

## Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

### Summary Minutes

January 9, 2003

held at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission  
7535 Little River Turnpike, Suite 100, Annandale, Virginia

#### Members

(those present are highlighted)

**Kerry J. Donley** (arrived 7:35 PM)  
**Christopher Zimmerman** (arrived 7:40 PM)  
**Jeffrey Greenfield**, alternate for Robert F. Lederer  
**Katherine K. Hanley**  
Daniel E. Gardner  
**Scott K. York**  
Harry J. "Hal" Parrish, II  
**William Wren**  
**Sean T. Connaughton**  
William Mims  
Vincent F. Callahan, Jr.  
John A. Rollison, III  
**J. Kenneth Klinge**  
**Margaret E. G. Vanderhye**  
**Karen Rae**  
**Jo Anne Sorenson**, alternate for Tom Farley

**Mayor, City of Alexandria**  
**Arlington County Board**  
**Fairfax City Council**  
**Chairman, Fairfax County**  
*Mayor, City of Falls Church*  
**Chairman, Loudoun County**  
*Vice Mayor, City of Manassas*  
**Manassas Park City Council**  
**Chairman, Prince William County**  
*Virginia Senate, District 33*  
*Virginia House of Delegates, District 34*  
*Virginia House of Delegates, District 52*  
**Governor's Appointee; NVTA Chairman**  
**Governor's Appointee**  
**Director, VDRPT (non-voting member)**  
**No. Va. region, VDOT (non-voting member)**

#### Staff Present

Linda Summerall

*Executive Secretary*

#### Call to Order

Chairman Klinge called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

#### Roll Call

The roll was called and members present or absent were noted for the record. When the question of a quorum was raised, members noted that the statute states that a majority of the representatives for the cities and counties that comprise the Authority must be present.

#### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 12, 2002, meeting were moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

#### Overview of Virginia's Value Pricing Project Proposal

Catherine McGhee, a research scientist with the Virginia Transportation Research Council, reported that this proposal was submitted in response to TEA-21. This is a study proposal focused entirely on the Northern Virginia region. The project consists of two phases: Phase One (six months) looks at a wide range of facilities/corridors and the potential for a successful value pricing implementation; Phase Two (twelve months) examines those corridors with the greatest potential in more detail to determine all possible impacts. An extensive public outreach and education effort will be conducted throughout both phases.

Ms. McGhee stressed that the results of public outreach and education will lead to a greater understanding of the concepts and benefits of value pricing in the region. She added that no value pricing project has ever been successful without a political champion.

Examples of value pricing projects are widening the Beltway to include a HOT (high-occupancy toll) lane, and using a transponder on the Dulles Toll Road to pay a discounted toll. A special tax district for transportation/transit improvements is not value pricing.

Virginia is competing with other parts of the country for the value pricing study. The budget for this project is just over \$1 million, but once the study is awarded the FHA could reduce the funding. The study requires a 20 percent match.

#### Woodrow Wilson Bridge

Chairman Klinge announced that newly-elected Senator Cuccinelli has introduced a bill to reduce the Wilson Bridge from twelve lanes to ten. Mayor Donley noted that if this passed, work on the bridge would have to be suspended while the EIS was re-done. He added that he believes that the Senator's proposal might cost more money in the long run. Chairman Klinge pointed out that a ten-lane bridge would not accommodate transit or HOV. Chairman Hanley addressed the fact that suspension of work would also result in the diversion of traffic into local communities and as well as impact traffic on the American Legion Bridge and the Beltway. Chairman Klinge urged the members to talk with their General Assembly members.

#### Technical Committee Report

##### *• Proposals for Governor's Congestion Relief Program*

Tom Biesiadny reported that the Technical Committee reviewed the Governor's Congestion Relief Program as directed by the Authority. The committee proposes three evaluation criteria for ranking projects submitted for funding: two based on congestion relief (amount of VMT reduction; increase in through-put [persons/hour or vehicles/hour]) and one based on air quality (amount of emission reduction, especially NOx and VOC). The committee believes the projects should be distributed throughout the region.

The Technical Committee also recommends an application form based on the Transportation Planning Board's Transportation Improvement Program/Constrained Long Range Plan with additional questions to be answered by applicants.

Mr. Biesiadny reported that the committee also discussed the logistics of public notification, given the extremely tight time constraints, and recommends that a notice be published in the newspaper and posted on the VDOT, VDRPT and NVTA websites.

The committee further recommends that the Authority request that VDOT provide additional information on the source of the \$20 million for this program and specifically commit that the funds will not be taken from Northern Virginia's share of state and federal transportation allocations.

Ms. Rae raised the point that many of the projects submitted for consideration are existing projects that may have already gone through an extensive public process and have not been started for lack of funding.

Mayor Donley asked how the evaluation process will work. Mr. Biesiadny replied that the applications could be submitted to VDOT, VDRPT or the Technical Committee and then reviewed by the Technical Committee at its February 6 meeting.

Ms. Vanderhuy raised the issue of inclusion in the process, and that the Authority should deliberate on the top 15 or 20 projects. Chairman Klinge noted the time constraint. Chairman Hanley explained that Fairfax County's Enhancement Program has consisted mainly of private plans (e.g., the Equestrian Society of Great Falls has been building trails). The Authority can see to it that the

applications are distributed widely and that the review committee does not have to be the Technical Committee. Chairman Hanley added that not much can be done at \$2 million per project.

A discussion of the TIP ensued. If a project is not in the TIP it would not be considered under this program.

Mayor Donley suggested that all submissions be discussed by the Authority, thereby providing the public discussion. Chairman Klinge suggested that the majority of the public process be done at the local level.

Mayor Donley moved adoption of the criteria as presented by the Technical Committee with the amendments of the TIP questions, and that the Technical Committee will meet to evaluate the proposals and bring all proposals to the Authority for deliberation. Further, that the Authority finds out where the funding is coming from. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

• *Technical Committee Proposals for Draft NVTA Work Program*

Mr. Biesiadny provided an overview of proposed work activities for calendar year 2003 for the Authority. The members agreed to delete the following items from the February 13 meeting: briefings on VDRPT's Crystal City-Potomac Yard Transit Study and on WMATA's SmarTrip Program, the implementation of new fare boxes, and the regional clearinghouse. The members also agreed that a draft budget be distributed with the February meeting package and voted on at the March meeting.

Chairman Connaughton requested that staff look at the issue of the Authority becoming the responsible entity under the Public-Private Transportation Act (PPTA). VDOT staff will check the PPTA legislation for confirmation. Chairman Klinge cautioned that the PPTA process is quite involved. Ms. Sorenson agreed and offered to arrange a briefing on this topic for a future meeting. Chairman York commented it might be better for a locality to do this on its own. Chairman Hanley said she is not sure that the Authority, as a body of elected officials, can be involved in what is essentially procurement. Members agreed that a briefing in April would be helpful.

• *Status Report: Discussion of Allocation Formula Changes*

The Technical Committee discussed this at its January 2 meeting and noted that the HJR 211 study prepared by JLARC recommends changes to the existing formula as well as to the structure of transportation funding. However, the study did not include the impact on Northern Virginia nor what action the General Assembly might take.

Delegate Callahan has stated he will appoint a technical review committee to discuss these recommendations after the conclusion of the 2003 General Assembly session. Mr. Biesiadny added that bills were introduced last session, and undoubtedly bills will be introduced this session, to incorporate parts of the study. Formula changes are being proposed, and one that has been endorsed by numerous Northern Virginia jurisdictions and agencies would increase the transit share of the transportation trust fund from 14.7 percent to 19 percent.

The Technical Committee recommends that it monitor the various transportation funding bills and advise the Authority of the impacts. Further, the committee members should familiarize themselves with the HJR 211 study and other potential allocation formula methods and present its recommendation to the Authority in the fall.

Chairman Klinge pointed out that if the funding formula is changed, it should be determined how much money that would be worth to Northern Virginia. Although it may not be much in today's dollars it could be worth something in the future. Chairman Connaughton raised the point of looking at changing the formula to address the inequities.

### Committee Updates

- *Bylaws Committee*

Chairman Connaughton reported that Mr. Zimmerman suggested that the statutory cross-references be added were applicable. Other changes include: on page 3, under "Meetings," that the word "Annual" be added; and on page 5, under "Agenda," delete the items included on the agenda.

Chairman York suggested adding language that public hearings will be held when appropriate.

It was noted that the statute and bylaws address alternates for members.

Chairman Connaughton moved adoption of the bylaws as amended. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

### Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Klinge adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.