

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

Summary Minutes

JULY 8, 2004

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

Members

(those present are highlighted)

William Euille

Christopher Zimmerman

Robert Lederer

Gerald E. Connolly

David Snyder

Scott K. York

Harry J. "Hal" Parrish, II

Bryan Polk

Sean T. Connaughton

William Mims

Vincent F. Callahan, Jr.

Jeff Frederick

Leonard S. "Hobie" Mitchel

Margaret E. G. Vanderhye

Chip Badger for

Jo Anne Sorenson for

Mayor, City of Alexandria

Arlington County Board

Mayor, City of Fairfax

Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Falls Church City Council; NVTA Chairman

Chairman, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

Vice Mayor, City of Manassas

Manassas Park City Council

Chairman, Prince William Board of County Supervisors

Virginia Senate, District 33

Virginia House of Delegates, District 34

Virginia House of Delegates, District 52

Governor's Appointee

Governor's Appointee

Karen Rae, Director, VDRPT (non-voting member)

District Administrator, No. Va. District, VDOT (non-voting member)

Staff Present

Linda Summerall

NVRC

Call to Order

Acting Chairman Connolly called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Roll Call

The roll was called and members present or absent were noted for the record.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Connolly moved approval of the minutes of the May 13, 2004, meeting. The motion was seconded and carried, with Messrs. Mitchel and Polk abstaining.

Report of Nominating Committee

As Acting Chairman, Mr. Connolly reported the slate of officers for election — David Snyder for Chairman and Chris Zimmerman for Vice Chairman — and moved the slate as presented. The motion was seconded. Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Connolly called for elections and the slate of officers was elected unanimously. Mr. Snyder then assumed the chairmanship.

Adoption of FY 2005 Meeting Schedule

The members unanimously adopted the proposed meeting schedule, keeping the meetings on the second Tuesday of the month, with no meeting in August.

Action Items

• *Submission Deadline for CMAQ/RSTP Applications*

Mr. Connolly moved approval of the recommended deadline of September 24, 2004. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

• *Approval of Consultant for Regional Transportation Plan Update*

Rick Canizales, Chairman of the Interim Technical Committee's Regional Transportation Plan Subcommittee, reported that the selection committee was composed of staff from Fairfax and Prince William counties, NVTC, VDOT and WMATA. The selection committee ranked the proposals using the criteria in the RFP and picked BMI-SG of Vienna. The selection committee recommends that NVRTA authorize NVTC's executive director to begin negotiation with the top ranked team for a contract not to exceed \$900,000. If negotiation with the top ranked team fails, the executive director is authorized to negotiate with the second and third-ranked teams.

Interim Technical Committee staff has met with MWCOG staff as to how MWCOG can support this effort with the consultant on the modeling process. MWCOG staff has proposed to attend meetings, assist with all model-related questions, and meet with the consultant team on any issues related to the model, at a cost of \$30,000 that could be taken from unallocated Virginia technical assistance funding still available at MWCOG. The Interim Technical Committee recommends NVRTA do this.

Replying to Mr. Connolly's inquiry, Mr. Biesiadny said the original study cost \$750,000. The scope of this study includes a significant amount of transit not done in the original study, increasing the cost. The modeling will include HOT lanes, park & ride lot usage and levels of service of those lots, all of which are not included in the original study.

Ms. Sorenson raised concern of being oversubscribed on the technical assistance money.

Mr. Connolly moved approval of the consultant and funding of \$900,000 subject to availability of federal funds. The motion was seconded and carried.

• *Endorsement of FAMPO/TPB Planning Memorandum of Agreement*

Mr. Connolly moved that NVRTA endorse this agreement. The motion was seconded and carried.

Recognition of New Members

Chairman Snyder welcomed three new members: Delegate Jeff Frederick, Leonard "Hobie" Mitchel of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), and Brian Polk of the Manassas Park City Council.

Mr. Snyder also recognized newly-appointed CTB member Kate Hanley in the audience.

Presentation on I-95/395 HOT Lane Proposals

The authority received separate presentations from the two firms competing for the contract: Clark Shirley Koch, and Fluor Corp.

Both presenters were given unlimited time and treated equally.

Presentation on the Metro Matters Program

Shiva Pant and Rick Stevens presented WMATA's public outreach campaign, "Metro Matters." This program aims at informing policy-makers and the public on the funding crisis confronting Metro's bus and rail systems.

Mr. Connolly moved that NVRTA affirms that WMATA needs dedicated funding and a regional blue ribbon panel should be established to explore funding sources and make recommendations no later than the spring of 2005. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried after discussion. A letter relaying this resolution will be sent to the governors of Virginia and Maryland, the District's mayor, and the chairman of WMATA's Board of Directors.

Chairman Snyder asked that NVTA take on this issue as a major responsibility.

Interim Technical Committee Reports

• *I-66 Alternatives Study*

Mr. Biesiadny recapped that Governor Warner has requested that VDOT undertake to study the feasibility of improvements to the west-bound lanes from Rosslyn to the Dulles Airport Access Road. This is a pre-NEPA study and funded with federal money.

Bob McDonald of VDOT reported that the initial meeting was held July 1. Travesky and Associates and Pulsar will conduct public outreach; Parsons Transportation Group will perform the technical study. FHWA briefed the consultants on context-sensitive design. Mr. Biesiadny added that WMATA staff is included on the subcommittee, which has not yet met.

• *Preparation of Draft Pre-allocation Testimony*

The fall pre-allocation meeting will be held September 22 in Northern Virginia, with an open house followed by testimony. The Interim Technical Committee will e-mail updated testimony to NVTA members in August.

• *VDOT's Six Year Program*

VDOT and VDRPT cut an approximate \$1.3 billion from the proposed Six Year Program in order to match the approved budget, resulting in approximately \$166 million reduction in Northern Virginia projects. Replying to Mr. Euille, Mr. Biesiadny said NVTA will discuss the Hunter Mill Road funding this fall.

• *TIP and CLRP*

Mr. Biesiadny reported it is taking longer than anticipated to perform the analysis of the two alternatives for the Inter-County Connector in Montgomery County, Maryland, delaying the TPB's approval of a draft TIP and CLRP for public comment until September. The TPB expects to approve a final TIP and CLRP in October, a month behind the original schedule.

• *TIP Amendment*

On June 4, the Transportation Planning Board's (TPB) Program Committee approved VDOT's three amendments: 1) Federal Highway Administration change for the study/design of an alternative to Woodlawn Road through Fort Belvoir; 2) City of Alexandria change to reallocate funding between signal projects; and 3) Northern Virginia Family Service change related to a Job Access Reverse Commute grant. This program will provide low-income families access to small, direct loans that can be used to purchase or repair automobiles to use for transportation to and from work.

• *Air Quality*

On June 15, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) amended the existing transportation conformity rule, providing guidance on conducting air quality conformity for the mobile emissions sector for the eight-hour ozone and PM2.5 air quality standards. This guidance was a follow-up to the EPA's April 15, 2004, designation of non-attainment areas under the new eight-hour ozone standards. The Washington metropolitan region was designated as a "moderate" non-attainment area. These designations will become effective on June 15, 2004. Consequently, the mobile sector will have until June 15, 2005, to demonstrate conformity with the eight-hour standard. This is also the date that the one-hour ozone standard will be revoked.

EPA's guidance offered several ways for nonattainment areas to conduct mobile sector conformity analysis prior to the approval of eight-hour mobile emissions budgets, which must be included in the region's 2007 SIP submittal. One of the options for regions that have established one-hour emissions budgets (including the Washington area) is to use them. This guidance should clarify the activities the region needs to take before June 15, 2005. TPB, Metropolitan Washington Air Quality

Committee, state air agency and state transportation staff are in the process of reviewing this guidance. Additional information will be provided at a future meeting.

- *TEA-21 Reauthorization*

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) expired September 30, 2003, and its most recent extension expires July 31, 2004. The reauthorization has been delayed for several reasons, including significant differences (funding and policy) among the House of Representatives, Senate and administration versions of the bill.

Both the House and the Senate have appointed conferees for the bill. Virginia has three legislators on the conference committee: Senator John Warner, Rep. Tom Davis and Rep. Edward Schrock. If the committee does not complete its work by July 23, 2004, it is likely that Congress will not act on the reauthorization bill until after the November elections.

- *VTRANS Study*

The Commonwealth has undertaken a study to prioritize transportation improvements around the state across various modes. Two Northern Virginia public meetings are scheduled from 4-8 PM for July 28 in Springfield and July 29 in Chantilly. Information about the study can be found on www.vtrans.org.

Other Business

- *Budget* — Mr. York, Chairman of the Budget Committee, distributed Resolution No. P01-05, adopting a budget and program for FY 2005. He moved adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Snyder adjourned the meeting at 10:08 p.m.