

## NVTA's Core Values and the Six Year Program

In December 2020, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) approved the below vision statement formalizing NVTA's commitment to its Core Values of Equity, Safety and Sustainability.

*"Northern Virginia will plan for, and invest in, a safe, equitable, sustainable, and integrated multimodal transportation system that enhances quality of life, strengthens the economy, and builds resilience."*

The Core Values shape how NVTA addresses its vision. The Core Values were first formally incorporated during the development of the Transportation Technology Strategic Plan (TTSP), which was approved by NVTA in May 2021. Subsequently, these Core Values were incorporated in the update to TransAction, which was adopted in December 2022.

Starting with the FY2024-2029 Six Year Program (SYP), each candidate project will be evaluated on how well they align with NVTA's Core Values. This *Guidance for Applicants* document provides further information on how this evaluation will be conducted.

## Evaluating Alignment of Candidate Projects with NVTA's Core Values

- Using information included in each project application, notably the project description, NVTA staff will consider how well each candidate project aligns with NVTA's Core Values (individual Core Values and collectively), using the definitions of each Core Value as shown below.
- Using a consistent evaluation process, each candidate project will be given a rating of high, medium, or low consistency with each Core Value. This process is similar to the evaluation of other qualitative considerations in previous SYP update cycles.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to highlight how their candidate projects are aligned with NVTA's Core Values by uploading a *Core Value Statement* with each project application. More information on Core Value Statements is provided below.

## Core Value Statements

Core Value Statements can be uploaded as a supplemental document in the same manner as previous SYP update cycles. The Core Value Statement should:

- Address each Core Value separately and any interaction between Core Values.
- Highlight any relevant actions or plans the submitting jurisdiction or agency has taken relating to the Core Values.
- Be no more than three pages in length, including graphics or charts.

## Developing Project Recommendations

NVTA's approach to developing SYP project recommendations is holistic, and takes account of project eligibility, quantitative factors, qualitative considerations (such as Core Value alignment), and public comment.

## Definitions and Examples

### Equity

An equitable transportation system ensures fairness in mobility and accessibility, to meet the needs of the region and all travelers, particularly underserved populations. (e.g., low-income, minority, elderly, children, women, people with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), people with disabilities.) It facilitates social and economic opportunities through reliable and affordable transportation options. It recognizes past inequities, commits to addressing them when possible, and actively avoids further injustices.

#### Example of a project application that aligns with NVTA's Equity Core Value

Two jurisdictions are working together to develop a Bus Rapid Transit service that crosses jurisdictional boundaries. It will increase accessibility and mobility for underserved populations by connecting Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs) in both communities. The buses used in this service will be electric, further helping to reduce transportation emissions, which have disproportionate impacts on disadvantaged communities.<sup>1</sup>

### Safety

A safe transportation system minimizes fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all. It also addresses community perceptions of safety.

#### Example of a project application that aligns with NVTA's Safety Core Value

Citizens cite recurring "near miss" incidents at local intersections in their comments about feeling generally unsafe on certain roads, in response to a community survey. To address both the real and perceived safety issues, Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPIs)<sup>2</sup> and signal optimization are included in a corridor improvement project in the area.

### Sustainability

A sustainable transportation system meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. It considers sustainability to be comprised of three pillars, that focus on economic, environmental, and social impacts, and addresses the interactions between these.

#### Example of a project application that aligns with NVTA's Sustainability Core Value

A new shared use path is added to connect an existing region-wide trail network with separated, on-road bike facilities. The segment will minimize the use of natural resources in increasing the number of jobs, housing, and other destinations accessible to people biking and walking. This will also create the possibility of emissions reductions from vehicular trips, protecting air quality and other natural resources for the future.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.transportation.gov/priorities/equity/justice40/transportation-disadvantaged-census-tracts-historically-disadvantaged>

<sup>2</sup> [https://highways.dot.gov/safety/proven-safety-countermeasures/leading-pedestrian-interval#:~:text=A%20leading%20pedestrian%20interval%20\(LPI,to%20turn%20right%20or%20left.](https://highways.dot.gov/safety/proven-safety-countermeasures/leading-pedestrian-interval#:~:text=A%20leading%20pedestrian%20interval%20(LPI,to%20turn%20right%20or%20left.)