



TransAction2040

Transportation for Today and Tomorrow

March 26, 2012

Newsletter 1

This newsletter provides an overview of the process for developing the TransAction 2040 Northern Virginia Regional Transportation Plan. The newsletter describes the work currently underway and the findings of the technical analyses completed to date, which will be shared at a public Open House on April 18, 2012.

What is TransAction 2040?

The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) is charged with preparing a regional transportation plan for Northern Virginia, including transportation improvements of regional significance. The NVTA revises and amends this plan every five years. The TransAction 2040 Northern Virginia Regional Transportation Plan represents an update of the TransAction 2030 Northern Virginia Regional Transportation Plan, which was endorsed by the NVTA in 2007. TransAction 2040 is designed to extend the planning horizon, allowing for consistency with the Fiscally Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP). The CLRP is developed cooperatively by governmental bodies and agencies represented on the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board and identifies all regionally significant transportation projects and programs that are planned and funded in the Washington metropolitan area between 2011 and 2040. TransAction 2040 also includes new projects, a cost-benefit analysis, and introduces a revised evaluation and prioritization process. Like the plan that preceded it, TransAction 2040 is intended to provide a guide for funding future transportation projects in Northern Virginia.

What Communities and Facilities are Covered in TransAction 2040?

TransAction 2040 covers the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William; the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park; and the towns of Dumfries, Herndon, Leesburg, Purcellville, and Vienna. The plan includes roadway, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian improvements in eight regional corridors:

- Virginia Route 7 and Dulles Toll Road Corridor, including the future Metrorail Silver Line;
- Virginia Route 28 Corridor;
- Loudoun County Parkway/Tri-County Parkway/Belmont Ridge Road/Gum Springs Road Corridor;
- Fairfax County Parkway Corridor;
- Prince William Parkway Corridor;
- Beltway (I-495) Corridor;
- I-95/I-395/U.S. Route 1 Corridor, including the VRE and Metrorail Blue and Yellow Lines; and
- I-66/U.S. Route 29/U.S. Route 50 Corridor, including the Metrorail Orange Line.

As indicated, each corridor includes multimodal network elements connecting major origins and destinations. Other major improvements outside the eight defined corridors are also identified, including the Eastern Potomac River Crossing and the Western Transportation Corridor.

TransAction 2040 Goals

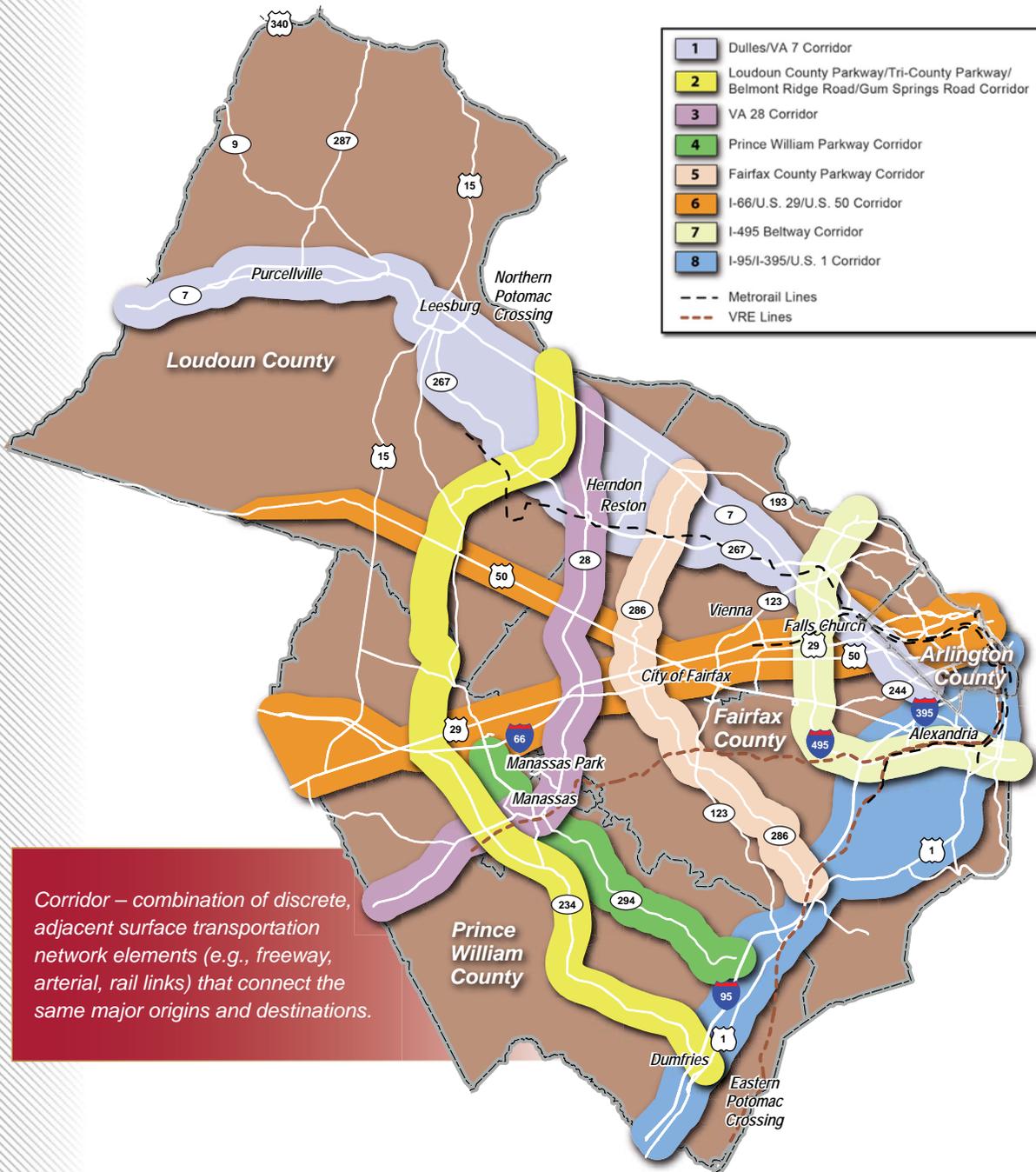
- ✓ Provide an integrated, multimodal transportation system.
- ✓ Provide responsive transportation service to customers.
- ✓ Respect historical and environmental factors.
- ✓ Recognize the linkage between transportation and land use.
- ✓ Incorporate the benefits of technology.
- ✓ Identify funding and legislative initiatives needed to implement the Plan.
- ✓ Enhance Northern Virginia relationships among jurisdictions, agencies, the public, and the business community.

TransAction 2040 Vision

In the 21st century, Northern Virginia will develop and sustain a multimodal transportation system that supports our economy and quality of life. It will be fiscally sustainable, promote areas of concentrated growth, manage both demand and capacity, and employ the best technology, joining rail, roadway, bus, air, water, pedestrian, and bicycle facilities into an interconnected network.



Corridor Map



Corridor – combination of discrete, adjacent surface transportation network elements (e.g., freeway, arterial, rail links) that connect the same major origins and destinations.



Project Schedule

A final report is anticipated in Summer 2012, with adoption of TransAction 2040 by the NVTA proposed for Fall 2012. Progress to date includes the following activities:

- Inventory of Regional Transportation Needs.** The NVTA has approved a project list detailing transportation needs across modes, including transit, highway, bicycle, pedestrian, intelligent transportation systems (ITS), and travel demand management (TDM). The project list is a key input to all travel forecasting.
- Travel Forecasting.** The regional computer model for travel forecasting adopted by the Metropolitan Planning Organization the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) was used to forecast travel patterns under three scenarios:

- » **Scenario 1: Current** – Existing land use and transportation network;
- » **Scenario 2: Baseline** – Year 2040 land use and transportation network representing all projects in the CLRP in place, including Silver Line and Beltway HOT Lanes; and
- » **Scenario 3: Build** – Year 2040 land use and transportation network including all projects in the CLRP as above, as well as all proposed TransAction 2040 projects.

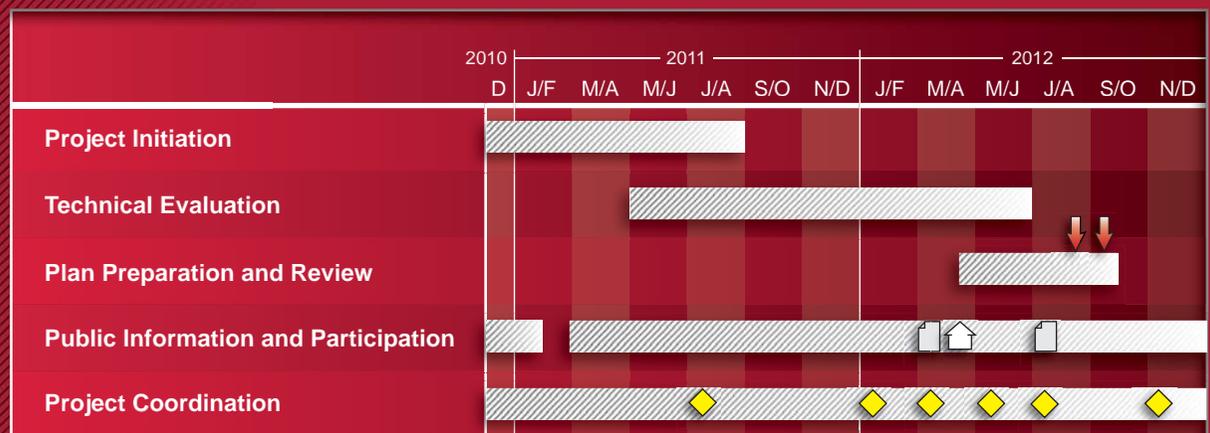
These results have been mapped to illustrate the effect of the proposed highway and transit improvements in Northern Virginia.

- Technical Evaluation.** Building on the work of TransAction 2030, a project scoring approach was developed using a comprehensive set of qualitative and quantitative evaluation measures. A project prioritization process was then applied within corridors and by project type (e.g., bicycle/pedestrian, transit, highway), incorporating feedback from the TransAction 2040 Subcommittee. Prioritization of the TransAction 2040 projects permits a view toward the most effective projects of each type that could be undertaken within each corridor.

Project Prioritization Process



Project Timeline



- Newsletter
- Open House
- Draft and Final Deliverables
- NVTA Board Meetings

Project Oversight and Consultation

The TransAction 2040 Subcommittee was formed by the NVTA to monitor and guide the study process. Subcommittee members serve as liaisons with their respective agencies and elected officials, and help distribute information to citizens, interested groups, and stakeholders. The Subcommittee membership includes transportation representatives from Arlington County, City of Alexandria, City of Fairfax, City of Falls Church, District of Columbia, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission, Prince William County, Town of Vienna, Virginia Railway Express, Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

Other oversight bodies that have been involved throughout the TransAction 2040 update process and that have provided valuable feedback on materials developed include:

- **Planning Coordination Advisory Committee (PCAC).** The PCAC includes elected officials from the NVTA member jurisdictions and advises on policy issues related to updates of the NVTA's Long-Range Transportation Plan.
- **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).** The TAC consists of appointed individuals experienced in the field of transportation who reside or are employed in the NVTA member jurisdictions.
- **Jurisdiction and Agency Coordination Committee (JACC).** The JACC is an advisory committee on technical matters, providing staff-level representation from the NVTA member jurisdictions and relevant agencies, including Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), Virginia Railway Express (VRE), Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC), and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC).

Open House and Public Comments

Your input and suggestions are requested to help the NVTA determine project priorities, and ultimately prioritize regional transportation investments. The NVTA invites the public to an Open House on April 18, 2012 at:

Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School
7130 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22043

Open House: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Project Presentation: 7:00 p.m.

Transit: Walk from West Falls Church Metrorail Station or use bus stops on Leesburg Pike (Metrobus Route 3B or Metrobus Route 28A).

The Open House will present the findings from the technical analysis performed to date and will solicit input on the preliminary prioritization. Following the Open House, a supplemental run of the adopted regional travel forecasting model will be carried out with a modified project list, based on the feedback obtained from the public.

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