



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

Approved February 21, 2024

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, November 16th, 2022, 7:00 pm
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
Fully Virtual meeting held on Zoom
Live-streamed on [YouTube](#)

MEETING SUMMARY

I. Call to Order/Welcome

- The meeting was conducted virtually over Zoom. Chairman Boice called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
- **Attendees:**
 - **TAC Members:** Randy Boice, Michelle Cavucci, Armand Ciccarelli, Kerianne Masters, Amy Morris, Frank Spielberg, and Shangjiang Zhu.
 - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon, CEO; Keith Jasper, Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming; Dr. Sree Nampoothiri, Senior Transportation Planner; and Ian Newman, Regional Transportation Planner.
 - **Others:** Tom Harrington (Cambridge Systematics), Meeting was also live streamed on YouTube.

II. Summary Notes of October 19th, 2022, Meeting

- Motion to approve the summary notes of the October 19th meeting was made by Ms. Morris. Seconded by Mr. Ciccarelli. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Approve the Recommendation to Adopt the TransAction Update

- Mr. Jasper gave a brief overview of feedback from NVTA Committees on TransAction, updates and enhancements to the draft Plan and Project List, and requested endorsements and next steps. He shared what comments the Planning Coordination Advisory Committee (PCAC) offered in their September 28 and October 26 meetings, and how staff addressed their feedback in the draft Plan. Mr. Jasper mentioned that the 54% reduction in emissions, which was shown on a chart used in the context of Electric Vehicle (EV) adoption, was removed due to insufficient clarity on assumptions needed to be fulfilled to achieve that 54% reduction. Mr. Jasper expressed that TransAction is not a land-use plan, and that NVTA does not want to invest in projects that will become obsolete. He added

that this is why scenario analyses are conducted. NVTA has committed to monitor trends that may lead to investment obsolescence and reiterated that TransAction is updated every five years.

- Mr. Jasper then shared the comments received from the TAC in their September 21 and October 19 meetings. He mentioned that NVTA staff agreed that TransAction ought to focus more on the findings and assumptions and what the results mean, as opposed to how results were arrived at. He added that some comments/requests were too in depth for the level of detail needed for TransAction. Mr. Jasper noted the comment concerning NVTA's legislation being outdated and expressed that NVTA has no desire to change their legislation. Additionally, the Authority has not given staff any indication that they wish to change the legislation.
- The Planning and Programming Committee (PPC) met once over this two-month period on October 3, and Mr. Jasper summarized the discussion that TransAction is compliant with the Code of Virginia, TransAction is fundamentally a multimodal plan, the direction of the region in five years in terms of Electric Vehicle (EV) projects, and what projects are included in the No-Build scenario. He added that a list of the projects included in the No-Build network will be provided in the full technical report.
- Mr. Jasper then shared the other modifications to the draft TransAction plan since the last time the TAC had met. This included format changes and beautification of the document, social media links, clarity, and providing relevant factors in the development of TransAction. Mr. Jasper continued that the number of projects has been reduced to 424, from 429, and the necessary re-analysis has been conducted. The elimination of these five projects led to a cost reduction by nearly \$1 billion resulting in a total cost of \$74.9 billion. He added that the chart showing a 54% emissions reduction from EV adoption has been addressed via the removal of this best-case scenario, and a bullet point has been added related to the regional bus rapid transit (BRT) system. Mr. Jasper mentioned that Section 7 (Uncertainty/Scenario Analysis) has been incorporated to Section 6 (Impacts), the chart showing scenario analysis relating to the Build network has been removed, a new summary of the scenario results in tabular format has been added, sections were renumbered, and key takeaways were revised.
- Mr. Jasper noted that the draft documents that were shared for public comments are still retained on the TransAction website. He added that minor revisions may be made prior to the NVTA meeting on December 8th, including better wording, consistency, appearance, addressing suboptimal worded text/graphics, and a potential group photograph of the Authority members.
- Ms. Cavucci voiced her appreciation for the efforts that went into creating the Plan draft and appreciated the Plan's connection to and transparency concerning

the three goals of mobility, accessibility, and resiliency, and their tie into NVTA's Core Values.

- Chairman Boice mentioned that delay increases no matter what the scenario is due to the population increase. He also mentioned this plan covers the inter- and intra-regional transportation, though NVTA is not an inter-regional body. This helps all regions, not just Northern Virginia. He also noted the three goals and the BRT are welcome highlights in the plan. He added that one comment is that the project ID at the end of the plan is 463 though there are 424 projects listed. Mr. Harrington explained the numbering system of the new projects. Older projects in prior versions of TransAction retained their same numbers, new projects to this update of TransAction are added to the end of these projects, and projects that are either completed or have already received funding have been taken off the project list – leaving gaps in the numbering on the list. Chairman Boice asked if this was noted somewhere in the plan. Mr. Harrington mentioned that it is noted in the document that projects with Project ID's above number 352 are the new additions, but further clarity can be added to the document. Mr. Jasper added that this system of not changing the older TransAction projects' numbers is important for consistency with the Six Year Program and to avoid confusion.
- Chairman Boice called for a motion to approve the TransAction Plan. Motion was made by Ms. Cavucci and seconded by Mr. Ciccarelli. The motion passed unanimously.
- Chairman Boice asked what the next steps are for the Plan. Mr. Jasper mentioned it will go to the Planning and Programming Committee (PPC) next Monday for their endorsement, and if successful, it will then go to the Authority on December 8 for adoption.
- Chairman Boice clarified that the motion is to approve the recommendation to the Authority to adopt the TransAction Plan and associated Project List. Members did not have any objection.

IV. NVTA Updates

- Ms. Backmon thanked the Committee for their efforts during the TransAction update process. She noted that staff is working on the 2023 legislative program, and this looks quite similar to the 2022 legislative program. Priorities are to protect the dedicated revenue stream and powers to the NVTA; restore annual long-term funding, restoration of the outstanding balance of \$38.5 million dollar, which is part of the \$102 million diversion to the WMATA State of Good Repair needs; protect Virginia's dedicated transportation funding; and support the use of effective transportation technology. Supporting the ability of committees to meet virtually was removed due to the VA General Assembly already passing legislation for this topic.

- Chairman Boice asked if due to the election that had just occurred if there is a better, worse, or no change in the question concerning the diverted Metro funding coming back to NVT A. Ms. Backmon mentioned it is hard to say, but that Virginia has a surplus from a combination of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds and stimulus moneys. She acknowledged that this is top of mind though regarding NVT A's ability to advance projects.

V. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.