

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
**Board Action/Information Summary**

Action  Information

MEAD Number:  
201694

Resolution:  
 Yes  No

**TITLE:**

Authorization to Apply for NVTA Funding

**PRESENTATION SUMMARY:**

This item seeks authorization for the GM/CEO (1) to apply for \$17.4 million in grant funding from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) to support Metrorail traction power upgrades on the Blue Line in Virginia, and (2) to execute a Standard Project Agreement (SPA) with NVTA for the funding, subject to approval of the FY2017-2022 CIP and upon award of the requested funding by NVTA.

**PURPOSE:**

This item seeks Board approval to authorize the GM/CEO to apply for \$17,443,952 in funding from NVTA to support Metrorail traction power upgrades on the Blue Line in Virginia and to execute a Standard Project Agreement (SPA) with NVTA for the funding, subject to approval of the FY2017-2022 CIP and upon award of the requested funding by NVTA.

**DESCRIPTION:**

**Key Highlights:**

- The \$17,443,952 in requested grant funding from NVTA represents Virginia's share of the \$62,144,646 total project cost for traction power upgrades along the Blue Line, which will support future full deployment of eight-car trains.
- The project includes fabrication and installation of five tie-breaker stations (TBS) and one direct-current switchgear (DC Gear) in Northern Virginia along the Blue Line between the Pentagon Station and the Franconia-Springfield Station.
- The full traction power upgrade project is included in the FY2016-2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) within CIP0076. Staff has initiated in-house project design, and contract procurement could start as early as April 2016.

**Background and History:**

In 2013, the Virginia General Assembly approved legislation authorizing new Northern Virginia regional transportation funding. This new funding, estimated at between \$290-320 million annually, is distributed into two groups: 30 percent is returned directly to Northern Virginia jurisdictions for local transportation projects, and 70 percent is used by the NVTA for regional Northern Virginia transportation projects. For projects receiving the 70 percent regional funds, Virginia legislation requires that regional transit projects must (a) increase capacity and (b) be located in Northern Virginia jurisdictions in order

to receive NVTA funds.

In January 2014, NVTA adopted a resolution (14-08) requiring that regional projects involving non-NVTA jurisdictions obtain a commitment from those jurisdictions to "pay their share" of the regional project. For WMATA, this resolution means that Board approval of a capital budget is required along with identified matching funds from Maryland and the District of Columbia for the specific project.

In September 2015, NVTA issued a Call for Projects for their FY2017 Program Year. NVTA requires a formal resolution of support for this application from WMATA's Board of Directors.

**Discussion:**

In addition to authorizing the GM/CEO to apply for these funds, this action, if approved, authorizes the GM/CEO to execute a SPA with the NVTA after a funding award is announced by NVTA in the summer of 2016, subject to approval of WMATA's FY2017-2022 CIP with funds for this project. Assuming a funding award and budget approval, WMATA will then execute a SPA with the NVTA. NVTA requires that jurisdictions and agencies execute a SPA within six months of funding award.

**FUNDING IMPACT:**

The Board's authorization to apply for the NVTA funding will have no impact on the current FY2016-2021 CIP. If authorization to pursue the grant funding is approved, then the FY2017-2022 CIP that is brought to the Board for consideration and adoption in the spring of 2016 will include the \$62.1 million project and will show it funded with \$17.4 million in Virginia/NVTA funds, matched by \$23.1 million from the District of Columbia and \$21.6 million from Maryland.	
Project Manager:	Kelly Reahl
Project Department/Office:	TIES

**TIMELINE:**

<b>Previous Actions</b>	May 2015 – Adoption of Board resolution 2015-34 establishing a policy regarding acceptance of NVTA funding to satisfy Northern Virginia localities' contributions to WMATA capital programs.
<b>Anticipated actions after presentation</b>	WMATA's application for traction power upgrades will be evaluated and scored. Following public hearings, NVTA will approve a final draft FY2017 project list. If WMATA is awarded funds for traction power on the Blue Line by NVTA and the WMATA Board approves an FY2017-2022 CIP including the traction power project, WMATA will then execute a SPA with the NVTA for the project.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommend Board authorization for the GM/CEO to:

- (1) apply for \$17,443,952 in funding from NVTA to support Metrorail traction power upgrades on the Blue Line in Virginia, and
- (2) execute a SPA with NVTA for the funding, subject to approval of the FY2017-2022 CIP and upon award of the requested funding by NVTA.

**PRESENTED AND ADOPTED: December 17, 2015**

**SUBJECT: SUPPORTING APPLICATION NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY FISCAL YEAR 2017 PROGRAM FUNDS TO SUPPORT TRACTION POWER UPGRADES ON THE BLUE LINE**

**2015-66**

**RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE  
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) is authorized to fund certain transportation capital improvement projects within Northern Virginia's Planning District Eight; and

WHEREAS, Certain projects within the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) annual capital program are qualified uses for NVTA funding, such that WMATA may be the sponsoring entity for an NVTA-funded project; and

WHEREAS, The NVTA is currently in the process of receiving and evaluating potential projects for its Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 funding cycle; and

WHEREAS, The NVTA requires jurisdictions and agencies to include a Board resolution supporting an application for FY2017 funds; and

WHEREAS, WMATA is required to submit this resolution as soon as possible to support its application; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2015-34 establishes a policy regarding the use of NVTA funding to satisfy Northern Virginia localities' contributions to WMATA capital programs; and

WHEREAS, WMATA intends to apply for \$17.4 million for Metrorail traction power upgrades on the Blue Line in Virginia to improve service reliability and support full deployment of eight-car trains during peak periods; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2015-34 requires Board of Directors approval to allow the General Manager/Chief Executive Officer (GM/CEO) to negotiate and execute a Standard Project Agreement between WMATA and NVTA; now, therefore be it

*RESOLVED*, That the Board of Directors supports WMATA's application to NVTA for FY2017 funding for Blue Line traction power upgrades, subject to a future decision by

**Motioned by Ms. Tregoning, seconded by Mr. Euille**

**Ayes: 8 – Mr. Downey, Mr. Goldman, Mr. Euille, Mr. Bulger, Ms. Tregoning, Mr. Corcoran, Ms. Harley and Mr. Dormsjo**

this Board as to whether the project will receive necessary matching funding in WMATA's FY2017 Annual Work Plan; and be it further

*RESOLVED*, That the Board of Directors acknowledges that, in accordance with NVTA Resolution No. 14-08 (adopted January 23, 2014), no NVTA funds will be released to WMATA for the funding of these projects unless and until such time as the Board formally approves such projects as part of WMATA's FY2017 Annual Work Plan; and be it further

*RESOLVED*, That subject to future Board of Directors action approving a FY2017 Annual Work Plan that includes necessary matching funding for the project, the GM/CEO is authorized to negotiate and execute a Standard Project Agreement upon award of the requested funding by NVTA; and be it finally

*RESOLVED*, That in order to meet the submission deadline established by NVTA, this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Reviewed as to form and legal sufficiency,



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Mark R. Pohl  
Acting General Counsel

WMATA File Structure No.:  
4.3.2 Jurisdictional Funding Agreements