

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 18, 2015

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: SANDRA MARKS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #5 – NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION
AUTHORITY FY2015-2016 TWO YEAR PROGRAM: PROJECT
EVALUATIONS

ISSUE: Proposed Transportation Authority (NVTa) FY 2015 – FY 2016 Two Year Program

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission hold a town hall and endorse the recommended projects for the FY 2015-2016 Two Year program.

DISCUSSION: In December 2013, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (the Authority) issued a call for projects for the HB 599 process as part of its FY2015 – FY 2016 Two Year Program. The HB 599 process provided a detailed and objective evaluation of highway projects only; and, while the Authority and all member jurisdictions were stakeholders in this process, the study was conducted independently by a consultant team managed by VDOT. The FY 2015 – FY 2016 program contains regional projects that will be funded by the Authority's 70% regional funds and does not include projects funded by the City through the 30% NVTa funding program. A total of 52 regional projects were nominated for funding consideration, 33 highway projects including two intelligent transportation systems (ITS) projects and 19 mass transit projects.

At its October 9, 2014 meeting, the Authority approved an overall approach to facilitate its decision-making process for determining which project will receive 70% NVTa funding in the FY 2015 – FY 2016 Two Year Program. This approach uses three types of screening including: preliminary screening, detailed screening, and a quantitative score which is a composite score calculated for each project using weighted selection criteria. Eleven selection criteria were used based on criteria from the Authority's TransAction 2040 long range transportation plan; the FY 2014 project selection methodology; and the HB 599 evaluations. The final HB 599 rating for each highway project was used by NVTa as one criterion (congestion reduction) and was weighted the highest of all eleven selection criteria used by the Authority to determine each project's quantitative score. Qualitative considerations were also included as projects were assessed using qualitative factors and considerations that do not lend themselves to be scored quantitatively. The highest Authority quantitative score that could be achieved using this approach is 100.0 for both highway and transit projects. Although most of the selection criteria used to evaluate highway and transit projects are the same, the use of HB599 ratings (for the

congestion reduction criterion) for highway projects complicated the direct comparisons between the quantitative scores for the two types of projects. Consequently, highway projects are only compared with other highway projects for the FY2015-16 Two Year Program, and transit projects are only compared with other transit projects.

In January 2014, the Transportation Commission approved the following project list for the Authority's FY 2015 – FY 2016 Two Year Program:

- West End Transitway (\$2.4M request for the FY 2015 – FY 2016 program)
- Potomac Yard Metrorail Station (\$1.5M request for the FY 2015 – FY 2016 program)
- Duke Street Transit Signal Priority (\$190K request for the FY 2015 – FY 2016 program)
- Real-Time Adaptive Traffic Control and Data Management System Study (\$500K request for the FY 2015 – FY 2016 program)

Based on the approach used by NVTA staff and recommendations from the Authority's Project Implementation Working Group, the West End Transitway received a score of 88.3, which made it the the highest scored transit project in the FY 2015 – FY 2016 program. The Potomac Yard Metrorail Station received a score of 83.3 which was the second highest scored transit project, tied with WMATA's 8-Car Train Traction Power Upgrades in Northern Virginia. The Duke Street Transit Signal Priority project received a score of 68.3. All three transit projects are in the recommended list of projects to receive 70% regional funding within the Authority's FY 2015 – FY 2016 Two Year Program and have been included in the Authority's request for public comments and will be featured in the public hearing materials. The Real-Time Adaptive Traffic Control and Data Management System Study, which received a score of 34.9, is currently not on the recommended list of projects to receive 70% regional funding; however, has been included as a project for consideration but not recommended for funding. This project was also included as part of the Authority's request for public comments and has been included in the public hearing materials.

The Authority will hold a public hearing on the proposed FY 2015 – FY 2016 Two Year Program on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at the NVTA offices. Materials on the proposed FY 2015 – FY 2016 Two Year Program as well as information on the methodology used to develop the project scores have been posted on the NVTA site. The public will have a chance to provide feedback on the proposed two year program by submitting comments online between March 11, 2015-April 12, 2015 and via the scheduled public hearing on March 25, 2015. Following the public hearing and closure of the public comment period, public inputs will be summarized by NVTA staff, and reviewed by the Project Implementation Working Group at its meeting on April 13, 2015. The Authority is expected to vote on the approval of the two year program at its April 23, 2015 meeting.

As the Transportation Commission has endorsed the included City projects proposed in the FY 2015 – FY 2016 Two Year program, it will be important for the Commission, City Council, and City residents to continue to endorse support for the recommended projects.