

**SUMMARY MINUTES
NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
JOINT MEETING WITH THE
NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

FEBRUARY 3, 2011
GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Voting Members:

Martin Nohe, Chairman	Prince William County
Chairman Sharon Bulova	Fairfax County
Council Member William Euille	City of Alexandria
Council Member Harry J. "Hal" Parrish, Jr.	City of Manassas
Council Member Bryan Polk	City of Manassas Park
Council Member David Snyder	City of Falls Church
Chairman Scott York	Loudoun County
Board Member Chris Zimmerman	Arlington County
Senator Mary Margaret Whipple	Virginia Senate
Kerry Donley	Governor's Appointee
F. Gary Garczynski	Governor's Appointee (CTB)

Non-Voting Members:

David Awbrey	DRPT
Garrett Moore	VDOT
Mayor Jane Seaman	Town Representative

Staff:

Various jurisdictional staffs

Item I: Call to Order

The joint meeting of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission was called to order by NVTA Chairman Nohe and NVTC Chairman Euille at 5:30 P.M. NVTC Chairman Euille noted that a quorum was present for both NVTC and NVTA. He suggested that NVTC conduct its business first followed by NVTA and then the meeting would conclude with a joint legislative discussion. There were no objections.

At the conclusion of NVTC's business meeting, NVTC Chairman Euille handed the gavel to Chairman Nohe.

Chairman Nohe called the NVTA meeting to order.

Item II: Roll Call

Members present are noted above.

Item III: Approval of the Minutes of the January 13, 2011 NVTA Meeting

Mr. York moved, with a second by Mr. Zimmerman, to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Item IV: Discussion and Action Items**(A) Review of Legislation Introduced During the 2011 General Assembly Session**

Chairman Nohe noted that this item will be a joint discussion with NVTC at the end of the meeting.

(B) Review of CMAQ/RSTP Program Discussions, Changes and New Requirements

Chairman Nohe reminded board members that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) initially declined a request for CMAQ funding for a Herndon hybrid vehicle project. This led to a discussion at CTB about the process. Some CTB members suggested taking the allocation of CMAQ funding away from the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). A subcommittee was formed to look at this issue, which concluded that it was important for the local region, through the MPO (NVTA for Northern Virginia), to still provide the allocation recommendations but also to have CTB members more involved in the process. Hence, a CTB resolution has been drafted on which action will be requested at the February 16th CTB meeting.

Mr. Garczynski further explained that CTB members felt that they have a responsibility for the funds and therefore instead of “rubber stamping” allocation requests, they want to have more interaction between the CTB and the MPOs. He stated that CTB’s current membership is fairly strong in regionalism and wants to make sure that the Commonwealth gets the “biggest bang for the buck” as far as relieving congestion and doing the most for the citizens of Virginia.

Mrs. Drake stated that there was also concern that not all of the federal funds were being obligated. Chairman Nohe noted that some of the issues discussed by the CTB were not necessarily Northern Virginia issues; in fact CTB recognized the existing connections between CTB and NVTA since a CTB member serves on NVTA.

Chairman Nohe explained that several MPO’s (including NVTA) only allocate CMAQ funding on an annual basis. However, VDOT now requires that all CMAQ and RSTP allocation requests be submitted in a six-year program. FY 2012-2017 regional submissions are due by March 15, 2011. Mr. Biesiadny reported that staff has been diligently working to meet this March 15th deadline. In the past, staff has brought the submission request to NVTA for approval prior to the submission date. However, since NVTA will not meet again before the deadline, there are

several options to address this issue. NVTA could schedule a special meeting to take action on this or staff could submit the application with the understanding that NVTA can ratify the submission at its April meeting.

Mr. York moved, with a second by Mrs. Bulova, to authorize staff to submit the application by the March 15th deadline. The motion carried unanimously.

Item V: Information Items

(A) Update on the TransAction 2040 Plan

A report will be provided at the April meeting.

(B) Update of I-66 Projects and Studies

There was no discussion.

(C) Update on the TIP/CLRP

Mr. Biesiadny provided a brief update, including that Governor McDonnell has issued a new proposal for a revised I-95/395 HOT Lanes project which will result in changes to the project lists for the TIP/CLRP.

Chairman Nohe noted that this concludes NVTA's business and returned to a joint meeting with NVTC.

Item IV: (A) Joint NVTC/NVTA Legislative Discussion

Mr. Biesiadny gave a presentation on the various legislative initiatives occurring during the General Assembly session. Of particular interest to NVTA and NVTC, HB 2016 (which would consolidate NVTA, NVTC and PRTC) was recommended by the House Transportation Committee Subcommittee to be passed on to the Joint Commission on Transportation Accountability.

Ms. Dominguez reviewed the elements of the Governor's Transportation Plan, which totals \$4 billion in funding. Mr. Zimmerman questioned whether Northern Virginia's local governments (with Triple AAA or AA bond ratings) would do better by issuing their own bonds compared to applying for loans from the proposed Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (VTIB). Mrs. Drake explained that local governments, regional transportation agencies and the private sector would be eligible to apply for grants or loans from the VTIB. Mr. Biesiadny noted that the grants would probably not be available to Northern Virginia jurisdictions, but they would be eligible for the loans. The grants will only be available to those jurisdictions that could not reasonably finance a project another way. In response to a question from Delegate Ebbin, Ms. Dominguez stated that repayment of loans would start five years after the project was completed and would continue over a 20-25 year period until the loan was repaid.

Mr. Zimmerman asked if there is a list of all the projects to be funded under the governor's plan and if it includes how much is being allocated to the HOT Lanes project. Mr. Biesiadny stated that there is a list of the 900 projects and allocated amounts that staff can provide to Board members.

Mr. McKay asked about the status of HB1892 which would raise revenue in Northern Virginia for transportation. Mr. Biesiadny replied that it has not been heard in committee and it is unlikely to advance given the schedule. Mr. McKay asked if there is a way to know if GARVEE bonds are available at the federal level. Mr. Biesiadny stated that they could be a part of the reauthorization bill which is currently two years behind schedule. Currently, they are a tool available to the states. Virginia receives about \$1 billion in transportation funding from the federal government on an annual basis. The McDonnell Administration has indicated that \$125 million annually would be used to repay GARVEE bonds, which is approximately 12-15 percent of the Commonwealth's Federal funding allocation.

In response to a question from Mrs. Bulova, Mrs. Drake explained that the toll road credits (\$400 million) in the transportation plan are used as a match for the GARVEE bonds. Mrs. Bulova stated that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors requests that toll credits are used for the area in which they are generated.

Mrs. Bulova stated that she was pleased to see that the intent of the governor's plan is not meant to be a "be all, end all" solution but a beginning, which provides some transportation funding for this year. Mrs. Drake agreed. Mr. Snyder asked if there is any analysis that compares what Northern Virginia is currently receiving versus what is being proposed. Mr. Biesiadny answered that of the list of approximately 900 projects, 21 percent are in Northern Virginia. Depending on how all the pieces of the governor's transportation plan get passed through the General Assembly, the list of projects most likely will be reduced. Senator Whipple stated that the project list is not included in any legislation. Chairman Nohe stated that in real terms projects will be funded faster, but in relative terms it is not clear how Northern Virginia will fair in comparison to the rest of the Commonwealth.

Senator Whipple stated that she voted against the transportation bill in committee (vote was 13-2). She had several concerns, including the acceleration of the bonds. If \$600 million is sold in bonds each year for the next three years, for the following three years only \$50 million would be available in each of those years, which is just enough for the Metro payment. There would be no additional bonding authority after that. Chairman Nohe stated that Northern Virginia wants new sustainable funding. This plan does not provide that. That does not mean that it is all bad, but it is not what the region has consistently requested—new sustainable funding. He stated that the question becomes how do we translate what is being proposed into what the region needs for the next year and beyond. Board members did agree that one benefit to the governor's plan is that jobs are being created.

Mr. Cook stated that when advocating for statewide funding, the region is paying 40 percent in and only getting 21 percent back. This makes the point that the region may be better off if the region was raising the revenue and keeping it all.

Mr. Snyder stated that it is important to be clear that this transportation plan does not solve the problems for Northern Virginia. Mrs. Drake replied that Governor McDonnell knows this, but this is what can be done this year. Mrs. Hudgins stated that the missing piece is what will be proposed for the future. NVTC Chairman Euille stated that the governor has said that it is part of a three-year funding plan. Mrs. Hynes questioned if the transportation plan is approved, what incentive will there be for the General Assembly to act next year.

Item VI: Other Business

There was no other business.

Item VII: Adjournment

NVTC Chairman Euille and NVTA Chairman Nohe adjourned the joint meeting at 6:22 P.M. There were no objections.

Next Meeting:

April 14, 2011

7:30 P.M.

Fairfax City Hall

10455 Armstrong Street, Rooms 111 A&B

Fairfax, VA 22030