

## Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

Summary Minutes  
JANUARY 12, 2006

held at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission  
3060 Williams Drive, Suite 510  
Fairfax, Virginia 22031

### Members

(those present are highlighted)

Ludwig Gaines for William Euille  
Christopher Zimmerman  
Robert Lederer  
Gerald E. Connolly  
David Snyder  
Scott K. York  
Harry J. "Hal" Parrish, II  
Bryan Polk  
Martin Nohe (alternate)  
Vincent F. Callahan, Jr.  
Jeff Frederick  
Margaret E. G. Vanderhye  
Tanya Husick (alternate)  
Dennis Morrison

*Alexandria City Council  
Chairman, 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  
Prince William Board of County Supervisors  
Virginia House of Delegates, District 34  
Virginia House of Delegates, District 52  
Governor's Appointee  
VDRPT (non-voting member)  
No. Va. District Administrator, VDOT (non-voting member)*

### Staff Present

Linda Summerall

NVRC

### Call to Order

Chairman Snyder called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

### Roll Call

The roll was called and members present or absent were noted for the record. It was noted that the state elected officials were unable to attend since the General Assembly is in session.

### Approval of Minutes

Mr. Connolly moved approval of the minutes of the December 8, 2005, meeting. The motion was seconded and carried, with Chairman Snyder abstaining.

### Action Items:

#### A. Approval of TransAction 2030 Materials

Staff distributed maps, a news release, the summary report and transmittal letter.

Mr. Connolly moved approval of the transmittal letter and the motion was seconded. Mr. Connolly asked for confirmation that the plan includes prioritization of projects, unlike the 2020 Plan.

Mr. Connolly then congratulated staff for a monumental piece of work.

Jana Lynott reported that the graphics will be improved before the report is printed, and the maps will be included in a pocket folder. Ms. Vanderhye moved approval of the summary report; the motion was duly seconded. Ms. Lynott stated that the budget allows for 10,000 printed copies. The motion carried unanimously.

Turning to the news release, Chairman Snyder suggested adding language about the importance of supporting jobs in Northern Virginia for the entire state; “each job in Northern Virginia establishes 50% more in state taxes than anywhere else.” The members agreed.

Tom Biesiadny and Rick Canizales will deliver the reports to the General Assembly members within the week. Chairman Snyder requested that it be delivered tomorrow to Governor Warner and Governor-Elect Kaine.

B. Approval of Letter on I-95/395 HOT Lane Proposals

Mr. Biesiadny reported that the draft letter is similar to the one distributed last month. Delegate Frederick had reviewed an email version and added the second bullet on the second page: “If the project proceeds, VDOT should incorporate commitments made by proposers advocating the project into the comprehensive agreement, and monitor the agreement closely in the future to ensure the successful proposer complies with the commitments.” Staff added the third bullet, “Tolls should be maintained at a level that is higher than the fare on comparable transit service in the corridor.”

Mr. York inquired if the state can cancel the contract if the HOT lanes don’t perform to standard. Mr. Morrison replied that that is part of the negotiations and it will have to be proved to VDOT; VDOT and the state will control how the lanes are run. Mr. Connolly, agreeing with Mr. York’s point, commented that he would expect the state to negotiate fines for not performing to standard, and asked what safeguards will be put into place. Mr. Morrison suggested NVTA may want to go on record regarding penalties, safeguards and accountability.

Members discussed HOV cheaters, enforcement and hybrids using HOV lanes.

Mr. Connolly moved that NVTA send the letter but that the second bullet on the second page be expanded by adding “and include objectives and appropriate penalties for failure to meet them.” The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

C. Approval of Calendar Year 2006 Work Program

NVTA will meet jointing with the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) February 9 in the General Assembly Building from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Members agreed to hear the MWA proposals if they agree to go to Richmond.

Mr. York moved adoption of the work program. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

*Discussion Item:*

2006 General Assembly Session

Tom Biesiadny reported that the Authority’s Legislative Platform has been sent to the Northern Virginia Delegation. Mr. Connolly reported on feedback that several members of the Northern Virginia Delegation are unaware of the one-quarter cent tax for a dedicated source of funding for Metro, adding it is incumbent upon NVTA members to impress upon them that all the compact jurisdiction and all of the regional bodies have endorsed this proposal. Mr. Biesiadny replied that Shiva Pant (WMATA) has asked Delegate Callahan for permission to make a presentation to the Delegation within the next few weeks on this issue. Chairman Snyder suggested asking NVTC for help in making this position known. Mr. Zimmerman stressed the importance of securing assistance also from the business community.

The recommendations from the Commission on Transportation in Urbanized Areas were noted. NVRTA members Messrs. Zimmerman, York and Connolly were members of the commission.

Mr. Connolly discussed the state's arbitrarily low 5% debt cap for bonds, with its debt utilization at 2.8%. If the state increased it to 10%, which is the cap used by AAA-bond rated Arlington and Fairfax counties, approximately \$7 billion would be available to fund transportation infrastructure over 10 years. Mr. Connolly moved that NVRTA adopt this position. Mr. Nohe seconded the motion, adding that the bond agencies state that AAA-rated entities should have a debt cap between 7-9% and view a low debt cap as cause for potential concern. The motion carried unanimously. A letter will be sent to the Northern Virginia Delegation and the Governor-Elect.

Ms. Vanderhuy, a member of the START task force, spoke to the START recommendations. Of particular interest are the following "actions":

- New revenue resources designated by the General Assembly as regional or local transportation dollars shall be used exclusively for transportation projects and services within that region or locality. The Commonwealth shall not use the money for any other purpose. The action requires *legislation*.
- Localities or regions that raise new transportation money shall not have state assistance reduced for such activities. The action requires a *budget amendment*.
- State revenues designated by law shall not be diverted and used for purposes other than transportation. This action requires *legislation*.
- Establish Urban Congestion Relief Fund to address, primarily, statewide and regional needs in Virginia's urban corridors.

Mr. Connolly pointed out that 20 laws since 1990 impinge on local land use powers; for 21 years, TDRs have been introduced in bills and failed; furthermore the state continues to shift its responsibilities to the localities.

Also discussed were the Governor's budget and its impacts on Northern Virginia, and Messrs. Snyder's and Connolly's presentations at Governor-Elect Kaine's Town Hall meeting on January 6.

- Proposed Legislation: HB 109 (Purkey) would restore photo red authority to those jurisdictions that had it; Delegate McQuigg will file a bill allowing photo red state-wide. SB 267 (Whipple) and HB 1003 (Ebbin) provide one-quarter cent for dedicated funding for Metro.

#### I-66/TIP Amendment

FY 06 would add \$992,000 from a federal earmark (TEA-21) to the FY 2005-2010 TIP, and \$8.6 million would be added for the spot improvements phase of the Idea-66 study.

Mr. Zimmerman distributed Arlington County's amendment to the Idea-66 spot improvements. Mr. Morrison said that many of the points in this document are major studies, not spot improvements. Mr. Zimmerman moved adoption, and the motion was seconded.

Mr. Connolly offered an amendment keeping the seconded paragraph of item #1, items #2, 3 and 5, and the second paragraph of item #4 as follows: "The spot improvements will evaluate HOV enforcement areas a continuous 12-foot shoulder, signing, Traffic Management Systems (TMS) and ramp metering," and that it is desirable that VDOT undertake a long range, multimodal, environmental study. Mr. Zimmerman accepted the amendment.

Mr. York expressed concern and skepticism of improving traffic flow if I-66 is not completely widened to three lanes and was told that these are spot improvements rather than a long-term fix. VDOT will perform a simulation before doing the engineering.

At Chairman Snyder's suggestion, the members agreed to include language that spot improvements won't degrade highway safety.

The motion carried with Mr. York abstaining. Staff will prepare a letter to the TPB from Chairman Snyder.

Adjournment

Chairman Snyder adjourned the meeting at 9:31 p.m.