



**Northern Virginia Transportation Authority**  
*The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia*

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, June 14th, 2022, 6:30 pm**  
**Northern Virginia Transportation Authority**  
**Live-streamed on [YouTube](#)**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**I. Call to Order/Welcome**

- Chair Boice called the meeting to order at 6:30: pm at the NVTA Office. Chair Boice introduced the two new members of the committee, Michelle Cavucci, and Kerianne Masters.
- **Attendees:**
  - **TAC Members:** Randy Boice, Karen Campblin, Michelle Cavucci, Armand Ciccarelli, Kerianne Masters, Amy Morris, and Frank Spielberg.
  - **NVTA Staff:** Monica Backmon, CEO; Keith Jasper, Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming; Dr. Sree Nampoothiri, Senior Transportation Planner; and Ian Newman, Regional Transportation Planner.
  - **Others:** Robert Whitfield (Fairfax County Taxpayer Alliance), Meeting was also live streamed on YouTube.

**II. Summary Notes of March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Meeting**

- Chair Boice called for a motion to approve the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting summary notes from a member who was present at the meeting. Motion to approve the summary notes of the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting was made by Mr. Spielberg. Seconded by Ms. Morris. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Summary Notes of April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Meeting**

- As Chair Boice was absent for the April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, meeting, he asked for Mr. Ciccarelli, who led the meeting, to call for a motion to approve the meeting summary. Mr. Ciccarelli called for a motion to approve the meeting summary notes for the April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, meeting. Motion to approve the summary notes of the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting was made by Mr. Spielberg. Seconded by Ms. Morris. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Summary Notes of May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Meeting**

- Chair Boice called for a motion to approve the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting summary notes from a member who was present at the meeting. Motion to approve this meeting's summary notes was made by Ms. Morris. Seconded by Mr. Ciccarelli. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. Review FY 2022-2027 Six Year Program Staff Recommendations**

- Mr. Jasper presented the context of NVTA funding programs to date and that the FY2022-2027 Six Year Program cycle is extremely competitive based on the total request and available funds. He showed how the previous programmed 106 total projects and \$2.5 billion dollars of funding has been allocated by primary mode. He noted that the 33 total roadway projects resulted in 140 new/additional lane miles resulting in approximately 3.27% increase in lane miles in the region, excluding local and interstate roads. He also noted the addition of 33 centerline miles of bus rapid transit (BRT) added as part of this funding.
- Mr. Jasper then presented charts, showing the number of applications, the requested amount (approximately \$1.2 billion dollars), and total project cost (approximately \$3 billion dollars), all of which were divided by mode.
  - Ms. Backmon mentioned that some projects received federal funds and SMART SCALE funds, and project endorsement of their applications are sought from NVTA.
  - Mr. Jasper added that what is being discussed are regional, 70% revenues, but the additional 30% revenues, used by nine member jurisdictions, are also used as a supplementary funding source.
- Mr. Jasper then shared the key components of the project selection process: eligibility, quantitative analysis, qualitative analysis, and public comment. He emphasized that staff project selection recommendations are not based on a single factor though Congestion Reduction Relative to Cost (CRRC) provides the initial ranking. The Long-Term Benefit (LTB) factor was particularly emphasized, and it was noted the lack of specific definition of LTB by the enabling legislation.
  - Chair Boice mentioned that this is an important feature in terms of a regional scope between counties benefitting from numerous intangibles.
  - Mr. Jasper noted that defining LTB took almost all of 2014 for NVTA, and that its principles were established in December 2014 and were intended to be explored after 10 years. These principles are applied if there is an imbalance of benefit.
- Mr. Jasper then showed a chart that is designed to help find a balance between the share of revenue and share of benefits to help understand LTB, the summary table of the quantitative and qualitative analyses for each project along with their CRRC rank, and the public comments bar chart for each project. He pointed out the Arlington County's Ballston-MU Metrorail station second entrance project, the City of Falls Church's North

Washington Street Multimodal Improvements project, both of which received extensive public approval, and Prince William County's Van Buren Road North Extension project, which received negative and positive comments in an approximately 2:1 proportion.

- Mr. Jasper highlighted the project breakdown in that NVTA staff is recommending 20 of 26 candidate projects, 17 of 20 for full and three for partial funding. Seven recommended projects are continuation projects - previously funded project or closely related to a previously funded project. Staff is not recommending funding 6 of 26 projects, two of which are continuation projects that received NVTA funding in the past. He pointed out that \$1.4 million is left unprogrammed.
  - Ms. Morris asked how much weight for projects being considered for funding is attributed to public comment. Mr. Jasper responded that this is one of multiple factors, but that no one factor dominates.
  - Chair Boice mentioned that lower CRRC projects were more quality-of-life projects and did not work towards the congestion relief factor enough.
  - Ms. Backmon mentioned that concerning the Van Buren Road project, it had a CRRC ranking of #6 on the list but received considerable public negative comments, which led to a partial funding recommendation. This shows quantitative, qualitative, and public comment data on a project to determine a recommendation.
- Mr. Jasper then shared the importance of recommendations to be both geographically and modally balanced and mentioned that only 0.2% of the total Six-Year-Program (SYP) recommended is unprogrammed (\$1,408,156).
- Mr. Jasper showed the breakdown of applications and requested amount by jurisdiction and reviewed the three largest recommended funding allocations are all continuation projects.
  - Chair Boice asked how the Metrorail projects are resolved to be funded in the context of Commonwealth diverting NVTA funding to Metro.
  - Ms. Backmon noted that the NVTA funding diverted to Metro is for State of Good Repair projects. She mentioned that NVTA only funds capital projects and discussed multiple sources of NVTA's revenues. She also mentioned the difference of how Metro projects are funded in Virginia versus how they are funded in DC and Maryland, as the District and the Maryland, respectively, pay, but localities in Virginia, primarily pay for Metro capital and operating costs.
  - Ms. Cavucci mentioned that this is Arlington's only application and that this is perhaps a strategic move by them.
- Mr. Jasper then expanded on the four other continuation projects that will receive funding and the list of 10 projects that are recommended for the first time.
  - Chair Boice mentioned that one project on this list, Route 7 Corridor ITS Implementation Program is ranked #1 in CRRC though it showed as #2 on Mr. Jasper's list. This was determined to be a typo; Chair Boice was correct.

- Mr. Jasper then discussed the six projects not being recommended for funding and explained the primary reasons behind why each project in this list did not receive funding recommendation. Discussion on funding Right-of-Way (ROW) costs ensued, specifically in determining a jurisdiction's ability to fund the construction phase if ROW is funded and NVTA's previous experience with funding ROW in the region.
- Mr. Jasper finally showed the number of new lane miles if this funding recommendation is endorsed, from 140 miles in 12 years of funding to 172 miles in 14 years of funding. Excluding interstate and local roads, this represents an approximate 4% increase in lane miles.
- Mr. Jasper also explained the reasoning of recommending only the preliminary engineering (PE) phase for three projects. He then noted the next steps highlighting that this presentation will be given to the next two committees and that the Authority is expected to adopt the SYP at its July 14 meeting.
- Mr. Jasper then directed Mr. Newman to show two supplemental documents, one being the FY 2022-2027 SYP candidate project location map, and the other being the project summary table of all 26 projects examined in the SYP ranked by their CRRC rating and the recommended projects highlighted.
  - Chair Boice asked if the TAC agrees with the funding recommendations and the rationale. He invited members of the TAC to discuss.
  - Mr. Spielberg provided his full support of the technical procedures outlined by Mr. Jasper during his presentation that resulted in the analysis presented.
  - Ms. Cavucci asked if, when it came to the two projects not recommended for funding due to a county bond referendum if this was a happenstance of the timing when project applications were submitted. She followed with why they were ranked and considered if they were funded by this manner.
  - Chair Boice responded by mentioning that sometimes counties and jurisdictions will submit a project to see, "if the project will stick." He noted that many times, the bond does not fully fund the projects. This is a common practice to see if they can receive the additional funding needed. Ms. Backmon confirmed Chair Boice's statement and added that although the bond was approved, the County Board has not issued debt yet.
  - Ms. Cavucci then asked for clarification on each project's CRRC ranking and if this is the reason these projects are not receiving funding. Ms. Backmon responded that though these projects have some funding, and they are waiting on board action. She added that NVTA is not supposed to supplant projects that have other identified funding with NVTA funds.
  - Mr. Jasper mentioned that this is not unprecedented and gave an example with Loudoun County where NVTA reduced the funding amount since the project received federal funding after the project application was submitted to NVTA.

- Ms. Cavucci also asked if the nature of the opposition in public comment, in other words, the content of the negative comment, is taken into consideration. Mr. Jasper responded that it is a matter of the volume or the number of comments and that NVTa encourages the project applicants to review the concerns, and that this is expected to occur during the PE phase of the project. Ms. Backmon added that comments could be derived as personally against a project, but other times, they are the result of organizations that are fundamentally against certain types of projects. All comments are reported though, she mentioned, and that NVTa does not make judgement on the nature of comments.
- Mr. Ciccarelli then asked, when it comes to partially funded projects, the amount requested appears to be a very small portion of the total project cost and how can the project use it? Ms. Backmon and Mr. Jasper confirmed that the funds would cover 100% of the PE request. Ms. Backmon noted that some larger localities can put in other own funds to ensure that projects advance. She added that for the next call for projects, these projects may be in a better position financially to have additional funding sources behind it.
- Chair Boice echoed Mr. Spielberg’s comments and asked for a motion to approve the NVTa Staff recommendations for the FY2022-2027 SYP. Ms. Morris made a motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Ciccarelli. The motion passed unanimously.
- Chair Boice allowed Mr. Whitfield, a guest attending the meeting in person, to express his concern over project cost increases, cost effectiveness, Metro project funding in the context of low ridership during pandemic, etc. Discussion between Ms. Backmon, Chair Boice, and Mr. Whitfield ensued over Mr. Whitfield’s concerns and clarified the program’s funding cycle years (revenues from FY2026 and 2027 will be used for this set of projects).

**VI. Status of the TransAction Plan Update**

- Mr. Jasper mentioned that TransAction is moving forward and on the same evening the Authority is meeting to adopt the SYP, staff is planning to seek their approval for the TransAction public comment period beginning in early August and ending in September with a September date for the public hearing. TransAction is expected to be adopted by end of the calendar year.
- An updated project list is being finalized, and the Plan document will be in an advanced draft by the next TAC meeting in July.

**VII. NVTa Updates**

- Ms. Backmon gave the NVTa updates. She mentioned the General Assembly will reconvene by Friday at noon, and discussion on the proposed gas tax repeal will occur. Ms. Backmon also clarified the date of the next TAC meeting is July 20<sup>th</sup>. Chair Boice

asked if this date would work for those in attendance, to which there was no shown opposition, except for Ms. Cavucci.

### **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.