

Evaluation of Significant Transportation Projects in Northern Virginia Transportation District

Fact Sheet

Fall 2013



About the Study

In September 2013, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in coordination with the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) initiated a study to evaluate and rate at least 25 significant transportation projects in and near the Northern Virginia Transportation District (NOVA District). The study was mandated by legislation passed by the Virginia General Assembly in 2012 (Code of Virginia, Section 33.1-13.03:1).

Each of the 25 project's evaluation and rating will be based on the project's expected ability to reduce congestion, and to the extent possible, the project's expected ability to improve regional mobility during a homeland security emergency. The evaluation will include highway, mass transit, and technology projects.

The evaluation and ratings is anticipated to be completed in December 2014, with interim results available in June 2014. VDOT will publicize the quantitative congestion ratings determined for each project on its website, (www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/evaluating_significant_projects.asp) and complete the evaluation at least once every four years.



Legislative Requirements for the Study

July 2012 – HB 599/SB 531 Enacted
(Section 33.1 – 13.03:1)

- VDOT, in ongoing coordination with the CTB, DRPT, and NVTA shall evaluate all significant transportation projects, including highway, transit, and technology projects in and near the NOVA District.
- Evaluation shall provide an objective, quantitative rating for each project according to the degree to which the project is expected to:
 - Reduce congestion and
 - Improve regional mobility in the event of a homeland security emergency
- Evaluation shall rely on analytical techniques and transportation modeling
- The quantitative ratings shall be published on VDOT's website and the study shall be updated once every four years
- At least 25 significant projects shall be selected according to:
 - Priorities determined by the CTB in ongoing coordination with NVTA
 - Without regard to the funding source of the project

Study Framework

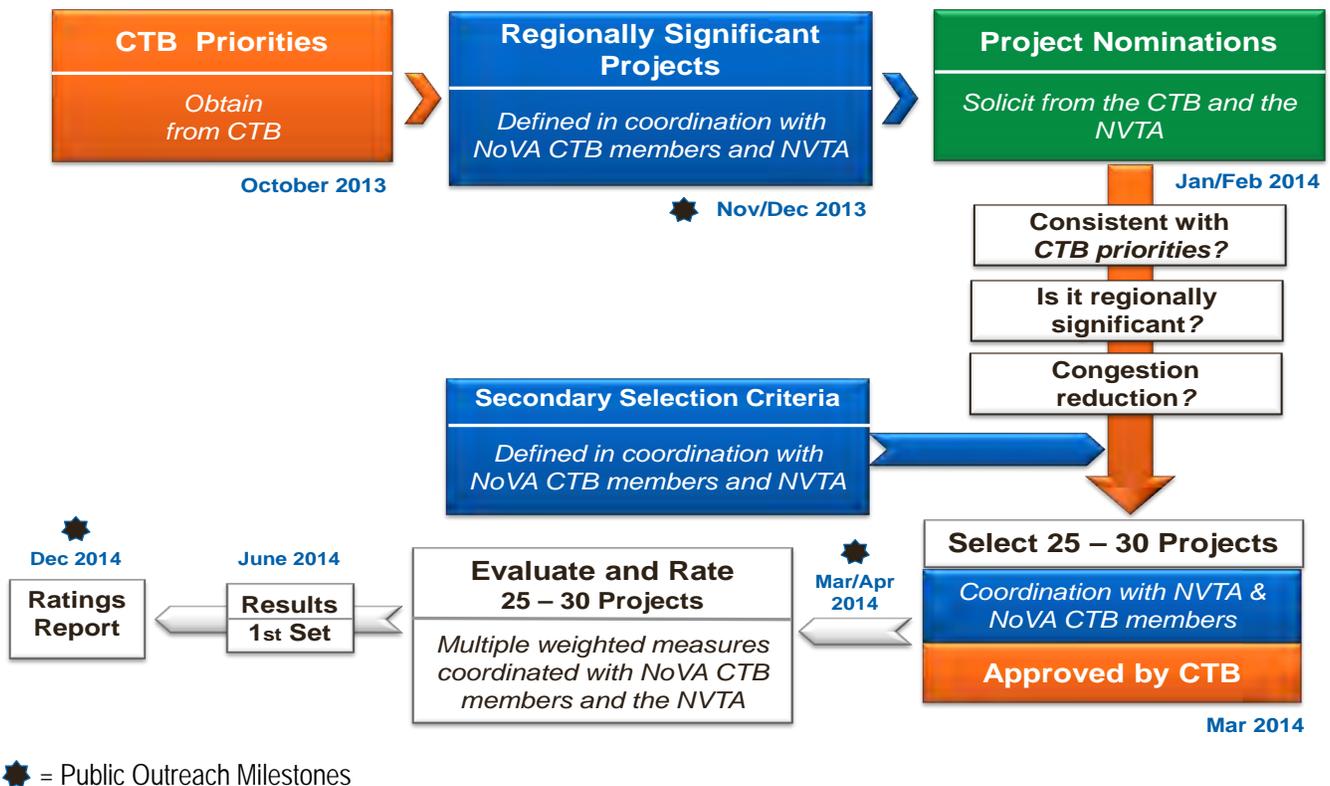
The assessment of significant multi-modal projects will rely on rigorous analytical techniques and transportation modeling. Potential projects to be evaluated may originate from several sources, including, but not limited to:

- The Transportation Planning Board Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP)
- TransAction 2040 Plan

- Other highway, transit, and technology projects that may significantly improve mobility in the region

To ensure objectivity in its technical approach, VDOT will confer and coordinate with a Peer Review Group consisting of independent subject matter experts from outside of Virginia. This group will review the proposed technical process and analyses and provide input to the study team at key stages of the study.

Study Tasks and Process



Commonwealth Transportation Board Priorities

A requirement of the authorizing legislation is that projects to be evaluated shall be selected according to priorities determined by the CTB, in ongoing coordination with the NVTA, without regard to the funding source of the project. On October 17, 2013, the CTB passed a resolution approving six study priorities. These priorities were derived from the VTrans 2035 Update investment priorities and include:

- Preserve and Enhance Statewide Mobility Through the Region
- Increase Coordinated Safety and Security Planning
- Improve the Interconnectivity of Regions and Activity Centers
- Reduce the cost of Congestion to Virginia's Residents and Businesses
- Increase System Performance by Making Operational Improvements
- Increase Travel Choices to Improve Quality of Life for Virginians

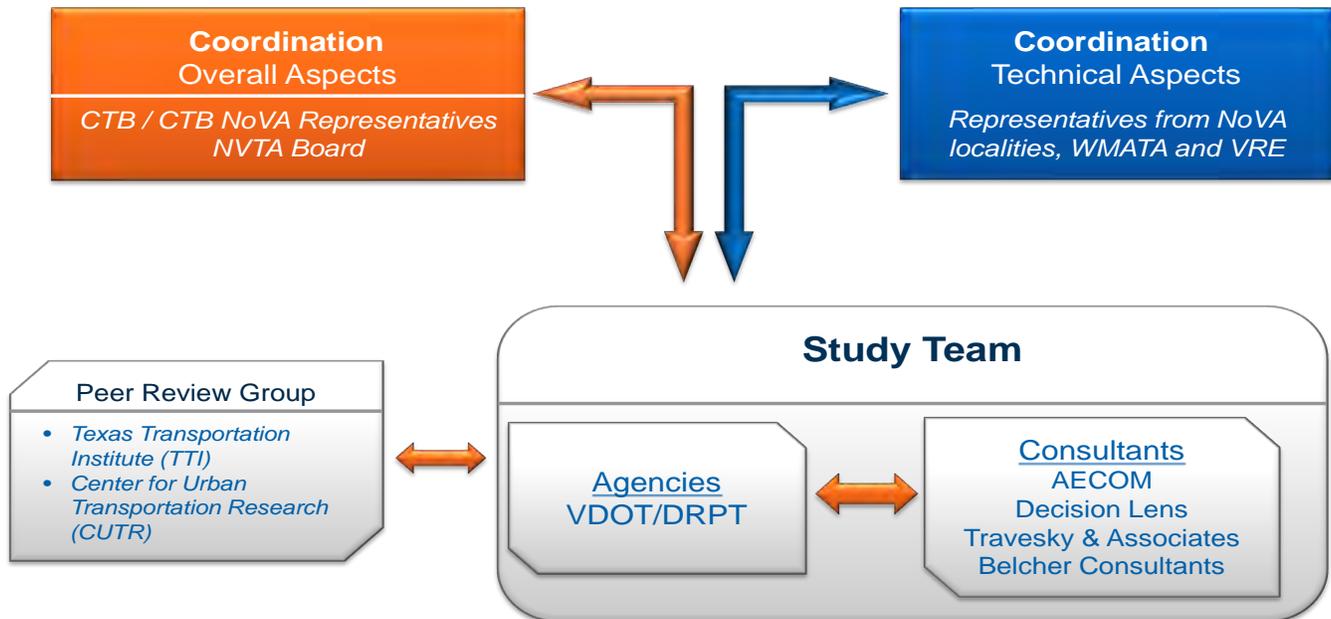
Schedule Highlights

- **September 2013** - Initiate study and coordination with NVTA
- **October 2013** - CTB sets priorities for study
- **January/February 2014** - Solicit project nominations
- **March 2014** - Selection of projects to be evaluated (CTB approval)

- **June 2014** - Preliminary assessment results
- **December 2014** - Publish project ratings

The 16-month study is scheduled to be completed by December 2014. Every six months VDOT will prepare progress reports for the Virginia General Assembly. The January 2013 and July 2013 reports are currently posted to the project website.

Study Team and Coordination



The study structure includes policy guidance from the CTB and NVTA and technical expertise from agency and locality representatives, the consulting team, and the Peer Review Group.

Public and Agency Coordination

Please visit the project website often to stay abreast of the study's progress.

Project Website

www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginiaevaluating_significant_projects.asp

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