



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item  
Meeting of November 13, 2021**

### **DRAFT FOR TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**DATE:** October 21, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Resolution of support for City of Falls Church application to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and FY 2027 NVTA Six Year Program (SYP) Update for regional transportation funding.

#### **C. M. RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt the resolution (Attachment A) supporting the City of Falls Church application to the NVTA for the FY 2026 and FY 2027 SYP update for regional transportation funding

**ISSUES:** None at the time of this report.

**SUMMARY:** The attached resolution (Attachment A) indicates the County Board's support for the City of Falls Church's application to the NVTA for the FY 2026 and FY 2026 SYP update for \$22.5 million in regional transportation funding for design and construction of the North Washington Street Multimodal Improvements.

**BACKGROUND:** Project applications were due to the NVTA on October 1, 2021; however, governing body resolutions of support for project applications will be accepted by the NVTA until December 3, 2021. The City of Falls Church's project application is directly adjacent to Arlington County and City staff has requested a resolution of support from the County Board in accordance with NVTA recommendations for applications submitted by one jurisdiction that are adjacent to another jurisdiction.

**DISCUSSION:** The City of Falls Church has applied to the NVTA for \$22,500,000 in regional transportation funding for construction of the North Washington Street Multimodal Improvements. North Washington Street (US 29) becomes Langston Boulevard in Arlington County and the City/County border is perpendicular to US 29 between Gresham Place and North Westmoreland Street. The project is described by the City as follows:

The North Washington Street/Route 29 project will allow for improved safety between Great Falls Street and Gresham Place. Signal improvements will be made at the North

County Manager:

County Attorney:

Staff: Rich Roisman, Department of Environmental Services

Washington Street/Route 29 and Gresham Place intersection. A high-intensity activated crosswalk (HAWK) signal will be installed at or near the intersection of North Washington Street/Route 29 and East Jefferson Street to allow better connectivity and access to both the East Falls Church Metrorail Station and downtown Falls Church. Utility relocation/undergrounding will be undertaken throughout the project area, as will traffic calming improvements, pedestrian improvements and bicycle access improvements.

The City's proposed project as described above is generally consistent with County plans and policies, and this section of US 29 is one of the primary bicycle/pedestrian access routes from downtown Falls Church to both the W&OD Trail and the East Falls Church Metrorail station (both within a half-mile or less of the project limits). The roadway may also host future bus rapid transit (BRT) service currently under study by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) Envision Route 7 analysis. On this section of US 29 between Great Falls Street and Gresham Place, there are existing northbound bus stops for Metrobus and Fairfax Connector located at Great Falls, Columbia, and Westmoreland, and southbound bus stops located at Fairfax Drive, Jefferson, Columbia, and Great Falls.

Currently, the intersections of US 29 at Columbia Street, Gresham Place, and Westmoreland Street are controlled by traffic signals. The County and City own and operate different traffic signals and systems along this section of US 29, and staff coordinate routinely to maintain normal traffic operations along the corridor. The County owns and maintains the Gresham Place traffic signal located inside the City line as part of the County traffic signal system, including the emergency signal controlling access to the driveway from US 29 to Fire Station 6.<sup>1</sup>

Upon review of the City's project description, staff from both the Department of Environmental Services and the Arlington County Fire Department (ACFD) expressed a variety of concerns regarding the signal improvements at Gresham Place and the installation of a HAWK signal at Jefferson Street. Staff compiled these concerns and has requested that City staff coordinate with both County departments to make sure the concerns are addressed during the location and design phase of the project, following a funding award from the NVTA.

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:**

*Level of Engagement: Communicate*

Staff expects that Falls Church will conduct a robust public engagement process during the location and design phase of the project, on a project development schedule that is independent of the NVTA funding process. For purposes of the resolution of support for the Falls Church NVTA funding application, this item was reviewed by the Arlington County Transportation Commission (TC) on October 28 and was **INSERT VOTE AND RESULTS OF TC ACTION**.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no direct fiscal impact to the County providing support for Falls Church's application to the NVTA. The capital cost of signal improvements at US 29 and

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<sup>1</sup> Fire Station 6 is located at 6950 Little Falls Road and houses both the Arlington County Fire Department and the Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department.

Gresham Place will be paid by the NVTa on a cost-reimbursement basis to Falls Church, assuming the project is awarded Authority funding next spring. Any impact to the County's operations and maintenance cost of the signal at Gresham Place would be within regular anticipated levels for our traffic signals and system.

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CITY OF FALLS CHURCH APPLICATION TO THE  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY FOR THE  
FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND FISCAL YEAR 2027 SIX YEAR PROGRAM UPDATE  
FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING  
FOR THE NORTH WASHINGTON STREET MULTIMODAL IMPROVEMENTS**

WHEREAS, The City of Falls Church (“City”) has submitted funding applications to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (“NVTA”) for projects as part of the FY 2026 – FY 2026 Six Year Program Update; and

WHEREAS, \$22,500,000 of these funds will be requested for the North Washington Street Multimodal Improvements (TransAction Project ID: 66 and TransAction Project Name: Falls Church Multimodal Improvements); and

WHEREAS, the North Washington Street Multimodal Improvements project limits are located in the City, adjacent to Arlington County; and

WHEREAS, NVTA recommends that project applications from located in a specific jurisdiction and adjacent to another jurisdictions include a resolution of support from the governing body of the adjacent jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the North Washington Street Multimodal Improvements will improve first-mile / last-mile access to the East Falls Church Metrorail station, and is generally consistent with County plans and policies

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia (“County Board”) hereby supports the City of Falls Church application to the NVTA for \$22,500,000 for the North Washington Street Multimodal Improvements (TransAction Project ID: 66 and TransAction Project Name: Falls Church Multimodal Improvements)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT following a NVTA funding award for the subject project application to the City of Falls Church, the County Board:

- (a) requests that the City engage with the County Board and residents potentially impacted by the project at major project development milestones; and
- (b) further requests continued County and City coordination on the project design of the traffic signals adjacent to the City/County line.

ADOPTED this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2021.