



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING COORDINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 6:30 pm

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

- Mayor Colbert (Town of Vienna), Chair of the Committee, welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
- Attendees: This was an in-person meeting held at NVTA's new offices at 2600 Park Tower Drive, Vienna, VA 22180.
 - **PCAC Members:** Mayor Colbert (Chair, Town of Vienna); Supervisor Walkinshaw (Fairfax County); Supervisor Franklin (Prince William County); Council Member Underhill (City of Falls Church); Vice Mayor Hedrick (Town of Herndon).
 - **NVTA Staff:** Keith Jasper (Principal, Planning and Programming); Sree Nampoothiri (Senior Manager, Planning and Programming); Harun Rashid (Planning Analytics Manager).
 - **Other:** Sara Allred (Fairfax County); Jaleh Moslehi (Town of Herndon).

II. Action Items:

- A. **Summary Notes of March 27, 2024, Meeting:** The March 27, 2024, meeting summary was approved unanimously.

III. Discussion/Information Items:

A. **FY2024-2029 Six Year Program (SYP) Update:**

- Dr. Nampoothiri started his presentation with an overview of the project selection process at NVTA, with the evaluation metrics to make project funding recommendations. The highlight of this presentation was to brief committee members on the evaluation process for a new initiative – to evaluate candidate projects based on how they address NVTA's three Core Values – Equity, Safety, and Sustainability.
- One of the quantitative metrics in the evaluation process is TransAction rating, which is a combined score derived from a set of ten performance measures. As a part of the TransAction update process in 2022, each of these ten measures were identified with one or more Core Values, on a subjective basis. To begin an internal pilot evaluation of candidate projects in this

funding cycle for Core Values, staff worked on a more defined workflow with scoring criteria. Dr. Nampoothiri emphasized that this is a pilot evaluation, and the results will not be considered for this SYP funding recommendation. Dr. Nampoothiri provided details of this evaluation process, which included – definition of three Core Values, evaluation method guidelines to applicants, and a color-coded scoresheet showing results for each of the 24 projects. This color-coded scoresheet showed project performance in three categories – high, medium, and low. All projects were found to be in either high or medium categories, meaning they all contributed to some extent towards aligning with the three Core Values. After this, the process details were further demonstrated with three example projects – VRE Backlick Road Station Improvements, Northfax Network Improvement, Route 15 at Braddock Road Roundabout in Loudoun County.

- Supervisor Walkinshaw clarified color code definition for Long Term Benefit, with the example of Prince William County’s performance. He also shared his concern with this evaluation process – if project benefits are counted more than once, since TransAction ratings are already identified with each Core Value. He added this process may place more resource requirements on applicant staff, giving advantage to larger jurisdictions with more staff resources. In response, staff explained the TransAction process did not capture the full definition of the Core Values, as was attempted in this process. NVT staff has been in close contact with applicant staff throughout the process and did not receive any specific concern regarding resource constraints for Core Value requirements.
- Council Member Underhill asked if projects can be conditionally recommended for funding, based on their alignment with Core Values or to address other citizen concerns raised in public comment. Staff responded that although it has not been done historically, an iterative feedback process can address such concerns in a future cycle.
- Vice Mayor Hedrick asked for clarification of the weight of Transportation System Redundancy measure in the TransAction rating scheme. To this discussion, Mr. Jasper explained the performance measure of Transportation System Redundancy which relates to the objective of “maintain operations of the regional transportation system during extreme conditions” is outlined in Virginia Code and aligns with HB 599 requirements.
- Mayor Colbert asked for clarification Equity scores for the Route 15/Braddock Road roundabout project. Dr. Nampoothiri explained the review of the application and what was provided on the project description.
- Supervisor Franklin opined that Core Value evaluations need to be conducted for the whole community, rather than on a single project-by-project basis. Dr. Nampoothiri welcomed the feedback and stated staff can look into those

aspects and how it has been evaluated at other similar transportation organizations.

- Dr. Nampoothiri highlighted the next steps noting the anticipated Authority adoption of the FY2024-2029 SYP at the July Authority meeting.

- IV. Preliminary Deployment Plan for Regional BRT System (PDP-BRT):** Mr. Jasper provided a verbal update for this project. Currently the project is in Phase 1 which includes the following tasks – identify best practices, community engagement, and to define an analysis methodology. For community engagement, a series of pop-up events are in the works to solicit responses to an online survey. As a part of this process, multiple focus groups discussions were organized and completed. As a precursor to Phase 2 analyses activities, a two-part work session is planned for Authority members to present on the evaluation framework, in June/July Authority meetings. According to the current schedule, the PDP-BRT will be approved by Authority in the summer of 2025 (June/July 2025).
- V. NVTA Update:** Mr. Jasper mentioned the ribbon cutting ceremony for an NVTA-funded project in Route 7 corridor in Fairfax County. He also highlighted the agenda items for the June 13th Authority meeting a work session for PDP-BRT, summary of public comments, approval of FY2024-2029 program PayGo funding amount.
- VI. Adjourn:** With the proposed SYP update adoption at the July Authority meeting, there are no substantive agenda items for this Committee in July, and the July meeting may be cancelled.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.