

Evaluating Significant Projects that May Ease Congestion in Northern Virginia Interim Progress Report #8

July 1, 2016

This progress report provides information on the evaluation and rating of projects in the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority's (NVTA) FY17 Program.

Legislative Background

Chapters 768 and 825 of the 2012 Acts of Assembly amended the *Code of Virginia* by adding § 33.2-257, directing the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in ongoing coordination with the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), to evaluate and develop a quantitative rating system for at least 25 significant transportation projects in and near the Northern Virginia Transportation District, to the extent funds are available for such a purpose. (The effort to develop the rating system and evaluate and rate the projects is hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Ratings Study" or "study.")

The enacting legislation directs that the project evaluation and rating be based on the project's expected effectiveness at easing congestion and, to the extent possible, the rating should also be based on the project's expected improvement in regional mobility in the event of a homeland security emergency. The evaluation and ratings are to be completed and published on VDOT's website every four years. Interim progress reports are to be published on VDOT's website every six months. With the exception of the July 2015 report, VDOT has posted interim reports on its website every six months starting in January, 2013.

The first set of ratings for NVTA's FY15-16 Program were completed and posted on VDOT's website in January 2015. These ratings were used by the NVTA to select projects for funding in their FY15-16 Program. A description of the evaluation methodology and the ratings model, and the first set of rated projects are available at: http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/evaluating_significant_projects.asp.

The projects selected for funding for FY15-16 by the NVTA can be found at <http://www.thenovaauthority.org/wp-content/uploads/FY2014-16-Program-Project-Updates.12.10.15.pdf>

The full text of the *Code of Virginia* § 33.2-257 can be found at: <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+33.2-257>

VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office and DRPT are leading the Rating Study. This Interim Report #8 serves as an update on tasks in progress and new activities commenced since January 2016.

Update on tasks from Interim Progress Report #7 – January 2016

- 1. Conduct ongoing coordination with the CTB and the NVTA:** VDOT continually coordinates with the Northern Virginia representatives of the CTB and with the NVTA.

Status - Since December 2015, VDOT has coordinated with the following stakeholders regarding the analyses and evaluation of the NVTA FY17 Projects.

- Provided updates to the Northern Virginia representatives of the CTB, as well as to the NVTA Chairman.
- Met with local/regional transit and jurisdictional stakeholders to review the detailed project inputs for modeling, and responded to their questions/issues in February 2016.
- Presented the results of the project rating and evaluations to the project stakeholders and revised as needed.
- Presented draft final results to the NVTA's Planning and Programming Committee (PPC) subcommittee and their Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) in April 2016.
- Presented the draft final ratings to the NVTA on April 28th.

- 2. Preparation of model networks for next round of analysis:** The consultant team completed model updates to include the latest version of the Northern Virginia Region's Constrained Long Range Plan, adopted in October 2015. This update was in preparation for the evaluation of projects nominated for NVTA's 2017 funding program, which was completed during this interim reporting period.

Status- Complete

The following are new tasks that VDOT initiated since the January 2016 Interim Report:

- 1. Evaluation and Rating of NVTA's FY17 nominated projects:** Projects nominated for funding in the NVTA FY17 Program were evaluated and rated using the Ratings Study process.
 - There were 24 transit and highway projects evaluated as part of this effort.
 - These ratings were shared with stakeholders and the NVTA and their subcommittees (see item #1 above).
 - Final ratings were posted to the VDOT website on May 2, 2016 at: http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/evaluating_significant_projects.asp. These ratings will be used by the NVTA in their scoring of projects for funding under the FY2017 program.

Status - Complete

Next steps

The following represents the next key steps and the anticipated schedule:

- Complete the documentation of the FY2017 project evaluations- June 2016