



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

Approved March 20, 2024

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 7:00 pm
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
In-Person Meeting at NVTA Offices
Live-streamed on [YouTube](#)

MEETING SUMMARY

I. Call to Order/Welcome

- The meeting was conducted in-person and virtually over Zoom. Chairman Boice called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.
- **Attendees:**
 - **TAC Members:** Randy Boice, Karen Campblin, Michelle Cavucci, Kerianne Masters, Amy Morris, Frank Spielberg, and Shangjiang Zhu. Armand Ciccarelli participated virtually due to personal reasons.
 - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon, CEO; Keith Jasper, Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming; Sree Nampoothiri, Senior Manager; and Ian Newman, Regional Transportation Planner.
 - **Others:** Dalia Leven (Cambridge Systematics). The meeting was also live streamed on YouTube.

II. Summary Notes of November 16th, 2022, Meeting

- Motion to approve the summary notes of the November 16, 2022 meeting was made by Mr. Spielberg. Seconded by Ms. Masters. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Approve the CY2024 Meeting Calendar

- Motion to approve the CY2024 Meeting calendar was made by Ms. Morris. Seconded by Ms. Masters. The motion passed unanimously. Due to the scheduled June meeting falling on June 19th (Juneteenth Holiday), the Committee agreed to set the June meeting date later.

IV. FY2024-2029 Six Year Program Update

- Dr. Nampoothiri, Senior Manager, Transportation Planning and Programming at NVTA, presented on the following topics:
 1. NVTA's Core Values.

2. Goals, objectives, and measures of NVTAs long range multimodal transportation plan, TransAction.
 3. Overview of the six adopted funding programs.
 4. Overview of the Project Selection Process, including Eligibility, Congestion Reduction Relative to Cost (CRRC), TransAction Rating, Long Term Benefit, Qualitative Considerations, and Public Comments.
 5. Project Description Forms for every candidate project.
 6. A Summary of Applications.
 7. The Current Six Year Program Schedule.
- Concerning the third topic above, Mr. Spielberg asked why the amount requested for this current Six Year Program is lower than previous Six Year Programs. Dr. Nampoothiri responded that past programs had mega projects such as Route 1 Widening, Fairfax County Parkway Widening, and Richmond Highway BRT that were requesting significant sums of money. This round is for relatively smaller projects.
 - Concerning the seventh topic above, Chair Boice asked if the evaluations of projects will be shared with the TAC members in advance of the May 9th Authority Meeting. Dr. Nampoothiri answered in the affirmative. Mr. Spielberg asked about the involvement of the proposed sports facilities on Route 1 (Potomac Yard arena and area development) on the Six Year Program project evaluations analysis. Ms. Backmon answered in the negative. She added that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) had met the day prior, and the funding component had been shared, and according to the Secretary of Transportation's presentation, it is the city of Alexandria and Commonwealth that are backing the deal. Mr. Spielberg was wondering about the travel demand from the impact of these facilities that could impact the Six Year Program. Dr. Nampoothiri mentioned that the deadline for applications was before announcements were made concerning the sports facilities. He added that one application was received from the City of Alexandria in the vicinity of the proposed arena – an extension of dedicated lanes for Metroway. Much of the expected traffic is expected to be off-peak due to the timings of the events.

V. NVTAs Transportation Perception Survey

- Mr. Jasper, Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming, presented on the following topics:
 1. Key findings of the Transportation Perception Survey with fieldwork conducted in December 2023..
 2. Quality of life factors affecting Northern Virginians.
 3. The region's performance in planning and implementing transportation solutions from 2015 to 2023.

4. Awareness of existing Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system initiatives, and familiarity and favorability concerning BRT and its benefits.
 5. How likely Northern Virginians would use BRT and for what trip purposes.
 6. The Top influential benefits of using BRT.
- Concerning the fourth topic, Mr. Spielberg asked if the survey mentioned that a lane might need to be taken from existing traffic lanes. Mr. Jasper repeated the definition of BRT and noted that BRT could include this. Mr. Spielberg mentioned that favorability may change a bit if a lane is taken for BRT. Mr. Jasper mentioned that this is too detailed for this stage in the process but something that would be flagged moving forward in the process.

VI. Preliminary Deployment Plan – Bus Rapid Transit (PDP-BRT)

- Mr. Jasper, Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming, presented on the following topics:
 1. BRT projects in the Six Year Program and TransAction.
 2. The purpose and schedule of the Preliminary Deployment Plan (PDP).
 3. Phase 1 of the PDP-BRT's details in a flow chart.
- Mr. Spielberg mentioned that it may be instructive to talk to people in Montgomery County who have been working on trying to put together a BRT system for approximately 20 years. Mr. Jasper mentioned that there is a BRT planning working group, originally made for TransAction, but that it includes all folks in Northern Virginia, Montgomery County, Washington DC, Prince George's County, WMATA, NVTC, and VRE to have a broad range of opinions. Mr. Spielberg highlighted that Montgomery County's journey from plan to implementation is very instructive. Mr. Jasper mentioned that he hopes to learn from their experiences. Mr. Spielberg also highlighted how Montgomery County is quite an interesting example when it comes to their public participation efforts.

VII. NVTA Update

- Ms. Backmon mentioned that the 2023 Annual Report has been published and encouraged members to pick up a copy of the report. She also shared that the NVTA is moving its offices and that the March authority meeting will be the last Authority meeting in the current space. She added that NVTA is moving close to the Dunn-Loring Merrifield Metro Station. Ms. Backmon added that the TAC is legislatively a nine-member committee. The TAC currently has eight members. She mentioned that State Senator Ms. Boysko submitted a bill that has received support concerning resolving the confusion around the language on the six members appointed by localities embraced by the Authority. Assuming the passage of the bill, NVTA will try to get the vacancy of the TAC filled soon.

- Ms. Backmon finally shared the passing of John Mason, former City of Fairfax Mayor, and previous Executive Director of NVTA and offered NVTA's condolences.

VIII. Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm. The next meeting will be on March 20th, 2024, at 7 PM and will be held virtually.