



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, May 15, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
In-Person Meeting at NVTA Offices, 2600 Park Tower Drive, Vienna, Virginia
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 7:00 p.m.
- **Attendees:**
 - **TAC Members:** Randy Boice, Michelle Cavucci, Kerianne Masters, and Frank Spielberg attended in-person. Amy Morris, Karen Campblin, and Armand Ciccarelli participated virtually due to personal reasons.
 - **NVTA Staff:** Keith Jasper, Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming; Sree Nampoothiri, Senior Manager; and Ian Newman, Regional Transportation Planner.
 - **Others:** None.

II. Summary Notes of March 20, 2024, Meeting

- Approval of the summary notes of the March 20, 2024, meeting was not able to be made due to the lack of quorum. This action item was moved to the June 20, 2024, meeting.

III. FY2024-2029 Six Year Program Update

- Dr. Nampoothiri, Senior Manager, Transportation Planning and Programming at NVTA, presented on the following topics:
 1. NVTA's evaluation summary chart for all projects
 2. How NVTA Core Values are built into the TransAction Rating's performance measures
 3. Definitions and examples of the three NVTA Core Values (Equity, Safety, and Sustainability)
 4. The candidate projects evaluation methodology
 5. The results of project applications' alignment with Core Values

- Dr. Nampoothiri emphasized that this is a pilot evaluation, and the results will not be considered for this Six Year Program funding recommendation.
- Concerning the third topic listed above, Mr. Spielberg asked if NVTA considers future maintenance costs on the economic pillar of Sustainability. Dr. Nampoothiri responded that it is not considered as part of this evaluation procedure.
- Relating to the fourth topic, Mr. Spielberg questioned if there are any Core Value components in the candidate submissions that conflict with each other, when Dr. Nampoothiri discussed synergy among Core Values. For example, if a project scores quite well in Safety but not helping in the realm of Equity. Dr. Nampoothiri mentioned that in some cases there are some conflicting components.
- Regarding topic five, Mr. Spielberg shared his view that the applicants probably were able to identify some alignment with NVTA Core Values. This is in response to Dr. Nampoothiri showing that all project applications scored at least a “medium” across each of the three Core Values. Dr. Nampoothiri added that there was a range in how much detail and data was provided to NVTA across the project applications, and that projects that gave more detail and data to showcase how it addresses a Core Value generally performed better in the ranking.
- Relating to the fourth and fifth topics, Ms. Cavucci stated that this evaluation is quite challenging since projects vary across modes. She asked if there was any consideration to rank projects in each of the Core Values relative to each other. Dr. Nampoothiri told the Committee that that was attempted. Ms. Cavucci mentioned that stratifying relative to each other would ensure that there would always be a high, medium, and low category with projects, and argued that this should be attempted. Mr. Spielberg responded by asking Ms. Cavucci why she believes that one-third of the projects ought to be in the “low/poor” category across each of the Core Values. She re-stated that this would be a relative comparison. Mr. Spielberg urged staff to think about the implications down the line of doing this and stated his concern of the difficulty due to the subjectivity of the scoring. He then asked if NVTA staff found much consistency or variation across the rankings by different reviewers. Dr. Nampoothiri mentioned in some cases there were variations. Mr. Spielberg asked if the reviewers were staff members with different backgrounds, to which Dr. Nampoothiri confirmed affirmatively.
- Concerning the fourth and fifth topics, Chair Boice mentioned that this Core Values evaluation has never been attempted in previous funding programs and reminded the Committee that Congestion Reduction Related to Cost (CRRC) is the principal driver of project rankings. Mr. Spielberg asked what would happen if a project scored very highly on CRRC but very poorly on Core Values, and Chair

Boice responded that he doubts that that would ever happen. Ms. Cavucci stated that it is helpful to see Core Values quantified as part of the performance measures in TransAction ratings. Dr. Nampoothiri told the Committee that by law, NVTA must give priority to CRRC, but qualitative measures come into play after this.

- Regarding the fourth and fifth topics, Ms. Campblin asked if there was a way to show the numerical value for the Core Values ranking. Chair Boice and Dr. Nampoothiri both responded that that would be too detailed for a qualitative measure since the categories are more relevant and informative than the numbers being shown. Mr. Ciccarelli pointed out that the score for each Core Value is an average of three scores, and so this has the potential to be quite subjective based on the feelings of the scores as another reason to not utilize the number. Ms. Cavucci inquired if NVTA staff examined other best practices on evaluating Core Values. Dr. Nampoothiri mentioned the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) was examined as well as other metro areas similar to the footprint of NVTA's. Ms. Masters then questioned Dr. Nampoothiri if it was ever considered to get more than three people to act as reviewers. Mr. Jasper responded that that was not considered for this cycle, but at the end of each process, an evaluation is considered for how the methodology could be enhanced. Mr. Jasper also mentioned that the Core Values statement was an optional feature of this cycle, but it is expected to be mandatory for the next cycle. Ms. Cavucci pondered if a list of prompt questions could help project applicants, and Dr. Nampoothiri mentioned that this is being considered as part of the application itself for the next cycle.
- Mr. Spielberg asked if there were many who did not submit a Core Values statement and if there was a difference in the number or quality of submissions by jurisdiction. Dr. Nampoothiri mentioned that there were jurisdictions who did not submit a Core Values statement and that some statements were very well written.

IV. Preliminary Deployment Plan for Regional BRT System (PDP-BRT)

- Mr. Jasper, Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming at NVTA, discussed the following topics:
 1. A short reasoning for the PDP-BRT project
 2. The strategy of "Think Big, Start Small, Build Momentum"
 3. Entering of the phase containing an online survey and pop-up events around the region
 4. Two-part hybrid work session with NVTA members
 5. Phase III of the PDP-BRT
- Mr. Spielberg mentioned that he believes that there was a specific report that was recently released on what constitutes a BRT system, and how BRT is being sold

but is quite different than good bus service. Mr. Jasper mentioned that this report is being taken into consideration by the consultants.

V. NVTA Update

- Mr. Jasper shared the NVTA update. He stated that the NVTA will have its next Authority meeting on June 13 and reviewed what would be on the agenda. Mr. Jasper added that NVTA staff will participate in Bike2Work Day on Friday May 17 at the Rosslyn pit stop. Mr. Jasper also shared that the next TAC meeting on Thursday, June 20 will be the meeting where NVTA staff seeks the TAC endorsement on the Six Year Program staff recommendations.

VI. Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m. The next meeting will be on June 20, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. and will be held in-person at NVTA Offices.