

City of Falls Church

Meeting Date: Work Session 02/20/18 Council action 02/26/18	Title. (TR18-xx) RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH NVTC REGARDING COORDINATION OF TECHNICAL ANALYSIS, TESTING, FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION FOR PHASE III OF THE ENVISION ROUTE 7 PROJECT.	Agenda No.:	
Proposed Motion: Move to adopt TR18-xx			
Originating Dept. Head: James Snyder, Community Planning and Economic Development Services 703.248.5182 Jeff Sikes, Transportation Planner 703.248.5296		Disposition by Council.	
City Manager: Wyatt Shields 703.248.5004	City Attorney: Carol McCoskrie 703.248.5010	CFO: Kiran Bawa 703.248.5092	City Clerk: Celeste Heath 703.248.5014

REQUEST:

The City Council is requested to authorize the City Manager to execute the attached Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the City of Falls Church and the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) for the Envision Route 7 Phase III Planning Level Conceptual Engineering Study.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends adoption of TR18-xx..

BACKGROUND:

The Envision Route 7 Project which is generally described in the Route 7 Corridor Transit Study Final Report (January 2017) recently completed the Envision Route 7 Phase II Study. The City has participated in the Phase I and Phase II studies (along with Fairfax County, Arlington County and Alexandria) by its participation in the NVTC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

The key findings of the Phase II Study were that a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system along Route 7 from the Mark Center to Tysons via the East Falls Church Metrorail Station, is a viable transit solution for the Corridor while providing connectivity and more multimodal choices. The key activities of in the Phase II study were to estimate the potential demand and forecast ridership, compare alternative modes, determine possible funding mechanisms and to provide a preliminary cost estimate for capital and operating costs.

26
27 The BRT would benefit not only commuters with key connections to Mark Center,
28 Seven Corners, Tysons and Metro, but would serve other trip purposes such as shopping
29 and recreation. The travel demand forecast showed that about two-thirds of the new
30 riders would use the system for non-work trips. Phase II focused on determining which
31 mode best serves the Corridor and if and where the BRT alignment should deviate from
32 Route 7. Including the East Falls Church Metrorail Station in the BRT route would
33 increase ridership by an estimated 8500 riders per day.

34
35 Phase III of the project will be to conduct a conceptual engineering study. The study
36 would refine project cost, identify areas of concern, and provide guidance on the
37 preservation of right of way for future construction. The engineering study would
38 develop planning level drawings of the BRT alignment, right of way requirements and
39 roadway geometry including vertical and horizontal clearances. A concept level design
40 will help to identify and allow for mitigation strategies or possible fatal flaws or
41 locations where right of way or structural limitations may exist that would not
42 accommodate the proposed BRT exclusive lane.

43
44
45 **FISCAL IMPACT:** NVTC was awarded a FY2018 DRPT grant for \$300,000
46 (\$150,000 State share with a \$150,000 local match) for the Envision Route 7 Phase III
47 Planning Level Conceptual Engineering Study. The local share for each jurisdiction in
48 the Study was calculated based upon the boardings, trip end productions and trip end
49 attractions by jurisdiction. The City of Falls Church local share is \$23,000. The study
50 is estimated to take about one year.

51
52
53 **TIMING:** Immediate.

54
55
56 **LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:**

- 57 1. Memorandum of Agreement (includes Scope of Work)
58
59

60 (TR18-xx)

61
62 RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO
63 EXECUTE THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH NVTC
64 REGARDING COORDINATION OF TECHNICAL ANALYSIS,
65 TESTING, FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION FOR PHASE III OF
66 THE ENVISION ROUTE 7 PROJECT

67
68 WHEREAS, the City of Falls Church has participated in Phase I and Phase II of the
69 Envision Route 7 Transit Alternatives Study conducted by NVTC, and
70

71 WHEREAS, the recently completed Phase II of the Envision Route 7 Study indicate
72 that a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system from the Mark Center to Tysons

73 with a connection to the East Falls Church Metrorail Station is a viable
74 transit option by providing connectivity and additional multimodal
75 choices, and
76

77 WHEREAS, Phase III of the Envision Route 7 Study will refine project cost, identify
78 potential areas of concern, develop a potential staging strategy and
79 identify potential right of way needing to be preserved, and
80

81 THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Falls
82 Church, Virginia authorizes the City Manager to execute the
83 Memorandum of Agreement with NVTC Regarding Coordination of
84 Technical Analysis, Testing, Funding and Administration for Phase III of
85 the Envision Route 7 Project.
86

87 Reading: _____

88 Adoption: _____

89 (TR18-xx)