



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

Summary of Project Prioritization Process at Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTVA)

NVTVA is the regional transportation planning and funding agency for Northern Virginia as mandated by the Virginia General Assembly via SB576 (2002). The 17-member governing body includes the Chairs and Mayors of the nine member jurisdictions, General Assembly members or appointees, gubernatorial appointees, a town representative and transportation agency representatives. NVTVA is required to follow a rating and project prioritization process taking into consideration several key factors including congestion reduction, accessibility, and emergency mobility. The 70% regional revenues of NVTVA, used for funding under the NVTVA process, can only be used for capital improvements that are included in the long-range transportation plan. The 30% local fund revenues can be used at the discretion of localities consistent with HB2313 (2013).



TransAction is the legally mandated long-range multimodal transportation plan for NoVA. TransAction vision, goals, and core values guide the preparation of the Plan and funding prioritization. TransAction, updated every five years, is a needs-based plan and the update process includes extensive data-driven analyses and public engagement. The collaborative process brings in the NoVA jurisdictions, agencies, TPB, WMATA, and, in the recent update, Montgomery County, Prince George’s County, and DDOT. The Plan performance is evaluated using a combined TransAction Rating based on the factors below.

Goal	Objective	Performance Measure	Weight	Alignment with Core Values
Mobility: Enhance quality of life of Northern Virginians by improving performance of the multimodal transportation system	A. Reduce congestion and delay*	A1. Total Person-Hours of Delay in autos	10	
		A2. Total Person-Hours of Delay on Transit	10	
	B. Improve travel time reliability*	B1. Duration of Severe Congestion	10	
		B2. Transit person-miles in dedicated/priority ROW	10	
Accessibility: Strengthen the region's economy by increasing access to jobs, employees, markets, and destinations for all communities	C. Improve access to jobs*	C1. Access to jobs by car, transit, and bike	10	
		C2. Access to jobs by car, transit, and bike for EEA populations	10	
	D. Reduce dependence on driving alone by improving conditions for people accessing transit and using other modes	D1. Quality of access to transit and the walk/bike network	15	
		Resiliency: Improve the transportation system's ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions.	E. Improve safety and security of the multimodal transportation system	E1. Potential for safety and security improvements
	F. Reduce transportation related emissions	F1. Vehicle Emissions	10	
	G. Maintain operations of the regional transportation system during extreme conditions*	G1. Transportation System Redundancy	5	

Core Values: Equity Safety Sustainability



Prioritization of projects for funding is carried out during the development of Six Year Program (SYP). This process includes extensive additional data-driven analyses and public engagement. The

selection criteria include:

1. Eligibility (inclusion in TransAction, supporting resolution from jurisdiction governing body)
2. Quantitative analysis (Congestion Reduction Relative to Cost, TransAction Rating, Long Term Benefit)
3. Qualitative considerations (external funds, past performance, geographic and modal balance, etc.)
4. Public comments

Several statutory and standing committees review the analytical results and public comments before recommending projects for funding, which the Authority reviews before making final adoption.

The goals, objectives, and core values NVTVA follows for prioritization overlap well with TPB’s principles and goals.