

## **SUMMARY MINUTES**

Thursday, March 12, 2026

7 p.m. EST

2600 Park Tower Drive, Sixth Floor Authority Board Room

Vienna, VA 22180

*This meeting was conducted in person and livestreamed via [NVTA's YouTube Channel](#)*

1. Call to Order Vice Chair, Mayor Davis-Younger
  - ✓ Vice Chair Davis-Younger called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.
  
2. Roll Call Ms. Henderson, Board Secretary
  - ✓ Membership Attendees: Chairman Jeff McKay, Chair Deshundra Jefferson, Board Member Takis Karantonis, Mayor Alyia Gaskins, Mayor Catherine Read, Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger, Mayor Alanna Mensing, Council Member David Snyder (Remote – Distance), Mr. William Cuttler, Mr. DJ Gribbin, Board Member Patrick Herrity, Delegate Briana Sewell (Remote – 7:24 p.m.), and Mr. Allan Fye (Remote for Ms. Mariia Zimmerman). Absent: Senator Jennifer Boysko, Delegate Karrie Delaney, and Mayor Kelly Burk.
  - ✓ Staff Attendees: Chief Executive Officer Monica Backmon, Chief Financial Officer Michael Longhi; Principal, Planning and Programming Keith Jasper, Deputy Chief Financial Officer Peggy Teal, Communications and Public Affairs Manager Abigail Hillerich, Senior Manager Transportation Planning and Programming Dr. Sree Nampoothiri, Manager Transportation Planning and Programming Starla Couso, Regional Transportation Planners Alyssa Beyer, Kristen Sarik, Griffin Frank and Ashkan Gholamialam, Project Delivery/Grants Manager Amanda Sink; Comptroller Lu Han, Senior Accountant Gary Armstrong, Senior Accountant Lauren Wilber, Accounting Assistant Margaret Duker, Executive Assistant Tara Dunion, and Board Secretary Lee Ann Henderson.
  - ✓ Council of Counsel Attendees: Ms. Christina Zechman-Brown-City of Alexandria, Mr. Daniel Robinson-FFX County.
  - ✓ Other Attendees: Ms. Tracy Baynard-McGuire Woods Consulting, LLC.

### **Action Items**

3. Approval of February 12, 2026, Meeting Summary Minutes Vice Chair, Mayor Davis-Younger
  - ✓ On a motion by Mayor Davis-Younger, seconded by Chair Jefferson, the Summary Minutes of the meeting of February 12, 2026, were approved unanimously with Supervisor Herrity abstaining.

4. Approval of May 14, 2026, as the Public Hearing Date for the FY2026-2031 Six Year Program (SYP) Ms. Backmon, Chief Executive Officer
  - ✓ Ms. Backmon reminded the Authority that the Six Year Program runs on a two-year cycle opposite of VDOT's SMART SCALE program.
  - ✓ She stated that staff has been in contact with the 27 project sponsors and information about the proposed projects is included in the agenda packet. She stated that the PCAC, PPC, and TAC will be briefed in the months to come.
  - ✓ On a motion by Chairman McKay, seconded by Board Member Karantonis, May 14, 2026, was unanimously approved as the public hearing date for the FY2026-2031 Six Year Program.
  
5. Approval of FY2032 CMAQ/RSTP Funding Recommendations to the Commonwealth Transportation Board Ms. Beyer, Regional Transportation Planner
  - ✓ Ms. Beyer stated that the total available to allocate between the two programs is approximately \$98 million. She stated that these recommendations will go to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for final approval and inclusion in their Six Year Program.
  - ✓ On a motion by Mayor Gaskins, seconded by Mayor Mensing, the FY2032 CMAQ/RSTP Funding Recommendations were unanimously approved to be forwarded to the CTB.
  
6. Approval of Recommendation to Reallocate Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Funds for the City of Alexandria Ms. Beyer, Regional Transportation Planner
  - ✓ Ms. Beyer stated that the funds would be donated from five completed projects and will cover a funding deficit in the recipient project.
  - ✓ On a motion by Mayor Gaskins, seconded by Chair Jefferson, the recommendation to reallocate RSTP funds for the City of Alexandria was approved unanimously.
  
7. Approval of Letter of Endorsement for Virginia Regional Express' (VRE) Application to the USDOT's BUILD Grant Program Ms. Backmon, Chief Executive Officer
  - ✓ Ms. Backmon stated that the Virginia Regional Express is requesting Authority endorsement for their BUILD Grant application for their L'Enfant Station Improvement and Fourth Track Project which will construct approximately 0.07 miles of fourth track through and around the L'Enfant station. She noted that this project is part of the Transforming Rail in Virginia initiative and the Long Bridge program.
  - ✓ On a motion by Mayor Davis-Younger, seconded by Mr. Gribbin, the Letter of Endorsement for VRE's BUILD Grant application was approved unanimously.
  
8. Adoption of FY2027 Local Distribution Fund Budget Council Member Snyder, Finance Committee Chair
  - ✓ Council Member Snyder asked for permission to participate remotely, which was granted on a motion by Mayor Davis-Younger, seconded by Chair Jefferson and approved unanimously.
  - ✓ Mr. Longhi stated that the Finance Committee voted unanimously to move the budgets



forward for Authority adoption.

- ✓ He noted that the Authority is anticipating receiving \$144 million for FY2027 and all 30% funds are anticipated to be distributed.
- ✓ On a motion by Council Member Snyder, seconded by Chairman McKay, the proposed FY2027 Local Distribution Budget was unanimously approved as submitted.

9. Adoption of FY2027 Regional Revenue Fund Budget

Council Member Snyder, Finance Committee Chair

- ✓ Mr. Longhi stated that the Regional Revenue Fund budget is comprised of projects that have already been approved for funding in FY2027 as well as two projects that have requested forward appropriation.
- ✓ He noted that three out of the four revenue sources are not growing but the investment portfolio earnings are exceeding expectations.
- ✓ Mayor Davis-Younger asked for clarification of the amount for the project dashboard. Mr. Longhi verified that \$250,000 for FY2027 and a similar request will most likely be made next fiscal year.
- ✓ On a motion by Council Member Snyder, seconded by Chair Jefferson, the FY2027 Regional Revenue Fund Budget was unanimously approved.

10. Adoption of FY2027 Operating Fund Budget

Council Member Snyder, Finance Committee Chair

- ✓ Mr. Longhi noted that the 5% increase in salaries does not translate into a 5% increase for all employees. He noted that further work will be undertaken to ensure that salary increases are in line with other local jurisdictions.
- ✓ Board Member Karantonis requested clarification on the proposed communication's FTE. Mr. Longhi stated this would be a new initiative that would support the TransAction update reducing the number of hours paid to contractors while providing additional hours of improved public outreach, not only for TransAction, but other region wide initiatives.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon stated that everything that NVTA does is built around communicating to the taxpayer how their dollars are being spent.
- ✓ Delegate Sewell supported the initiative noting that telling the NVTA story and its impact on the state's economy is important in Richmond and across the Commonwealth. She noted that a strengthened communications team will be extremely helpful.
- ✓ On a motion by Council Member Snyder, seconded by Mayor Read, the FY2027 Operating Fund budget was unanimously approved.

**Discussion/Information Items**

11. Governance and Personnel Committee Report

Chair Randall, GPC Chair

- ✓ Ms. Baynard gave an update on the bills currently before the General Assembly that affect NVTA.
- ✓ She noted that NVTA advocates for transit have been pushing to find at least two-years



of assistance for the WMATA operating budget. She noted that a proposed Senate budget amendment would remove the sales and use tax exemption (SUT) for data centers and apply that money to the WMATA capital fund. She noted that the NVTA share of those increased revenues would also go to WMATA. This is the component of the legislation that has an adverse impact on NVTA and needs to be addressed. NVTA.

- ✓ She also added this proposal to have all of the money from Planning District 8 go into WMATA, including the three jurisdictions that are not part of the WMATA compact (Prince William County, City of Manassas and City of Manassas Park), creates legal problem due to asking non-compact members to use revenues raised in those jurisdictions to assist WMATA.
- ✓ She expressed NVTA opposition to this proposed budget amendment and that she does not feel there will be a budget vote before the end of the session.
- ✓ She stated that the previously reported proposal to have NVTA perform a bike-ped study did not make it into the Senate version of the budget.

12. Finance Committee Report Council Member Snyder, Finance Committee Chair

- ✓ Council Member Snyder reviewed the Finance Committee activities.
- ✓ Mr. Longhi thanked the Finance Committee for all their work reviewing the budgets.

13. Planning Coordination Advisory Committee Report Mayor Colbert, PCAC Chair

- ✓ Ms. Backmon stated that staff is discussing the Six Year Program with this committee and will continue discussions next month.

14. Technical Advisory Committee Report Mr. Boice, TAC Chair

- ✓ Ms. Backmon stated that there is an NVTA appointed vacancy on the committee. Board Member Karantonis questioned what qualifications would be required. Ms. Backmon noted that the Code states potential committee members should be technical experts in engineering, transportation, and be residents of the region.

15. CEO Report Ms. Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

- ✓ Ms. Backmon reminded the Authority that the Transportation Roundtable event will be held on March 25, 2026, at NVTA offices and will include a keynote and dynamic panel discussing transportation technologies.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon stated that staff and the consultant, ICF, will be kicking off the TransAction update.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon asked Mr. Gribbin to speak about SMART SCALE as the Northern Virginia representative on the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Mr. Gribbin stated that the Virginia Secretary of Transportation agrees that SMART SCALE should be advancing great projects in a way that is equitable across the Commonwealth.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon introduced Ashkan Gholamialam, a new transportation modeler with NVTA, who will assist NVTA with bringing some of the modeling work inhouse.

16. Chair's Comments Vice Chair, Mayor Davis-Younger

- ✓ Mayor Davis-Younger had no comments.
- ✓ Mr. Fye with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation gave a brief update on



several events throughout the Commonwealth.

17. Adjournment

Vice Chair, Mayor Davis-Younger

- ✓ There being no further business before the Authority, Mayor Davis-Younger adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

