

## **Evaluating Significant Projects that May Ease Congestion in Northern Virginia Interim Progress Report #12**

October 9, 2018

This interim progress report provides information regarding evaluation of transportation projects in accordance with § 33.2-257 of the *Code of Virginia* (hereinafter referred to as “the statute”).

### **Legislative Background**

The statute directs the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in on-going 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 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 statute directs that the project evaluation and rating be based on the project’s expected effectiveness at easing congestion and, to the extent possible, 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 at least once every four years. Interim progress reports are to be published on VDOT’s website every six months. The full text of § 33.2-257 of the *Code of Virginia* can be found at:

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/33.2-257/>

### **Update on tasks completed after Interim Progress Report #11– January 2018**

This Interim Progress Report #12 serves as an update on tasks in progress and new activities commenced since January 1, 2018. Working with VDOT, DRPT and local governments, the NVTA integrated the Ratings Study process into the development and adoption of the NVTA long-range transportation plan, TransAction, in October 2017. VDOT worked with the NVTA, DRPT and other stakeholders to develop 15 measures of effectiveness (MOEs) to be used in the TransAction process and the subsequent Six Year Program (SYP). The MOEs included the seven MOEs that had been used in the first two Ratings Studies, and an additional eight MOEs developed in collaboration with NVTA, VDOT, DRPT and local government stakeholders. VDOT assessed the MOEs and determined that they were responsive to the requirements of § 33.2-257, as well as the CTB’s priorities for selection of projects for evaluation, as identified in their Resolution dated 10/17/13.

Shortly thereafter, the NVTA initiated the development of its FY18-23 SYP with a call for projects. Sixty-two projects were nominated by local government members of the NVTA.

Two projects, submitted by the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority, were withdrawn. In December 2017, the NVTA began working, in consultation with VDOT and the Secretary of Transportation's office, to rate projects based on the 15 MOEs and the corridors and segments that had been prioritized in TransAction. In reviewing, scoring and rating the projects, VDOT, DRPT and the NVTA worked with the same consultant team that developed the original Ratings Study methodology and model. Sixty highway and transit projects were rated using the Ratings Study process. The projects and their ratings were posted on VDOT's website in February 2018.

VDOT confirmed that the project evaluations complied with the requirements of the statute. VDOT also requested, from the NVTA, and received test evaluations of several projects and determined that the scoring was accurate through testing. As stated earlier, the projects and their ratings were published on VDOT's website:

[http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/resources/NorthernVirginia/Project\\_Ratings.pdf](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/resources/NorthernVirginia/Project_Ratings.pdf).

**This completed the Ratings Study process for this round.**

VDOT staff provided updates on the project evaluations to the Northern Virginia representatives of the CTB, as well as VDOT leadership. The project list, map and ratings were presented at VDOT's Six Year Improvement Program public hearing that was held on April 30, 2018 at the Northern Virginia District Office of VDOT.

After the Study process was concluded, each of the 60 projects that had been evaluated during the Ratings Study was considered for funding by NVTA. Ultimately, the NVTA Board adopted their FY18-23 Six Year Program on June 14, 2018. The Program includes 44 of the rated projects. The final adopted Six Year program is available on the NVTA website:

<http://thenovaauthority.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/FY2018-2023-SYP-Project-List-Adopted-6.14.18-web-version.pdf>

### **Next steps**

- NVTA plans to initiate a call for projects for the FY20-25 SYP in July 2019, with an anticipated June 2020 adoption date for the updated Program.
- VDOT will continue to coordinate with the CTB, the NVTA and DRPT to develop project ratings based on the Ratings Study process, and as was done with the NVTA FY18-23 SYP, the NVTA plans to use the rated projects to develop its FY20-25 SYP.

### **Previous Ratings Studies**

VDOT completed Project Ratings Studies for two previous NVTA funding programs. 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. Ratings for NVTA's FY17 Program were completed and posted

on VDOT's website in May 2016. These ratings were used by the NVTa in their selection of projects for funding under the FY17 Program.

A description of the evaluation methodology and the ratings model, and both sets of rated projects are available at:

[http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/evaluating\\_significant\\_projects.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/evaluating_significant_projects.asp).