



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

PLANNING COORDINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 20, 2024, 5:00 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 5:10 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); Board Member Cunningham (Arlington County); Supervisor Walkinshaw (Fairfax County); Supervisor Franklin (Prince William County); Council Member Bagley (City of Alexandria); Council Member Underhill (City of Falls Church); Council Member Stehle (City of Fairfax); Mayor Milan (Town of Purcellville).
Alternate: Supervisor Saines (for Supervisor Glass, Loudoun County).
 - **NVTa Staff:** Monica Backmon (Chief Executive Officer); Keith Jasper (Principal, Planning and Programming); Sree Nampoothiri (Senior Manager, Planning and Programming); Harun Rashid (Planning Analytics Manager).
 - **Other:** Rich Roisman (Arlington County); Jaleh Moslehi (Town of Herndon); Staff Aide for Supervisor Saines.

II. Action Items:

A. Summary Notes of May 22, 2024, Meeting: The May 22, 2024, meeting summary was approved unanimously.

B. Review FY2024-2029 Six Year Program Staff Recommendations.

- Mr. Jasper started his presentation with a short video on NVTa's Six Year Program (SYP) process, which was followed by an overview of this round of project funding recommendations and summary trends in public comments. He then shared more details on the decision-making process for full, partial, and no funding recommendations.
- In this funding cycle, there were 24 eligible candidate projects that were evaluated with a set of quantitative and qualitative considerations, and then presented for public comments. Of these 24 projects, 22 projects are being recommended for funding, focusing on major multi-modal transportation corridors in Northern Virginia, projects that implement transportation technology solutions, and overall maintaining a geographical/modal balance. Two projects were not recommended for funding because they have been previously funded with NVTa Regional Revenues and declared as fully

funded - Blenheim Boulevard (formerly, Old Lee Highway) Multimodal Improvements (City of Fairfax), CC2DCA Multimodal Connection (Arlington County).

- During and after this presentation, committee members requested clarification on several aspects of funding criteria and shared their concerns and suggestions for the recommended action. Below is a highlight:
 - *On Long Term Benefit analysis, does it cover a six-year period (Chair Colbert)?* The HB 2313 funding legislation, that states each locality's benefit should be proportional to its revenue, did not clearly identify a study period or other analysis parameters. Based on recommendations developed by a subcommittee of NVTa's Financial Working Group, comprising of jurisdictional and agency staff and the Council of Counsels, the Authority approved a set of principles to determine Long Term Benefit in its December 11, 2014, meeting. Staff developed a detailed methodology based on these principles, to derive revenue estimates and transportation benefits that are location and trip based.
 - *Will there be any effort to understand and improve the diminishing rate of public comments (Chair Colbert)?* Yes, this will be a part of the "lessons learned" process conducted by NVTa staff after each funding program is adopted. Although positive public comments for a specific project is helpful in funding decision-making, it is not a straight relationship.
 - *How do local priorities impact funding decisions (Supervisor Walkinshaw)?* In most cases, this is a tie-breaking factor when everything else is equal.
 - *Two questions need to be considered when dealing with projects' cost overrun issues – due to changes/maturity level in the design process, or cost escalation due to market fluctuations (Board member Cunningham).* Yes, at the same time, NVTa staff need better communications from project sponsors on any project implementation issues (e.g., via NVTa SPA appendices A/B), and better cost estimates during the application process.
 - *Once a project is approved for funding, does NVTa allow for changes in project scopes (Council member Underhill)?* On a couple of rare occasions, such changes were considered with a reevaluation of the project, including the CRRC analysis.
 - *On the chart showing high numbers of opposing comments for two Loudoun County projects (LDN 029/033), please share staff insight (Council member Underhill).* Most of these opposing comments were from residents in jurisdictions far away from the project impact areas (e.g., City of Falls Church), citing general concerns associated with roadway capacity projects (e.g., suburban sprawl and induced demands).
 - *The CC2DCA Multimodal Connection (Arlington County) is a highly significant regional project, providing a major connection between the high-density Crystal City activity center and the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, involving a number of transportation modes – Metrorail, VRE, and the BRT service Metroway. This project was part of the Commonwealth's incentive package to Amazon's second headquarter site selectin process. I am requesting a re-consideration of the staff no-funding recommendation for this project (Board member Cunningham).* On this request, Chair Colbert invited board member Cunningham to present an amendment to the original motion - recommend the Authority to adopt the FY2024-2029 Six Year Program.
- Board member Cunningham proposed an amendment – to reallocate funds from project ARL 022 (Shirlington Bus Station Expansion) to project ARL 023 (CC2DCA Multimodal Connection).

- Committee members and NVTa staff shared the following concerns/comments on the above amendment:
 - In the FY2020-2025 program, the CC2DCA project was declared as fully funded. With the proposed re-allocation, CC2DCA project will still have funding gaps, and future funding for the Shirlington Bus Station project will be uncertain.
 - Funding reallocation from a higher ranked project (Shirlington Bus Station) to a lower one (CC2DCA) requires stronger rationale, and detailed documentation. Also, this reallocation may set a negative precedence for future funding cycles, where there is a risk of lower project cost estimates skewing the CRRC calculations.
 - In this application cycle, other jurisdictions in a similar situation did not submit funding requests, due to above staff concerns.
 - Currently there is no NVTa policy to deal with project cost overrun issue. In the past there was a discussion to create a contingency fund, which was ultimately rejected due to two concerns – difficulties to prioritize allocations to multiple such needs from this fund; and the above-mentioned risk of lower project cost estimates.
- After the above discussion, **the proposed Arlington County amendment failed to pass (4 yeas, 4 nays, 1 abstain).**
- **The first motion was then passed, to recommend the Authority to adopt the FY2024-2029 Six Year Program (7 yeas and 2 nays).**
- In addition, committee members approved the following two motions unanimously:
 - i. Direct staff to evaluate the creation of a policy to address resubmitted projects that have experienced a cost increase.
 - ii. Direct staff to look at a project's long-term benefits to check when a jurisdiction's benefit shares will be balanced.

III. Discussion/Information Items:

- A. **Preliminary Deployment Plan for Regional BRT System (PDP-BRT):** Mr. Jasper provided a brief status update on the two-part Authority work sessions on this topic. In June/July, work sessions will cover - key findings from Community Engagement process, an overview of analytical approach, and an online survey summary.
- B. **NVTa Update:** Ms. Backmon noted that the Annual Northern Virginia Transportation Roundtable, hosted jointly by NVTa and Intelligent Transportation Society of Virginia (ITSVA), will be held on October 9, 2024, at the new NVTa offices. Additionally, NVTa's inaugural State of the Region's Transportation System forum will be held on October 30, 2024, at the new NVTa offices.

- IV. **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 7:05 pm.