

Joint Meeting
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and
Northern Virginia Regional Commission
Summary Minutes
DECEMBER 8, 2005

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

Members
(those present are highlighted)

Paul Smedberg for William Euille
Christopher Zimmerman
Joan Cross for Robert Lederer
Gerald E. Connolly
David Snyder
Scott K. York
Harry J. "Hal" Parrish, II
Bryan Polk
Martin Nohe (alternate)
William Mims
Vincent F. Callahan, Jr.
Jeff Frederick
Margaret E. G. Vanderhaye
Tanya Husick (alternate)
Bob MacDonald (alternate)

Alexandria City Council
Arlington County Board
Fairfax City Council
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 Senate, District 33
Virginia House of Delegates, District 34
Virginia House of Delegates, District 52
Governor's Appointee
VDRPT (non-voting member)
No. Va. District, VDOT (non-voting member)

Staff Present

Linda Summerall

NVRC

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:22 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 November 10, 2005, meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Action Items:

A. Approval of Legislative Program

In addition to the legislative package, the members unanimously approved a list of regional transportation project priorities for Northern Virginia totaling \$1,750,000. The legislative package as amended was adopted unanimously.

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

The letter to the Secretary of Transportation recommends that HOV traffic be allowed to use HOT Lanes at no charge and that that be incorporated in the law, that local jurisdictions and operators be involved in deciding how access points for transit are done, that a portion of the toll road revenue be dedicated to transit and that that money be allocated by local and regional boards, any proposal ensures that the facility continues to meet federal guidelines as a fixed guideway to ensure that Northern Virginia does not lose existing transit formula revenues, the project should adhere to state law requiring HOV lanes maintain a minimum average operating speed of 45 mph, that Phase VIII

of the I-95 Springfield Mixing Bowl project is completed and the fourth lane on I-95 between Newington and Occoquan River is constructed prior to opening the HOT lanes, and that HOT/HOV lane access to and from I-95 North at the Springfield Mixing Bowl be built to accommodate future HOT/HOV lanes to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

In deference to Delegate Frederick who raised the issue last month, Mr. Connolly moved deferral until Delegate Frederick can review the proposed letter. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Discussion/Information Items:

A. Calendar Year 2006 Work Program and Meeting Schedule

It was noted that the Authority's meeting regular meeting date on February 9 is VML/VACo Day in Richmond. Staff will look into having the Authority meet in Richmond that day in the late afternoon.

B. TIP Amendments

One amendment incorporates funds for a continuing study of the widening of I-66.

Adjournment

Vice Chairman Zimmerman adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m., asking the members to stay for the joint presentation of the TransAction 2030 transportation plan with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission.

Presentation:

TransAction 2030

Rick Canizales (Prince William County staff) and Jana Lynott (Northern Virginia Transportation Commission staff) provided a brief overview of TransAction 2030, the update to the Northern Virginia 2020 regional transportation plan.

Mr. Canizales reviewed the following background points:

- The 2020 plan was prepared in 1999; some of the projects included in that plan have been completed or are underway; since then, vehicle miles have increased at 2.1% annually and transit trips have increased at 4% annually.
- The 2030 plan contains eight regional, multi-modal corridors.
- The D.C. metropolitan region is growing dramatically and has the 3rd highest traffic congestion in the U.S.
- Demand on Metrorail exceeds capacity, and VRE usage has grown by 76% since 2000.

In order to complete the projects in TransAction 2030, \$15 billion will be needed above the funding identified in the Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP).

Ms. Lynott reviewed the public involvement opportunities, adding that 1,263 adults living in Northern Virginia participated in a telephone. Fifty percent of the respondents said that public transportation is their top priority; people living in Prince William County were as supportive of public transportation as those living in Arlington County.

Once NVTA members approve the draft summary report in January, it will be forwarded to the General Assembly. In reply to a question, Mr. Zimmerman said the funding will be a combination of state and federal funds.

NVRC Chairman Barbara Favola noted that transportation funding is NVRC's legislative priority. She added that all Northern Virginia regional bodies need to have the same message and that members need to personally work with the General Assembly on this issue. Ms. Vanderhye suggested the report also be forwarded to the members of the START Task Force. Mr. Connolly

added that he has heard that several General Assembly members are blaming transportation problems on the localities' land use practices. Ms. Vanderhuyse replied that her impression is that the Task Force recognizes the need for a comprehensive solution, including empowering the localities to do more to work on land use issues, looking at funding allocation formulas, etc., but by no means will the entire solution be handed off to the localities. There is a tremendous amount of recognition that the current funding is insufficient and that additional tools are needed to make the funding as optimal as possible. NVRC Commissioner Bruce Tulloch expressed concern that some Task Force members may want to turn the secondary road system over to localities.

Mr. Connolly requested that the Highway System Peak Period Performance charts be included in the final summary report.

NVRC Commissioner Michael O'Reilly moved that NVRC send a cover letter with the draft summary report to the START Task Force by December 16 and to the General Assembly. The motion was seconded. NVRC Chairman Favola confirmed that NVRC's cover letter will state that the Commission received the report, believes its information is important and endorses the report. NVRC members unanimously approved the motion.

Ms. Lynott summarized the TransAction 2030 regional public hearing held December 6 at George Marshall High School in Falls Church. A member of the Interim Technical Committee was posted at each station to answer questions from the public. Fifty-plus members of the public attended the public hearing; twelve people signed up for public comments. The public gave high marks for the scientific survey. One criticism of the survey was that project cost information was not provided. Ms. Lynott added that the project staff were impressed that three of the public speakers had taken public transportation to the hearing. One of those speakers said better communication on bus routes and schedule information is needed and suggested using the ART bus (Arlington Rapid Transit) as a model for transit information and maps.

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.