

**Northern Virginia Transportation Authority**  
Summary Minutes  
Joint Meeting with the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission  
FEBRUARY 9, 2006

held at the General Assembly Building, Room 4 East  
Capitol Square  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

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  
**Martin Nohe (alternate)**  
Vincent F. Callahan, Jr.  
**Jeff Frederick**  
**Margaret E. G. Vanderhye**  
**Karen Rae**  
**Dennis Morrison**  
*vacant*  
*vacant*

**Mayor, City of Alexandria**  
*Chairman, Arlington County Board*  
*Mayor, City of Fairfax*  
**Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors**  
**NVTA Chairman; Falls Church City Council**  
**Chairman, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors**  
**Vice Mayor, City of Manassas**  
*Manassas Park City Council*  
**Prince William County Board of County Supervisors**  
*Virginia House of Delegates, District 34*  
**Virginia House of Delegates, District 52**  
**Governor's Appointee**  
**Director, Va. DRPT** *(non-voting member)*  
**No. Va. District Administrator, VDOT** *(non-voting member)*  
*Virginia Senate*  
*Governor's Appointee, CTB Member*

Staff Present

James Van Zee

NVRC

Call to Order

Chairman Snyder called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were held for the March meeting of the Authority.

Presentation: MWAA Proposal to Take Over Dulles Toll Road Project

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA), which manages both Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and Washington Dulles International Airport and the right away of the state-operated Dulles Toll Road, has submitted a proposal to take over operations of the Toll Road and build the entire Dulles corridor Metrorail extension from West Falls Church to Dulles Airport and into Loudoun County. Officials have been concerned about the second phase of the project, which will bring rail to Dulles Airport. The first phase is underway with preliminary engineering expected to be completed by February 2006; a full funding grant agreement reached with the Federal Transit Administration by the fall of 2006; and construction begun by the end of 2006. The Airports Authority proposes to use toll revenues to fund the state's portion of the first half of the rail line, as well as the state and federal shares of the second phase. MWAA President and CEO Jim Bennett said that the Airports Authority's proposal would ensure revenues earned on the toll road would be invested in transportation improvements in the Dulles corridor.

Mr. Connolly noted that the Airports Authority has board members appointed by the Governor (as well as DC and Maryland representation), but no specific local Virginia representation. He explained that if the Airports Authority were to be awarded this project, it must be responsive to local concerns and to the work that has already been underway with the special tax districts. Mr. York noted that Loudoun County was encouraged by the Airports Authority's proposal because it would assure construction of the rail line to Dulles Airport and Loudoun County.

*Discussion Items:*

A. Approval of Project Priorities for Distribution at Dec. 6 TransAction 2030 Public Hearing

Mr. York moved approval. The motion was seconded.

Mr. Connolly complimented the staff. Ms. Vanderhye asked for general talking points for Authority members.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of FY 2007 CMAQ/RSTP Project List

Mr. Connolly moved approval. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

*Information Item:*

Legislative Discussion

Delegate Frederick was to address the status of transportation legislation in the House of Delegates. He explained that the leadership had been developing a package to be announced the next day (Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>). Delegate Adam Ebbin asked if the plan would include funding dedicated to Metro? Delegate Frederick stated that he did not yet know the details of the House leadership's proposals, but that he supported Delegate David Albo's bills to increase fees on abusive drivers and supported directing a portion of present sales tax revenues. Delegate Frederick went on to say that he felt that there was a transportation crisis, not a state revenue crisis. He said that the crisis is in prioritizing present revenues to areas such as transportation.

Mr. York explained that it is also the inequality in taxation between cities and towns to that of counties. Chairman Snyder explained that the transcontinental railroad was built after the Civil War and the Interstate Highway System was begun after World War II. It is in a time of crisis that important actions are needed. The preservation of Virginia's transportation system is crucial for the state's welfare and to support jobs. It is a matter of good, basic government and is not a partisan issue. Transportation needs steady funding and cannot be funded one day and not the next.

Ms. Vanderhye stated that there is no budget surplus if there is a drawer full of bills still to be paid. She went on to say that the public is skeptical of the General Assembly putting off a solution and demands truth telling. The funds are needed now. Mr. Connolly re-emphasized that by 2015 Virginia will not have the state money to match federal transportation funds.

Delegate Frederick responded that it was Governor Warner who "doctored" the books and instituted a huge tax increase. There has been no budget reform since 1971 and that the commonwealth should only pay for those items that are most essential.

Senator Mary Margaret Whipple stated that the Senate's philosophy is different. The Senate removed transportation from comprehensive funding for education and other services two years ago and now is the time to act of transportation. The current surge in state revenue was unforeseen and is due largely to the real estate boom that generated recordation taxes, especially on refinanced mortgages.

Mr. Connolly commented on the fissure in state politics reflected in the differences between the positions of the Senate and House leaderships. He described Delegate Tom Rust's bill (HB1555) and reported that Delegate Rust was willing to amend it to designate \$50 million for WMATA. The bill had been significantly altered in subcommittee reducing its initial yield from \$300 million (later up to \$468 million) down to \$80 million. Delegate Ebbin said that House Finance Committee Chairman Harry Parrish could bring up HB1003 (dedicated Metro funding) at his discretion, even though the Committee has tabled it. Alexandria Councilman Paul Smedberg stated that HB1555 could also be put back on the table.

Chairman Snyder asked the Senators and Delegates (Delegate Frederick had left the meeting) what was the message that is still needed. Senator Whipple emphasized the potential loss of federal funds and the need to still educate the General Assembly about the need to dedicate funds to Metro. Those present reviewed a public flyer designed to generate public support. Arlington Board Member Jay Fisette asked about using Governor Kaine's attendance lists from his transportation town meetings to target the flyers. Delegate Ebbin suggested adding a tag to call before February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Fairfax County Supervisor Dana Kauffman noted the importance of legislators being contacted by constituents. He asked Bill Legos of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, who was in the audience, if he would be willing to share the flyer with his employer members who then could pass it along to employees.

Those present on NVTC voted to authorize staff to print and distribute the flyer to educate the public about the need to contact their Delegates and Senators to support dedicated Metro funding and related issues.

#### Recognition of Karen Rae

It was noted that this was the last meeting for Karen Rae, Director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, who had accepted a position with Pennsylvania as Assistant Secretary of Transportation. She was thanked for her dedication to public transportation in Virginia.

#### Additional NVTA Business

Subsequent to NVTC actions, Chairman Snyder asked Tom Biesiadny to update the Authority on the remainder of its information items. Mr. Biesiadny completed the legislative update, reviewing pertinent bills and their status.

#### Adjournment

Chairman Snyder adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.