



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Monday, April 8, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
Hosted virtually via Zoom and streamed on YouTube.

MEETING SUMMARY

I. Call to Order/Welcome:

- Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.
- Attendees: This meeting was hosted virtually via Zoom and streamed online via YouTube.
 - **PPC Members:** Mayor Wilson (City of Alexandria); Board Member de Ferranti (Arlington County), Mayor Olem (Town of Herndon) and Ms. Hynes (Governor’s Appointee/CTB Member).
 - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon (CEO); Keith Jasper (Principal); Sree Nampoothiri (Senior Manager), Hannah Pajewski (Regional Transportation Planner)
 - **Jurisdiction/Agency Staff:** None.
 - **Others:** None.

II. Action Items:

- A. Summary Notes of November 21, 2022, Meeting:** The November 21, 2022, Planning and Programming Committee meeting summary was unanimously approved.

III. Discussion Items:

A. FY2024 Six Year Program Update:

- Dr. Nampoothiri presented an overview of the Six Year Program (SYP) process including:
 - Highlighting NVTA’s Core Values.
 - Goals, objectives, and measures of NVTA’s long-range multimodal transportation plan, TransAction.
 - Overview of the six adopted funding programs.
 - Overview of the Project Selection Process, including Eligibility, Congestion Reduction Relative to Cost (CRRC), TransAction Rating, Long Term Benefit, Qualitative Considerations, and Public Comments.
 - Sample Project Description Form.
 - A Summary of Applications.
 - The Current Six Year Program Schedule.
- Dr. Nampoothiri provided the group with updates from the ongoing FY2024-2029 SYP. He elaborated on the performance-based planning and programming activities that are based on a holistic approach with both quantitative and qualitative metrics to make project funding recommendations.
- Following Dr. Nampoothiri’s discussion on the FY2024-2029 SYP Candidate Projects, Ms. Hynes asked to clarify the number of continuation projects. These

projects are noted within the Previous NVTA Funds column on the provided summary spreadsheet. There are five projects that are continuation projects (projects that received previous NVTA Regional Revenue funds) for this Six Year Program.

- Following Dr. Nampoothiri's discussion of the TransAction Rating for the FY2024-FY2029 SYP Candidate Projects, Ms. Hynes asked if the TransAction Rating measures had been used previously to this cycle, and what observations have been made throughout this cycle. Dr. Nampootiri explained that this is the second time these factors have been used for SYP evaluation. This rating was developed and used when preparing TransAction. He observed that in previous cycles, submissions for larger or mega projects usually earn higher scores because they have higher impacts on the region according to multiple measures. Mayor Wilson added clarification to Ms. Hynes' question explaining the judgement of the TransAction Rating rubric has a lot to do with the competition of the projects.
- In regard to NVTA's evaluation of alignment with the Core Values, Ms. Hynes asked if all localities could receive a high score (green) if they do not have an Equity Emphasis Area (EEAs) within their region. Dr. Nampoothiri explained that NVTA reviews EEAs and other aspects of equity such as transit connections and access to jobs. Members, including Mayor Wilson and Ms. Hynes, suggested sharing specific examples and steps to better understand how candidate projects are evaluated for Equity.
- Ms. Hynes brought up the need for understanding the overall planned investment strategy for a project, including other sources of funds. Dr. Nampoothiri explained how projects are looked at for their synergies with previous NVTA funding, other applications and projects, and funds from other sources as part of evaluation. Dr. Nampoothiri suggested that NVTA can complete this review more comprehensively in the future.
- Ms. Backmon stated that NVTA is currently in the public comment period for the FY2204-2029 SYP until May 19, 2024. As of last Friday, April 5, 2024, NVTA has received 42 comments. The Authority meeting on Thursday, May 9, 2024, will be the Public Hearing for the FY2024-2029 SYP. As of this meeting, there are no participants signed up to speak at the Public Hearing.

B. Preliminary Deployment Plan (PDP) for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) System:

- Mr. Jasper, Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming, presented on the following topics:
 - NVTA's Primary Responsibilities
 - BRT in Six-Year Program (SYP) and TransAction
 - Purpose of the Preliminary Deployment Plan
 - PDP-BRT Schedule and it's four phases
 - Phase 1 Approach
- Mr. Jasper explained that this Preliminary Deployment Plan is to bridge the gap between TransAction and the Six Year Program by creating a knowledge base/resource platform for local jurisdictions to seek Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) implementation funding from NVTA. He explained the nearly half a billion dollar investment NVTA has already made in five different BRT lines under development in Northern Virginia, and the BRT/High Capacity Transit projects worth approximately \$10 billion included in TransAction. The PDP-BRT (Plan)

will include detailed analysis of ridership, congestion reduction impacts, operations, capital/operating costs, funding opportunities, governance considerations, etc. with public engagement throughout the process. He noted that the Plan development is currently in Phase 1 (data gathering) and future phases include Phase 2 (analysis), Phase 3 (public engagement) and Phase 4 (reporting). The Plan is expected to be adopted by the Authority in Fall 2025.

- Board Member de Ferranti asked how NVTA coordinates with regional jurisdictions, agencies and other organizations. Mr. Jasper explained that NVTA formed the BRT Planning Working Group (BRT PWG), which includes members from the Northern Virginia Region, Washington D.C., and Maryland, during TransAction. The BRT PWG has continued to be the central coordination group for the Preliminary Deployment Plan. Mr. Jasper discussed how NVTA acknowledges and uses work from other organizations, such as findings from studies by Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC). Board Member de Ferranti asked which Arlington County staff were members of Regional Jurisdiction and Agency Coordinating Committee (RJACC) and the BRT WG. Mr. Jasper informed that Rich Roisman is the representative of Arlington County and leads RJACC. He also informed that Dan Malouf and several other members represent Arlington County within the BRT PWG.
- Ms. Hynes suggested a few individuals such as Jennifer DeBruhl, who is retiring from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transport (DRPT), that would be a good resource for NVTA to learn from regarding their involvement in BRT developments across the region and Commonwealth.
- Mayor Wilson discussed being careful of language used when discussing and advertising BRT. NVTA should keep in mind to not suggest that the only way BRT is successful is to connect within a network or a system of BRT. One BRT line does not have to connect to another BRT line, but it should connect to an area. The City of Alexandria has the first BRT line within the region, which connects to Arlington County. Mayor Wilson noted that it is an effective use of time for people to think of BRT within planning and acknowledged the benefits of investing in BRT.
- Ms. Hynes brought up a point regarding state funding and dedicated lanes for BRT. She discussed that BRT should respect already developed areas, historic towns and existing environments, and that BRT does not have to include dedicated bus lanes for every route. Mayor Wilson discussed that if dedicated lanes were required for BRT everywhere within the region, including those in the City of Alexandria, it could not be implemented.

IV. NVTA Update:

- Ms. Backmon mentioned that NVTA's new address is 2600 Park Tower Drive, Vienna, and the next Authority meeting will be held in-person at this new office location on the first floor. Once NVTA's permanent office space is built, the meetings will be moved to the sixth floor. Ms. Backmon reminded the PPC members that NVTA's FY2025 budgets adoption is anticipated at the April 11, 2024, Authority meeting.

V. Adjourn:

- The next meeting will be on May 6th, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in person at NVTAs Offices, 2600 Park Tower Drive, Vienna, VA.
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.