

PLANNING COORDINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

5:30 p.m.

2600 Park Tower Drive, Suite 601

Vienna, VA 22180

This meeting was held in person and virtually via Zoom and livestreamed via [YouTube](#).

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Call to Order/Welcome

- ✓ The meeting was held in person and virtually via Zoom. Chair Colbert called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

- ✓ **Attendees:**

- Planning Coordination Advisory Committee (PCAC) Members:** Mayor Linda Colbert (Town of Vienna); Board Member Julius Spain (Arlington County); Vice Mayor Clark Hedrick (Town of Herndon); Council Member Canek Aguirre (City of Alexandria); Supervisor Jeanne LaCroix (Prince William County); and Supervisor James Bierman (Fairfax County) attended the meeting in person. Supervisor Sylvia Glass (Loudoun County) and Council Member Selonia Miles (Town of Dumfries) attended the meeting virtually from their respective homes due to health reasons. Council Member Thomas Peterson (City of Fairfax) and Mayor Christopher Bertaut (Town of Purcellville) attended the meeting virtually at agreed upon locations due to work conflicts.
- Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) Staff:** Monica Backmon (Chief Executive Officer); Sree Nampoothiri (Senior Manager, Transportation Planning & Programming); Keith Jasper (Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming); Ashkan Gholamialam (Regional Transportation Modeler); and Griffin Frank (Regional Transportation Planner).
- Others:** Sara Allred (Fairfax County)

2. Summary Notes of March 25, 2026, Meeting

- ✓ A motion to approve the summary notes of the March 25, 2026, meeting was passed unanimously.

3. FY2026-2031 Six Year Program Update: Public Comment Results

- ✓ Dr. Nampoothiri reviewed the FY2026-2031 Six Year Program (SYP) process and the tasks leading up to the public comment results.
- ✓ The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) received 27 applications requesting approximately \$1.265 billion. The applications included a larger share of active transportation projects as compared to previous funding cycles.
- ✓ The public comment period ran from April 2, 2026, through May 17, 2026. NVTA published project summaries, evaluation results, maps, schedules and cost

information for each project application and accepted comments through an online form, mail, phone and during the May 14, 2026, Authority public hearing.

- ✓ NVTA received approximately 700 project-level comments from nearly 265 unique commentors, including 20 public hearing speakers. This was relatively similar to the number of commentors, and comments received from the previous SYP cycle.
- ✓ Most projects received primarily supportive comments. The City of Falls Church's Haycock Road Shared Use Path and Annandale Road Multimodal Improvements projects received the greatest number of supportive comments, followed by Arlington County's Custis Trail Widening and Modernization project. Prince William County's Van Buren Road North Extension: Route 234 to Cardinal Drive project received an almost equal number of supportive and opposing comments.
- ✓ Commentors' home ZIP Codes generally showed that comments originated near the commented project's locations. However, some opposing comments came from further distances away and showed a broad opposition to roadway projects rather than concerns specific to a particular application.
- ✓ Dr. Nampoothiri explained that public comments are one of four key components of the SYP evaluation process. Staff must give priority to Congestion Reduction Relative to Cost (CRRC), as required by state law, while considering TransAction ratings, Long-Term Benefits (LTB), qualitative considerations such as project readiness and individual jurisdiction's/agency's project delivery history as well as public comments.
- ✓ The discussion on the public comment results is summarized below:
 - i. Supervisor LaCroix asked what concerns were raised about the Van Buren Road project. Dr. Nampoothiri responded supporters stated the project could reduce cut-through traffic and improve safety in the Montclair area. Opponents, particularly residents near the Four Seasons community, expressed concern that the new roadway would bring traffic, noise and visual impacts closer to their neighborhood. Some additional opposition consisted of generic comments against roadway construction. Ms. LaCroix followed up by asking what is done when comments identify legitimate project concerns. Dr. Nampoothiri said the public engagement process allows the sponsor to evaluate and address those concerns. NVTA only funded the project's design phase in a previous SYP and Prince William County was expected to continue outreach and consider those previous community concerns as the design advances.
 - ii. Board Member Spain asked how CRRC is calculated. Dr. Nampoothiri responded that NVTA compares regional travel-model results with and without each project for 2030 and 2045, then estimates the amount of congestion reduced for each year after the project is expected to open. This total provides the benefits through 2045 and is divided by the project's total cost.
 - iii. Board Member Spain asked whether NVTA had considered more targeted outreach in the communities where candidate projects are located and how NVTA measures the success of its engagement. Dr. Nampoothiri responded

that outreach was done through the region's Public Information Officer (PIO) group, the Regional Jurisdiction and Agency Coordinating Committee (RJACC), social media, local meetings and the required public hearing. Staff also promoted the comment opportunity at Bike to Work Day in Ballston, Arlington. Ms. Backmon stated that written comments have become more common since the pandemic in 2020 so digital outreach has grown in popularity while there were several opportunities that staff sought out to promote engagement in-person.

- iv. Supervisor Glass asked from where the opposing comments for the Route 50 North Collector Road project originated. Dr. Nampoothiri replied that the comments did not come from the immediate project area based on the ZIP Code information collected, which was portrayed on the map.
- v. Vice Mayor Hedrick asked how comments are weighted in the selection process. Ms. Backmon said that there is no single factor that determines the recommendation. NVTA has several state-mandated measures that must be considered along with public comments. Staff review comments qualitatively, focusing on the reasons offered, the level of project-specific detail, the commenter's connection to the area. Vice Mayor Hedrick followed up by asking if any metric or percentage is applied to comments. Ms. Backmon explained that public comments are considered qualitatively and are not assigned a numerical weight, as doing so could unfairly favor projects that generate the greatest number of comments. Instead, staff review the substance of each comment and share all feedback with project sponsors, particularly detailed comments that may identify project-specific concerns or potential improvements.
- vi. Vice Mayor Hedrick suggested that NVTA could provide the public comment analysis to the committee without allowing it to directly affect staff recommendations. Ms. Backmon stated the SYP public comments can identify project-specific issues that may not otherwise be known, and that comments are shared with project sponsors.
- vii. Chair Colbert noted the number of commenters was relatively small compared with the populations affected by the projects. She suggested that the substance of individual comments may be valuable when it identifies a potential project improvement. Ms. Backmon replied that in some cases, this feedback has led sponsors to adjust project scopes, such as requesting funding only for preliminary engineering so that additional public engagement and consensus-building can occur before seeking funding for later phases.
- viii. Board Member Spain requested key themes of the public comments, including the reasons commenters supported or opposed individual projects, rather than relying only on comment totals. Dr. Nampoothiri stated that a report summarizing themes and including the full, unedited comments was being prepared and would be shared with the committee soon.

4. NVTA Update

- ✓ Ms. Backmon provided the NVTA update. The Authority's June meeting will be held virtually, with approval of the approximately \$775.8 million Pay-Go funding amount as the primary action item. She explained that confirmation of the available funding amount is the final step needed for staff to develop funding recommendations.

5. Adjourn

- ✓ The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.
- ✓ The next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at NVTA's office.