

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

Summary Minutes
December 12, 2002

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

Members
(those present are highlighted)

Kerry J. Donley (arrived 6:55 PM)
Christopher Zimmerman
Robert F. Lederer
Katherine K. Hanley
Daniel E. Gardner
Scott K. York
Harry J. "Hal" Parrish, II
William Wren
Sean T. Connaughton (arrived 6:55 PM)
William Mims
Vincent F. Callahan, Jr.
John A. Rollison, III
J. Kenneth Klinge
Margaret E. G. Vanderhye (arrived 6:44 PM)
Karen Rae (arrived 6:55 PM)
Tom Farley

Mayor, City of Alexandria
Chairman, Arlington County
Mayor, City of Fairfax
Chairman, Fairfax County
Mayor, City of Falls Church
Chairman, Loudoun County
Vice Mayor, City of Manassas
Council Member, City of Manassas Park
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)
District Administrator, No. Va. region, VDOT (non-voting member)

Staff Present

Linda Summerall

Executive Secretary

Call to Order

Chairman Klinge called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Approval of August Minutes

Chairman Zimmerman requested that the last sentence of the first paragraph on page four be changed to "...and asked *the committee* to review and update Appendix D." Chairman Hanley moved approval of the minutes of the August 7, 2002, meeting as amended. The motion was seconded and carried. Chairman York abstained since he did not attend that meeting.

Technical Committee Report

Tom Biesiadny, Chairman of the Interim Tech Committee and Fairfax County staff, pointed out the chart of the FY04 Proposed CMAQ program and RSTP program (as revised 11/25/02) included in the meeting package. He noted that several projects deferred to FY04 are defined as FY03 carry-over. The FY03 projects were adopted by the TCC last year; however, after adoption the amount of funding available for the program was reduced; in order to keep from taking a percentage cut on all the projects, several were deferred to FY 2004 (defined on the list as FY03 carry-over). The FY04 projects were submitted by the jurisdictions and discussed by the Technical Committee.

Chairman Klinge asked if the committee discussed the priority of the carry-over projects and if they should take priority in funding. Mr. Biesiadny replied that the committee believes they should be funded before the FY04 projects.

Chairman Hanley moved approval of the project list. The motion was seconded and carried. Senator Mims abstained.

Governor's Transportation Projects

Mr. Farley distributed information on the Governor's proposed plan to reform VDOT.

Mr. Farley advised the members that the Governor would like to see spot improvement programs established in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads, and \$20 million would be available to each area for same. He asked if the Technical Committee could help VDOT identify ten projects in Northern Virginia that could be implemented quickly (one year) and cheaply (less than \$2 million) that would help relieve congestion. This list would be presented to the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Mr. Farley added that VDOT is interested in also hearing from interested groups, such as the Coalition for Smarter Growth and the Transportation Alliance. Any multi-modal project that would improve air quality should be considered. The Governor would like a preliminary list in February. The plan is to finalize the list in March for presentation to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for inclusion in the update of the six-year plan.

Chairman Hanley pointed out that Fairfax County currently has a spot program. She then raised questions that will need to be thought through in order to identify projects: What is the year? Is traffic light synchronization operational or hardware? For bus service, is it buying the bus or operating the bus? Mr. Farley said these are good questions and VDOT will need to get guidance from the administration. Presumably, the year starts July 1, with implementation within twelve months. Mr. Farley added that several criteria need to be considered in identifying the types of projects. He then pointed out there is currently no revenue for next year's six-year plan; there seems to be a little bit of growth in the revenue stream that could fund this but Mr. Farley does not want to say he is making a \$20 million commitment now.

It was noted that the Technical Committee next meets January 2, 2003. Chairman York moved that the Technical Committee be authorized to explore the parameters, answer the questions raised by Chairman Hanley, develop a draft list of projects, and bring this back to the Authority in January. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried. Mr. Farley said VDOT will work with the Technical Committee on this and will advertise the public notice of the meeting.

The Future of the Authority

Chairman Klinge opened the discussion, noting that several suggestions had been made, including that the Authority: go away; start planning transportation; start funding projects; and that legislation be introduced to disband the entity. He noted there is \$56 million in CMAQ and RSTP funds to be distributed among the Northern Virginia jurisdictions this year and some entity must do that. In the past, the TCC did it, but the TCC is not a legal entity under the Code of Virginia; the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority is.

Chairman Hanley noted that the TCC had also been acting as the Northern Virginia caucus for the TPB. It is very important to have a formal way to do this for Northern Virginia in the greater D.C. setting. Mayor Donley concurred, noting times when the TPB has had to use weighted voting, and it is imperative that Northern Virginia act with one voice.

Senator Mims said funds will be available in the future, and it is in the public interest not to have to reconstitute this body.

Chairman Zimmerman agreed with the points made by his colleagues. He noted that the basis of this body is not the transportation sales tax referendum. The Authority has not yet closely reviewed its statutory powers, and Chairman Zimmerman suggested it do so. The members should spend the next year figuring out what the Authority can do that will be helpful in solving the region's transportation problems.

Chairman Connaughton pointed out that the legislation creating the Authority was passed a year prior to the legislation authorizing the referendum. There are many regional issues still to be dealt with. In statute, the Authority has more substance than the TCC. The Authority could develop public-private partnerships under the Public-Private Transportation Act (PPTA). It already has the authority to develop regional plans, and it has a relationship with the TCB and the Northern Virginia office of VDOT that needs to be explored. Chairman Connaughton said he thinks the Authority should develop its own legislative agenda for the upcoming session of the General Assembly. It should also develop a TEA-3 agenda and better coordinate the region's transportation plans.

Chairman York said he has many concerns about dealing with the transportation needs of our communities, adding that he thinks it is important to give the Authority a year to see what this body can do to solve those problems.

Ms. Vanderhye concurred with the views expressed around the table. She believes that one constituency group of voters rejected the referendum because they lack confidence in the way planning has been done. This is an extraordinary opportunity to show the public that land use and transportation planning can be done regionally.

Councilman Wren suggested asking the General Assembly to fund the bond not passed by the referendum.

Vice Mayor Parrish said he concurred with the views expressed by the other members.

Chairman Connaughton suggested seeking legislative changes to the transportation funding formula. Chairman Hanley said she thought most of the jurisdictions in NVTC have looked at that and taken a position on transit funding. Chairman Connaughton said the first item of business is developing the Authority's "dream" funding formula and sharing it with the Northern Virginia Delegation; second, to have the Technical Committee look at TEA-3 reauthorization and what needs to be done; and third, to have a task force develop a work plan for the Authority.

Chairman York raised the question of hiring an executive director for the Authority. Chairman Klinge stated that for the next budget cycle, part of the work plan should look at the jurisdictions putting up some money, having this body avail itself of some of the federal money currently going to MWCOC for planning purposes, and look for earmarks at the state and federal levels. He added that the Budget Committee can look into this. The members noted that the statute addresses the funding formula for the localities. Chairman Zimmerman pointed out that the members are simply exploring possible options; the Authority has made no funding commitments.

Chairman Klinge summed up that there is consensus on what the Authority needs to do. He noted that the Technical Committee has been charged with developing the draft list of ten spot projects for \$20 million and developing the funding formula. Chairman Connaughton asked that it be considered with the PPTA aspect and regional planning.

Committee Updates

• *Bylaws Committee*

Chairman Connaughton reported that Ms. Vanderhye and Vice Mayor Parrish served on this committee, and the committee received assistance from jurisdictional staff.

The committee met in October and made revisions, resulting in the December 4 draft included in the meeting package. Chairman Connaughton pointed out that the Guiding Principles will not be included in the bylaws, nor is there a provision for an executive committee.

The Authority will act on the bylaws next month. Members were invited to submit changes for consideration to Chairman Connaughton.

Other Business

Mr. McDonald (VDOT/NoVa) briefly reviewed some of the projects. He reported that VDOT is looking at late March to update the public on the status of I-66, adding that VDOT will coordinate with the jurisdictions' staff to avoid conflicts in dates. Also, a draft purpose and needs statement has been produced on CD and distributed to the Technical Committee at its last meeting.

Mr. McDonald pointed out that the published report in the members' meeting package includes web site addresses for the projects.

Deputy Secretary of Transportation Pierce Homer has been appointed chairman of the advisory committee for the western transportation corridor study.

Chairman Hanley questioned the information as reported under the last bullet of the Dulles Corridor Rapid Transit Project. Chairman Klinge concurred with Chairman Hanley's understanding of what transpired at that meeting, and said he would work with Mr. McDonald on the correction.

Next Meeting

Chairman Klinge announced the Authority will meet at 7:30 p.m. on January 9, 2003, at NVRC.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Klinge adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.