

# *City of Alexandria, Virginia*

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## **MEMORANDUM**

DATE: JUNE 21, 2017

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: CARRIE SANDERS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #2 – TOWN HALL ON THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA  
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY’S TRANSACTION PLAN DRAFT

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**ISSUE:** Receive an update and provide feedback on the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority’s TransAction Plan Draft

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Transportation Commission receive an update and provide comments on the TransAction Plan Draft. Comments made during this town hall will be made available to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority as part of their collection of public comments.

**BACKGROUND:** In July 2002, the Virginia General Assembly created the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) and charged it with developing a Northern Virginia Regional Transportation Plan. State law requires that this plan be updated every five years.

The 2017 update plan – known simply as TransAction – is the first update since the passage of the transportation funding bill, House Bill (HB) 2313 in 2013. This update is significant as all projects funded with NVTA’s 70% regional revenues, as provided in the HB 2313 transportation funding bill, must be in NVTA’s TransAction plan. TransAction is a fiscally unconstrained plan and builds on the vision and goals developed for the previous TransAction 2040 Plan to reduce congestion and improve quality of life in Northern Virginia.

Staff provided a TransAction update to the Transportation Commission at the February 17, 2016 meeting. At the May 18, 2016 Transportation Commission meeting, staff received input regarding a list of recommended projects (and project bundles where synergies existed) that would be provided to the NVTA for consideration and evaluation as part of the TransAction process. Since that time, NVTA has used forecasting, analytical techniques, and modeling to analyze all transportation projects submitted by each NVTA member jurisdiction as well as NVTA suggested top-down regional transportation projects which relieve congestion.

**DISCUSSION:** The impacts of the 358 projects included in the TransAction Plan Draft were analyzed using corridor segments. The overall performance rating for each corridor segment is shown on page 10 within Attachment 1. Moreover, the corridor segment with the highest rating (I-

395/US1/VRE Fredericksburg/Blue Yellow Line – I-495 to Potomac River) will see the greatest improvement for the most travelers. Out of the 28 corridor segments, projects within the City fall in Segment 8-3 (top ranked segment), which is shown on page 137 in Attachment 2. The second segment within the City is segment 7-3, which is shown on page 110 in Attachment 2. The third segment in the City is Segment 1-4, which is shown on page 18 in Attachment 2.

Findings from analysis of TransAction Plan Draft show:

- Northern Virginia faces unprecedented levels of travel demand, delay, and transit crowding in 2040. No single project, program, or policy will address all of the region's transportation needs.
- Projected regional revenues through 2040 would only fund less than a quarter of the total estimated cost of the 358 candidate regional projects in the Plan Draft.
- Emerging trends in technology and travel preferences may improve travel conditions in 2040. Segments with the highest performance ratings are generally those that include a combination of acute travel issues, high volumes, and major candidate regional projects.
- Segments with the lowest performance ratings generally have less acute travel conditions and/or serve fewer travelers.

At their June 8, 2017 meeting, the NVTA released the TransAction Plan Draft and the regional transportation project list for public comment from June 9, 2017 through midnight July 23, 2017. During the public comment period, the NVTA will host two events at its offices at 3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22031 on July 13, 2017:

- TransAction Open House – 5:30 PM
- Public Hearing on the TransAction Plan Draft and Project List – 7:00 PM

Following the end of the public comment period at midnight on July 23, 2017, NVTA staff and the AECOM consultant team will review and summarize all comments received. A detailed version of the TransAction Plan Draft will be prepared over the summer, incorporating comments. Adoption of the Final TransAction Plan is scheduled for the October 12, 2017 NVTA meeting.

Once adopted, TransAction will inform the NVTA's inaugural Six-Year Program (FY18-FY23). Approximately \$1.5 billion is expected to be allocated for needed regional transportation improvements. In the fall of 2017, the NVTA will issue a call for regional transportation projects. In spring 2018, the NVTA will decide on which proposed projects nominated as part of the call for projects will be selected for inclusion in their Six-Year Program.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1 – TransAction Plan Draft

Attachment 2 – TransAction Plan Draft Associated Project List