

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

7:00 p.m. EDT

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 Boice called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
- ✓ **Attendees:**
 - i. **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Members:** Chair Randy Boice, Karen Campblin; Michelle Cavucci (virtual due to a competing meeting); Armand Ciccarelli (virtual due to childcare); Amy Morris; Frank Spielberg; Shanjiang Zhu.
 - ii. **Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) Staff:** Keith Jasper, Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming; Dr. Sree Nampoothiri, Senior Manager, Transportation Planning & Programming; Alyssa Beyer, Regional Transportation Planner; Ashkan Gholamialam, Regional Transportation Modeler
 - iii. **Others:** None

2. Summary Notes of February 18, 2026, Meeting

- ✓ Mr. Spielberg noted that, at the bottom of page 3, it says “Mr. Spielberg stated that intrazonal numbers were probably generated by the model but not assigned to a jurisdiction.” He clarified that it should state that the trips would not have been assigned to the network and requested that this language be adjusted.
- ✓ A motion to approve the summary notes of the February 18, 2026, meeting, contingent on the requested change, was made by Mr. Spielberg and seconded by Ms. Campbelin. The motion passed unanimously.

3. FY2026-2031 Six Year Program Update: Evaluation Results

- ✓ Dr. Nampoothiri informed the TAC that NVTA staff have finished the regional analysis for the project selection process. The candidate projects are multimodal and distributed across the region, with a concentration in Arlington.
- ✓ Next, Dr. Nampoothiri reviewed the projects’ Congestion Reduction Relative to Cost (CRRC) rankings. explained the projects briefly and explained that the full project details will be available during public comment.
 - i. The committee remarked on how well the technology projects scored. Dr. Nampoothiri explained that the high scores associated with technology projects are often due to the affordability of these projects. The project with

- the highest CRRC score, Arlington County’s Next Generation Bus Rider Info, is a project that is expected to increase ridership due to improved communication, resulting in more efficient rider experiences.
- ii. Dr. Zhu confirmed if the CRRC is based only on capital costs, or if it also includes consideration of maintenance and operational costs. Dr. Nampoothiri confirmed that it is based on capital costs.
 - iii. Chair Boice asked if the Route 50 North Collector Road Project from Loudoun County is still planned to go through the airport property. Dr. Nampoothiri confirmed that it is touching the boundary at the border, and an intersection with the road from the airport to the museum is still planned.
 - iv. Mr. Spielberg stated that the wording “improvement” in some of the project titles may indicate a bias and recommended using the word “modification” instead. Ms. Morris stated that if there is a benefit, the word improvement is fitting.
- ✓ Dr. Nampoothiri then explained the components that are included in TransAction Rating calculations. Some of these evaluation measures are included in NVTA’s legal requirements, and others have been included by NVTA. Measures that the TransAction Rating is based on include reduction in Person Hours of Delay (PHD) and other congestion factors, accessibility improvements, safety, emissions reductions, and more.
 - i. Mr. Spielberg asked if the sharp decline in the TransAction Rating is normal, and Dr. Nampoothiri responded that it depends on the year, but because the projects are scaled relative to each other, one mega project can skew the scale, so it is not abnormal.
 - ii. Chair Boice commented that the evaluation process is much more nuanced than it used to be.
 - ✓ Dr. Nampoothiri reviewed Long Term Benefit (LTB) again and explained that, in some cases, LTB considerations might impact which projects are recommended. However, LTB is not expected to be balanced in a single cycle, as it depends on a variety of factors including the number and type of projects that are applied for, project costs, the project sponsors, as well as available funding.
 - ✓ Next, Dr. Nampoothiri reviewed the findings of the qualitative evaluation. He explained which criteria staff evaluate and how they are ranked and then simplified. The criteria include past performance, policy compliance, reimbursement status, alignment with NVTA Core Values, and more.
 - i. Mr. Spielberg asked if the color coding represents green as desirable and brown as non-desirable, and Dr. Nampoothiri confirmed that is the case.
 - ii. When Dr. Nampoothiri reviewed the LTB rating on this table, he reiterated that an imbalance in LTB is not expected to be resolved in a single cycle, but it can influence selection between two projects which are otherwise similar in benefit. Mr. Jasper shared that LTB has influenced project recommendation during one cycle in the past.
 - iii. Mr. Spielberg commented on how project costs vary substantially in their specificity and recommended that applicants round to the nearest thousand.

Dr. Nampoothiri agreed that it would be good to simplify the numbers this way.

- ✓ Dr. Nampoothiri then showed an example of a project description form, indicating that all this information is available on the website if the TAC members wish to review them. They will also be available to reference during public engagement.
- ✓ Lastly, Dr. Nampoothiri reviewed the SYP schedule again, highlighting that the TAC would be provided with an overview of public comment at their May meeting, which is why that meeting was pushed back a week from the usual schedule. At that point, staff will request TAC to review and potentially endorse their funding recommendations at the June Meeting.

4. NVTA Update

- ✓ Mr. Jasper provided the NVTA update. He shared that the TransAction Kickoff Meeting with ICF occurred on March 12, and the TAC will see TransAction content for information and action in the autumn.
- ✓ He also shared that NVTA's Transportation Technology Roundtable is on March 25. Registration is full, so he asked TAC members to reach out if they want to attend the event. He shared that NVTA is excited to offer AICP CM credits through the event.
 - i. Mr. Spielberg mentioned that it would be nice to get professional engineering professional development hours (PDH) as well. Mr. Jasper said that NVTA would consider pursuing that for next year's event. Mr. Gholamialam offered that the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) often provides events with these credits, and Ms. Cavucci stated that the events do require accreditation.
- ✓ Mr. Jasper told the TAC that the next Authority meeting is April 9, which is not expected to have a very full agenda. The SYP public hearing will be held during the May meeting.
- ✓ Lastly, Mr. Jasper shared that NVTA staff will be attending the Tysons Community Alliance's Transportation Open House on April 30th. While this is not a public engagement event for the SYP, it will occur during that public comment period. Dr. Nampoothiri also shared that the annual VDOT Joint Agency Meeting, typically held in the spring, may also occur during the public comment period. NVTA staff will also have a table at a Bike to Work Day event, likely in Arlington.

5. Adjourn

- ✓ The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.
- ✓ The next meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in person at the NVTA Offices.