced a sharp decline due to a service strike in February/March. CUE, DASH, and Fairfax Connector continued their strong recoveries with ridership above pre-pandemic level. He also noted that VRE and Metrorail ridership were on upward trends.
- ✓ In conclusion to the Travel Trends Update, Mr. Rashid noted that NVTA staff will continue this trend analysis to track emerging travel patterns as the region’s travelers continue to adjust their travel choices and behaviors.
  - ✓ Chair Randall inquired if there is data from enplanements and deplanements that distinguish between the types of flights such as international, domestic, and cargo. Mr. Rashid noted that the data is reflective of all commercial flights for international and domestic.
  - ✓ Chairman McKay noted that the chart speaks to the importance of the Slot and Perimeter Rules as DCA is beyond capacity and there is a lot of aircraft unable to land safely. He suggested a concerted effort to share these concerns across the region with reference to the trends seen in the presented analysis.
  - ✓ Senator Boysko noted that if the perimeter rule were to be changed, it would not only impact the region, but also impact the funding stream for all of the airports throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. She further noted the impact that could be seen on the economy and on the workers in and around our region and state.

## 7. Chief Executive Officer’s Report

Ms. Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

- ✓ Ms. Backmon reminded everyone that the Call for Regional Transportation Projects (CfRTP) for the FY2024-2029 Six Year Program is currently open with a deadline for submitting applications on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. The deadline for submitting governing body resolutions of support is October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. She noted newly added guidance that speaks to NVTA’s Core Values of Safety, Equity, and Sustainability which will be used to assist staff in evaluating submitted projects.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon noted that the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Working Group is now being reconvened and expanded to provide local expertise to the Preliminary Deployment Plan for a Regional Bus Rapid Transit System (PDP-BRT). The Working Group most recently met on May 15<sup>th</sup> to begin the work and discussion on the intention for the PDP-BRT to support and enhance the nearly half of a billion dollars’ worth of investments NVTA has already made in BRT. She shared staff will continue to coordinate with the Working Group which is comprised of jurisdictions and agencies across the Greater

Washington Metro area to include the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

- ✓ Ms. Backmon acknowledged NVTA's Transportation Technology Strategic Plan (TTSP) and efforts to proactively prepare for innovation through outreach and education. She noted that NVTA staff are conducting a series of virtual InNoVAtion Lunch and Learns that are designed to provide opportunities for pragmatic information exchange about topics supported by the TTSP. Ms. Backmon announced that the remaining two sessions of the summer series will take place on June 15<sup>th</sup> and July 20<sup>th</sup> with a focus on best practices for connectivity and automation and lessons learned in deploying Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) respectively.
- ✓ Lastly, Ms. Backmon noted that Senior Transportation Planner Dr. Sree Nampootheri attending the prestigious Transportation Research Board's Innovation and Travel Analysis and Planning Conference where he presented on NVTA's TransAction and the Innovation Methods used for Scenario Analysis.

## 8. Chair's Comments

Chair Randall

- ✓ Chair Randall announced that the July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Authority meeting is cancelled and confirmed that there will be no August Authority meeting.
- ✓ Chair Randall acknowledged that immediately following this meeting the celebration of NVTA's 20<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will commence. She expressed her appreciation to NVTA staff for the planning of the celebration and the phenomenal job they do in moving NoVA forward. She also expressed her thanks to the Council of Counsels for the work they provide for the Authority.
- ✓ Lastly, Chair Randall acknowledged Board Member Cristol as the night's meeting marks her last one as an Authority member. Chair Randall expressed her appreciation to Board Member Cristol and the many contributions and accomplishments she's made.
- ✓ Board Member Cristol thanked Chair Randall and everyone for the collaborative efforts she's been a part of during her tenure as an Authority member. She noted that the NVTA is an effective body that has led the needed shift toward a multimodal focus on projects in the region. Board Member Cristol noted that she will not be going far and expressed her expectation to remain in touch.

## 9. Adjournment

Chair Randall

- ✓ Chair Randall adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: September 14, 2023, at 7 p.m., EST**  
**At NVTA Offices**