

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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Item 4

M E M O R A N D U M

April 4, 2008

TO: Technical Committee

FROM: Ronald F. Kirby
Director, Department of
Transportation Planning

SUBJECT: A Contingency Course of Action for the 2008 CLRP and FY 2009-2014
TIP Conformity Assessment

Background

On February 20, 2008, the TPB approved a set of project submissions for inclusion in the air quality conformity assessment for the 2008 CLRP and FY 2009 -2014 TIP. The draft 2008 CLRP, TIP and conformity assessment are scheduled to be released for public comment in June and adopted by the TPB on July 16.

On February 29, the Virginia Supreme Court declared that the taxing ability of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) was unconstitutional. Unless the Virginia General Assembly acts by June to restore this NVTA funding, certain projects approved by the TPB on February 20 for inclusion in the conformity assessment will have to be delayed or removed entirely from the 2008 CLRP and FY 2009 -2014 TIP. Due to the uncertainty of the NVTA funding for some of the projects approved by the TPB on February 20, we need a contingency course of action for the conformity assessment for the 2008 CLRP and FY 2009 -2014 TIP.

Original Course of Action

The original course of action utilizes the conformity inputs and schedule approved by the TPB at its February 20 meeting, including all of the NVTA funded projects and the BRAC projects. This conformity analysis will be ready to be released for public comment in June and adopted in July, along with the 2008 CLRP and FY 2009 -2014 TIP. By June, we will know if the NVTA funding has been restored by the Commonwealth. If this funding has been restored, the TPB will be able to proceed in accordance with the original conformity analysis and schedule. If not, we will need a contingency course of action.

Contingency Course of Action

The TPB needs to adopt an FY 2009 -2014 TIP in July so the VDOT portion of the TIP can be included in the FY 2009 VDOT State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). VDOT did not develop a FY 2008 STIP and is currently working on having a new FY 2009 STIP approved by the FHWA and FTA by September of this year when the current STIP expires. DDOT and MDOT also need to be able to proceed with an FY 2009-2014 TIP in accordance with the original schedule. In order to accomplish these objectives, the contingency course of action will have two components:

(1) Utilizing the conformity determination for the 2007 CLRP and FY 2008-2013 TIP approved by the TPB in January 2008, create an FY 2009-2014 TIP that can be released for public comment in June and adopted in July. This TIP will not include any of the project updates affecting conformity that were submitted for the 2008 CLRP and FY 2009 -2014 TIP conformity assessment, but will include all project funding and timing changes that do not affect conformity. Adopting this FY 2009 - 2014 TIP in July will allow VDOT to meet the September deadline to have a FY 2009 STIP adopted for the state, and will also allow DDOT and MDOT to proceed with a FY 2009 -2014 TIP on the original schedule.

(2) Remove from the proposed 2008 CLRP and FY 2009 -2014 TIP those project inputs approved by the TPB in February which are dependent on NVTA funding and for which full funding may no longer be reasonably expected to be available. The TPB will be asked to approve this list of changes to the project submissions for the conformity assessment of the 2008 CLRP at its April 16 meeting. This conformity assessment, the 2008 CLRP and amended FY 2009 -2014 TIP will be ready for public release in September, and for adoption by the TPB in October. Once the conformity determination for the 2008 CLRP and amended FY 2009-2014 TIP is approved by FHWA and FTA (likely in early December), DDOT, MDOT and VDOT will be able to amend their FY 2009 STIPs to incorporate updates, changes and new projects.

NVTA – JACC Recommended
DRAFT List Of Proposed Changes to 2008 CLRP Conformity Inputs
April 3, 2008

These changes are due to the Virginia Supreme Court's decision on February 29, 2008, that the General Assembly did not have the authority under the Virginia Constitution to delegate its taxing powers to NVTA. The following Northern Virginia projects included in the 2008 CLRP's conformity analysis may be affected. (Other projects may also be affected, but these projects have not been included in the 2008 CLRP's conformity analysis).

Highway:

Fairfax County:

1. Delay completion of Fairfax County Parkway/Fair Lakes Interchange. **Delayed (2010 to 2011)**

City of Alexandria:

2. Delay Eisenhower Avenue widening. **Delayed (2009 to 2010 / 2011)**

Prince William County:

3. Widening of Route 1 (Neabsco Mills Road to Featherstone Road). **Delayed (was 2013). Change project to PE only.**
4. Widening of Route 28 (Fitzwater Drive to Vint Hill Road). **Drop from CLRP/Conformity.**
5. Widening of Prince William County Parkway (Hoadly Road to Old Bridge Road). **Delayed (was 2013). Change project to PE only.**
6. Widening of Prince William County Parkway (Old Bridge Road to Minnieville Road). **Delayed (was 2013). Change project to PE only.**
7. Widening of Minnieville Road (Spriggs Road to Route 234). **Delayed (2012 to 2013)**
8. Construction of University Boulevard (Hornbaker Road to Wellington Road). **Drop from CLRP**

Loudoun County:

9. Construction of South Collector Road (Purcellville) from Route 690 to Route 7. **Delayed from 2011 to 2015.**
10. Construction of Route 15 Bypass interchange at Edwards Ferry Road. **Delayed from 2015 to 2020.**
11. Construction of Route 7/Route 659 interchange. **Delayed from 2015 to 2020.**
12. Widening of Route 15 from Evergreen Mill Road to the Leesburg City Limits. **Delayed from 2011 to 2015.**

Transit

Arlington County/Fairfax County:

1. Delay completion date for the Columbia Pike Streetcar project. **Delayed (2014 to 2016)**

City of Alexandria:

2. Delay implementation of Potomac Yards Transitway. **Delayed (2011 to 2013).**

Fairfax County:

3. Delay implementation of 35 of 76 new Fairfax Connector buses. **Delayed (2010 to 2011).**

V R E:

4. Delay purchase of seven locomotives for the Virginia Railway Express. **(Replacement cars)**

Loudoun County:

5. Delay Sterling-Ashburn Park-and-Ride Lot from 2010 to 2012.