

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 8, 2014

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: MARTI REINFELD, CHIEF OF TRANSIT SERVICES, T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #3 – SUPER NOVA ACTION PLAN

ISSUE: Update on the Super NoVa Transit / TDM Action Plan

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission receive the report.

DISCUSSION: The Commonwealth of Virginia has embarked on the Super NoVa Transit and Transportation Demand Management Action Plan. The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)-defined super region for this planning effort encompasses a “super regional” area including Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C., extending from Caroline and Spotsylvania Counties to the south and Frederick and Shenandoah Counties to the west as well as parts of Maryland and West Virginia.

DRPT has brought together local elected officials within the region as well as representatives from regional transportation commissions and organizations and jurisdictional and transit agency staff members from around the Super NoVa region (also known as the Super NoVa Regional Consortium) to develop the Action Plan. The Action Plan defines, prioritizes, and identifies ways by which the Super NoVa Vision Plan can be implemented. The Action Plan focuses on the following:

- Short, mid, and long-term actions and next steps related to Vision Plan recommendations
- Roles and responsibilities among local, regional, and state agencies for leadership and implementation of Vision Plan initiatives
- Opportunities to integrate Vision Plan recommendations into applicable local, regional, and state plans
- A platform for continued coordination, dialogue, and long-term leadership of Vision Plan initiatives

The Action Plan is designed to serve as a guide for local, regional, and state policy-makers to mode recommended policies in the plan into local and regional policies, plans, and programs. Within the Action Plan, policies are broken into seven groups: Planning, Transportation Demand Management (TDM), Facilities, Access To and From Transit,

Operations, Technology, and Marketing and Communications. For each policy group, the Action Plan outlines a brief description, current efforts or opportunities, recommended lead agency/organization to champion the policy goal, early implementation actions, longer-term high priority actions, and a list of policy recommendations. The following are several policy recommendations which have been identified as high priority within each policy group as contained in the Action Plan:

Planning

- Identify a platform to continue the Super NoVa transit and TDM dialogue
- Enhance multijurisdictional transit and TDM planning
- Conduct coordinated land use and transportation planning and policy making

TDM

- Improve regional ridesharing and ridematching databases
- Create a regional or statewide fund program to better support new vanpools and retain existing vanpools
- Expand the guaranteed ride home program

Facilities

- Build new and improve existing transit vehicle storage and maintenance facilities
- Build a system of intermodal transit centers/hubs including park-and-ride lots with supporting infrastructure, services, programs, and technology

Access To and From Transit

- Support transit services and programs that improve service for persons with low incomes
- Support services and programs that increase access for seniors and for persons with disabilities
- Expand programs to promote bicycling and walking as well as provide facilities for pedestrian and bicycle access to all transit stops and stations

Operations

- Develop coordinated local, sub-regional, and regional transit service operating plans
- Create regionally coordinated fare structures
- Establish a universal transit payment system

Technology

- Promote multijurisdictional technology planning and expand transit signal priority application
- Develop automatic vehicle location (AVL) on public and private transit services regionally
- Provide comprehensive, open source travel information and data for transit and TDM

Marketing and Communication

- Coordinate marketing materials and messages for services, programs, and facilities
- Consolidate where consumers need to go to obtain information on services, facilities, and programs
- Support development of social media and mobile device applications to clearly and efficiently convey travel information

The Action Plan also contains a project section which discusses the process for project implementation for different types of transit modes including using Federal funds such as New Starts and Small Starts, using state funds, and using local funds. Projects which are currently underway such as the Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway and the Beauregard / Van Dorn (Corridor C) Transitway are highlighted as examples of projects by which jurisdictions are working together to advance important projects which will have an impact on travelers beyond jurisdictional boundaries and will expand the coverage of high capacity transit in the region.

Completion of elements within the Action Plan will lead to an improved overall experience for transit users in the Super NoVa region.

Next Steps

The Super NoVA Regional Consortium, which includes the Mayor of Alexandria, will be reviewing the draft plan and provide comments and questions to DRPT, prior to the development of a final Action Plan document. The Super NoVa Transit and Transportation Demand Management Action Plan will be made final by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation in Spring 2014.