



**Northern Virginia Transportation Authority**  
*The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia*

**PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE**  
**Monday, November 21, 2022, 5:00 p.m.**  
**Northern Virginia Transportation Authority**

**SUMMARY NOTES**

**I. Call to Order/Welcome**

- Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
- Attendees:
  - **PPC Members:** Mayor Wilson (City of Alexandria); Mayor Rishell (City of Manassas Park); Chair Wheeler (Prince William County). Council Member Snyder (City of Falls Church) joined virtually from home due to personal reasons.
  - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (CEO); Keith Jasper (Principal); Sree Nampoothiri (Senior Transportation Planner), Ian Newman (Regional Transportation Planner).
  - **Jurisdiction/Agency Staff:** None
  - **Others:** Dalia Leven (Cambridge Systematics). Proceedings were livestreamed on YouTube Live.

**Action**

**II. Summary Notes of October 3, 2022, Meeting**

- The October 3, 2022, Planning and Programming Committee meeting summary was unanimously approved.

**Discussion/Information**

**III. TransAction: Status Update**

- Mr. Jasper presented the feedback received on TransAction Update from Planning Coordination Advisory Committee (PCAC), Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and Planning and Programming Committee (PPC) at their September, October, and November meetings. These included comments on levels and causes of emission

reduction, assumptions and results of scenarios, details of projects, public comments, simplifying jargons, and providing the larger picture of the Plan. He added that both PCAC and TAC unanimously approved recommendation to the Authority to adopt the TransAction Plan and associated Project List.

- Mr. Jasper walked the Committee through the enhancements made to the Plan document and Project List to incorporate the feedback. The enhancements included simplifying technical language, removal of duplicate projects, removing one of the emission reduction bars on the chart showing Plan results, addition of language on bus rapid transit (BRT) system, incorporating previous section 7 into section 6, revision of key takeaways, visual enhancements, etc. He also added that some more minor revisions may be made to ensure consistency, better wording, appearance, etc.
- Mr. Jasper noted that the PPC is requested to take action on approval of recommendation to the Authority to adopt TransAction tonight and the Authority is expected to take up action at its meeting on December 8.
- In response to Mayor Rishell's question on how the timeline of the proposed Preliminary Deployment Plan for a Regional BRT System (PDP-BRT) and the TransAction update match, Mr. Jasper reminded the Committee members that the PDP-BRT is not necessarily depending on TransAction update. However, the idea of PDP-BRT came from the TransAction update. If approved, PDP-BRT can be completed by the end of 2025, in time for anticipated call for regional transportation projects for FY2026-2031 Six Year Program (SYP).
- In response to Mayor Wilson's question on how Transportation Technology Strategic Plan (TTSP) and BRT Planning Working Group advance the technology and regional BRT projects, Mr. Jasper noted that the TTSP developed under the Transportation Technology Committee (TTC) and the BRT Planning Working Group provided inputs in developing several projects in TransAction, but both types of projects have been funded already by NVTA under its SYPs.
- In response to Chair Wheeler's question of BRT lines in Prince William County, Mr. Jasper and Ms. Leven noted that the Route 1 BRT connects Fairfax County with area near Quantico Marine Base and Route 28 BRT connects Fairfax County with City of Manassas Park, City of Manassas and Prince William County.
- In response to Chair Wheeler's question on the cost of total transit projects and that of BRT projects, Mr. Jasper noted that of the total cost of about \$75 billion, about \$44.5 billion is the total cost of transit projects while the cost of BRT, high capacity transit, and supporting projects is about \$10 billion. He added that a large part of the \$45 billion is on some of the Metro extensions and core capacity realignments, which may take decades to accomplish.
- Mr. Jasper agreed to Chair Wheeler that TransAction, updated every five years, is a fiscally unconstrained plan. Ms. Backmon added that TransAction is both fiscally and geographically unconstrained.
- Council Member Snyder requested to add mention of City of Falls Church in the Route 7 BRT project since the project is expected to connect City of Falls Church.

- Council Member Snyder referenced the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government’s (MWCOC) regional greenhouse gas reduction targets and enquired how the Plan references and/or addresses it. Mr. Jasper noted that the Plan evaluation is based on the ten Authority-approved weighted performance measures, one of which is emission reduction. Several other measures such as congestion reduction offers additional emission reduction benefits. He added that several external factors such as manufacturing and cost can impact the emission reduction. Council Member Snyder asked how the emission goes up even if the region implements all BRT/transit/technology/bike-pedestrian projects. Mr. Jasper noted that the small increase in emission is if all 424 projects are implemented without any consideration of other forces such as cost of electric vehicles, customer adoption, etc. However, the region can decide what the priorities are.
- Council Member Snyder enquired if one can say that there are a lot of projects such as BRT that can move the needle in the right direction and Mr. Jasper agreed. Council Member Snyder emphasized the need to explore this option in the Draft Plan before presenting to the Authority for adoption.
- **Chair Wilson called for a motion to approve the recommendation to the Authority to adopt the TransAction Plan and associated Project List. Motion was made by Mayor Rishell and seconded by Chair Wheeler. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### IV. NVTA Update

- Ms. Backmon reminded that the next Authority meeting is on December 8<sup>th</sup> and the agenda includes the adoption of TransAction and legislative program that focuses on protecting NVTA’s revenues and supporting transportation technology. She thanked the members for their contribution to the development of TransAction and SYP.
- Committee members thanked the staff for the excellent work on TransAction update.

### **Adjournment**

#### V. Adjourn

- There are no further meetings scheduled.
- The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.