

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 5, 2013

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: JOEL MARCUSON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #3 – NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION
AUTHORITY PROPOSED FY 2014 PROJECT LIST

ISSUE: Update regarding the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority's (NVTA) proposed list of projects for FY 2014 funding.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission provide comments on the proposed project list and offer an opportunity for public comment.

DISCUSSION: House Bill 2313, signed into law on April 3, 2013, levies additional taxes and a fee in Planning Districts meeting certain population, motor vehicle registration, and transit ridership criteria. As of July 1, 2013, only Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads will meet these criteria. The additional revenues generated in Northern Virginia are deposited into a NVTA fund. Thirty percent of the funds will be distributed directly to member localities for use on transportation projects; the remaining 70 percent of the funds will be used for regional transportation projects.

Based on current projections, it is estimated that the regional funds that could be allocated by NVTA for projects within the City could total \$15 million in FY 2014. While the City has not requested funding for the full amount in FY 2014, the legislation requires that each jurisdiction's long term benefit shall be approximately equal to the revenues generated by the jurisdiction. The 30 percent revenues that will be granted directly to the City are estimated at \$6 million per year, starting in FY 2014. A proposal on how to allocate these new FY 2014 funds will be developed in conjunction with the FY 2015 transportation capital improvement program.

NVTA may distribute the regional funds to (1) mass transit capital projects that increase capacity or (2) projects that are included in NVTA's TransAction 2040 regional transportation plan or the regional Constrained Long Range Plan and have been evaluated for congestion relief and emergency evacuation by VDOT.

VDOT is currently conducting a study that will determine project priority criteria for future year funding. In addition, NVTA has initiated working groups that will provide input to the VDOT

study and project development process. Neither the VDOT study nor the NVTA process will be in place for the FY 2014 funding. Therefore, NVTA's Project Implementation Working Group, with input from jurisdictional staff, developed a list of projects for FY 2014 funding for the Authority's consideration. In developing the proposed FY 2014 project list, the Working Group considered whether the projects were:

- Contained in the regional transportation plan or a mass transit project which increases capacity;
- Reduce congestion;
- Provide greatest congestion reduction relative to the cost of the project;
- Within an NVTA member jurisdiction;
- Improved auto and pedestrian safety;
- Ready to implement;
- Balance of transit, road, and multi-modal projects; or
- Able to accelerate or leverage additional funding.

The proposed FY 2014 project list contains 33 projects; 12 are classified as roadway projects and 21 are classified as transit/multimodal projects. Transit/multimodal projects account for over 40 percent of the FY 2014 funding. The City does not currently have unfunded road projects that meet the NVTA criteria, therefore only mass transit capital projects were proposed for FY 2014 project list. The following regionally significant transit capital projects, totaling \$8.25 million, were forwarded to NVTA for consideration and all were included in the final project list:

1. DASH Bus Expansion (\$3.25 million)
2. Amtrak/VRE Parking Lot Improvements (\$0.5 million)
3. Traffic Signal Upgrades/Transit Signal Priority (\$.7 million)
4. Shelters and Real-Time Information for DASH/WMATA (\$0.5 million)
5. Potomac Yard EIS (\$2.0 million)
6. VRE/King Street Metrorail Pedestrian Tunnel (\$1.3 million)

A recommended set of projects was adopted by the NVTA Project Implementation Working Group on May 10 and forwarded to NVTA for consideration at its May 23 meeting (Attachment 1). The Authority voted to release the list of projects for comment at an open house and public hearing on June 20, 2013. NVTA is anticipated to take action on the project list at its July 25 meeting.

Prior to the June 20 public hearing, many jurisdictions are hosting meetings to provide the public with additional opportunity to comment on the proposed FY 2014 project list and criteria used to rank the projects.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – NVTA Proposed FY 2014 Project List