



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item Meeting of December 16, 2017

DATE: December 7, 2017

SUBJECT: Resolution of Endorsement for Applications Submitted by Partner Agencies to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA).

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the attached resolution endorsing projects sponsored by external partners seeking funding from the NVTA FY 2018 – FY 2023 Six Year Program that will have a positive impact on mobility within Arlington County and Northern Virginia.

ISSUES: There are no known issues as of the date of this report.

SUMMARY: The attached resolution (Attachment A) endorses project applications that will be submitted by three external partner agencies to NVTA for the FY 2018 – FY 2023 Six Year Program:

- City of Alexandria: The City intends to seek funding for design and construction of the Northern Segment of the West End Transitway (\$60.75 million).
- Virginia Railway Express (VRE): VRE intends to seek funding for design work related to expansion of the commuter rail platform at the Crystal City VRE Station (\$4 million).
- Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA): WMATA will seek funding for two projects:
 - o Blue/Orange/Silver Corridor/“New Blue Line” Alternatives Analysis and Project Development to determine the feasibility of transit capacity across the Potomac River at Rosslyn (\$2 million).
 - o Automatic Train Control (ATC) power upgrades on Blue/Orange Lines, the last technical component needed to support 8-car trains (request to be determined).

BACKGROUND: At its October 12, 2017 meeting, NVTA issued a call for regional projects for the FY 2018 – FY 2023 Six Year Program. Project applications are due to NVTA on December 15, 2017. Arlington County intends to submit five application packages that would implement projects in the Capital Improvement Plan, for which staff is seeking endorsement under a separate report. Transit agencies are required by NVTA to seek resolutions of

County Manager:

mga / cgm

County Attorney:

[Signature]

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Staff: Sarah Crawford and Dan Malouff, DES-Transportation

endorsement from the elected body of a jurisdiction for funding request for projects located within that jurisdiction. All jurisdictions are encouraged to seek resolutions of endorsement from partner agencies for projects that will have a positive regional impact. Arlington County is seeking resolutions of support from other agencies for the County's projects. Resolutions are due to NVTA by January 19, 2018. NVTA is expected to approve the allocation of regional funding for projects to include in the Six Year Program in June 2018.

DISCUSSION: NVTA anticipates roughly \$1.6 billion will be available to Northern Virginia jurisdictions and transit agencies as part of the call for projects for the FY 2018 – FY 2023 Six Year Program. All localities and transit agencies within Northern Virginia are invited to submit projects; all projects will be evaluated in accordance with the NVTA-adopted [Six Year Program Framework](#). NVTA is legislatively required to fund projects that are included in its most recent long range transportation plan, TransAction. NVTA adopted TransAction on October 12, 2017.

NVTA staff will analyze candidate projects based on quantitative analysis derived from TransAction, as well as a set of qualitative criteria. NVTA staff will present the scores to the NVTA Planning and Programming Committee in early spring, along with a staff recommendation for a funding plan for the Six Year Program. The Planning and Programming Committee will then make a recommendation to NVTA for the Draft Six Year Program, which will be released for public comment in April. It is anticipated that NVTA will adopt the Six Year Program at its June 2018 meeting. Funding will be available upon successful execution of a Standard Project Agreement for each funded project.

The City of Alexandria, VRE, and WMATA have asked the County for a resolution of endorsement for funding requests as part of the NVTA Six Year Program.

City of Alexandria, West End Transitway: The City of Alexandria intends to request \$60.75 million for design and construction of the Northern Segment of the West End Transitway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. The Northern Segment stretches from Landmark Mall to the Pentagon and is the first phase of the project that will eventually be extended south to the Van Dorn Metrorail Station. The West End Transitway will provide high capacity, frequent transit service connecting the City's West End neighborhoods to major employment (Mark Center, Pentagon) and transit/activity centers (Southern Towers, Shirlington, Pentagon Transit Center) in both Alexandria and Arlington. The service will increase transit capacity along the congested I-395 corridor, and will take advantage of the future 395 Express Lanes to provide reliable, predictable service. It will also improve transit connectivity to Shirlington.

The project includes two stations in Arlington – one at the Shirlington Transit Center and one at the Pentagon Transit Center. The City has committed to working with the County to address capacity constraints at these locations, particularly at the Shirlington Transit Center. The City will also conduct community engagement with the County in Arlington related to the Transitway.

The NVTA funding request leverages committed Commonwealth Smart Scale funding and a planned Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Small Starts grant application.

Alexandria will request from NVTa \$750,000 in design over FY 2018 – FY 2020 and \$60 million for right-of-way acquisition and construction in FY 2021 – FY 2023.

Virginia Railway Express, Crystal City VRE Station Improvements: VRE intends to request \$4 million in FY 2020 for design of a relocated and expanded Crystal City VRE Station to include a longer platform for full-length trains and service on two tracks, necessitating a pedestrian crossover. The project is related to and would be coordinated with the Commonwealth's Atlantic Gateway Project: DC2RVA High Speed Rail, which would add a fourth track from Alexandria to the Potomac River. The relocated station will be in closer proximity to the areas of Crystal City anticipated to be densely developed per the Sector Plan developed for that neighborhood. The expanded track will allow for more efficient boarding and alighting, enhancing regional commuter rail service and increasing regional transit capacity.

At its meeting on October 20, 2017, the VRE Operations Board approved a preferred station location on which to proceed with more detailed design and evaluation for the Crystal City VRE Station, including preliminary engineering, environmental analysis, and additional community engagement. The site selection followed a technical analysis and public and stakeholder outreach process over the course of 2017. At its meeting on September 19, 2017, the County Board voted to accept VRE's preferred station location, and expressed an interest in receiving continuing updates and opportunities to comment as the design and analysis progress.

WMATA, Blue/Orange/Silver Corridor/"New Blue Line" Alternatives Analysis and Project Development: WMATA intends to submit an application for \$2.0 million for FY 2021 to conduct an alternatives analysis to understand options to increase transit capacity at Rosslyn and approaching the Rosslyn Metrorail tunnel, a long-standing bottleneck in the WMATA system. The project description in TransAction identifies that the alternatives include constructing a new alignment for the Metrorail Blue Line between Rosslyn in Northern Virginia and Union Station in the District of Columbia via Georgetown and M Street. One alternative could also construct a second station in Rosslyn, including construction of a second rail tunnel beneath the Potomac River and a second Rosslyn Metrorail Station with an underground passageway to transfer to the Orange and Silver Lines.

WMATA, Automatic Train Control (ATC) power upgrades on Blue/Orange Lines: WMATA intends to request \$95 million in funding to complete the last increment of infrastructure upgrades needed to support 8-car trains. It is anticipated that the upgrades would be completed in FY 2021. Expanding the Metrorail fleet to enable operations of 100 percent eight-car trains during peak periods has been a regional priority for years. This project would complement other infrastructure and technical upgrades that have occurred or are in process: expansion, upgrades, and replacements of the rail car fleet; traction power substations; power cabling; third rail; and storage facilities.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: The agencies managing the projects have conducted varying levels of public engagement, dependent on what stage each project has currently reached. The County

supported VRE over the course of 2017 with public outreach in the conceptual planning process that underpins the Crystal City VRE Station Improvements. At its meeting on September 19, 2017, the County Board voted to accept VRE's preferred station location. County staff understands that VRE will again involve the County in the process to complete design work. The City of Alexandria has conducted extensive public outreach as part of the development of the West End Transitway project, and will work with County staff to engage the community on impacts related to Arlington County.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no direct fiscal impact to the County resulting from the endorsement of these funding requests. The County Board is represented on the WMATA Board and the VRE Operations Board, the entity responsible for fiscal oversight of the project, as well as the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC), which, along with the Potomac Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC), owns Virginia Railway Express.

While these two projects will compete regionally with the County's own applications to NVTAA for the FY 2018 – FY 2023 Six Year Program, the overall program is adequately robust to fund them all, and staff believes that these projects, along with the County's package of projects, will support a more cohesive and effective regional multimodal transportation network.

Attachment A

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENDORSEMENT OF PARTNER AGENCY FUNDING REQUESTS TO THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY FY 2018 – FY 2023 SIX YEAR PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia (“County Board”) desires to provide endorsement of four project applications submitted by partner agencies to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority as part of the FY 2018 – FY 2023 Six Year Program.

WHEREAS, \$60,750,000 of these funds will be requested by the City of Alexandria for the West End Transitway (TransAction Project ID: 42, Project Title: West End Transitway); and

WHEREAS, \$4,000,000 of these funds will be requested by Virginia Railway Express for design work to relocate and expand the Crystal City VRE Commuter Rail Station (TransAction Project ID: 298, Project Title: VRE Alexandria-DC Rail Capacity Improvements); and

WHEREAS, \$2,000,000 of these funds will be requested by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority for Blue/Orange/Silver Corridor/ “New Blue Line” Alternatives Analysis and Project Development (TransAction Project ID: 34, Project Title: Metrorail Blue Line Core Realignment); and

WHEREAS, \$94,700,000 of these funds will be requested by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority for Automatic Train Control (ATC) power upgrades on Blue/Orange Lines (TransAction Project ID: 101, Project Title: Metrorail Fleet Expansion (100% 8-car trains)); and

WHEREAS, these projects, along with the County’s package of projects, will support a more cohesive and effective regional multimodal transportation network.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County Board hereby endorses the applications submitted by external partner agencies to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority as part of the FY 2018 – FY 2023 Six Year Program.

ADOPTED this 16th day of December, 2017.