

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
Summary Minutes
OCTOBER 12, 2006

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

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
Jeannemarie Devolites Davis
Vincent F. Callahan, Jr.
Jeff Frederick
Judy Connally
Margaret E. G. Vanderhye
Tanya Husick (alternate)
Bob McDonald (alternate)

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

Staff Present

Linda Summerall

Executive Secretary, NVRC

Call to Order

Chairman Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:44 p.m.

Roll Call

The roll was called and members present or absent were noted for the record. Mr. Zimmerman noted that pending a quorum, all action items would be approved provisionally.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Connolly moved approval of the minutes of the September 14 meeting. The motion was seconded and carried, with Ms. Connally abstaining.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Connolly moved the consent agenda, consisting of the item outlined below. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Approval of Manassas' Request to Reallocate CMAQ Funds

Action Items

Mr. Connolly moved approval of the two action items, outlined below. The motion was seconded.

- A. *Approval of Testimony for CTB Pre-Allocation Public Hearing*
- B. *Approval of Position on FAMPO's Request to Reallocate Federal Transit Funds*

Item B: Interim Technical Committee Chairman Tom Biesiadny explained that the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO) has requested a portion of federal transit funds

allocated to the D.C. are by population, since a small portion of Stafford County is considered part of the Washington UZA (urbanized area). The Interim Technical Committee does not support this position because of the precedent it would set; several other jurisdictions are part of the Washington UZA but do not receive WMATA service directly or contribute to its operating and capital budgets. If all of these jurisdictions made the same request FAMPO is making, WMATA would lose \$1M to \$2M per year in federal transit assistance. The WMATA compact jurisdictions would then need to increase their WMATA subsidy by an equal amount.

Mr. Connolly stated his opposition to FAMPO's request. Mr. Snyder agreed, but wondered if there is a forum to address the issue. Mr. Biesiadny explained that when the 2010 Census is taken, that portion of Stafford County will be placed in the Fredericksburg area. Mr. Nohe suggested that NVRTA find out what FAMPO plans to do with the funds, if they were reallocated to FAMPO.

The motion carried unanimously.

Recognition of David Snyder

On behalf of the members, Chairman Zimmerman presented Immediate Past Chairman Snyder with a commemorative plaque thanking him for his two years as chairman and guiding the TransAction 2030 Regional Transportation Plan to fruition.

Presentations:

A. Idea-66 Study

Marie Travesky, the consultant working with VDOT on this project, presented a brief overview of the feasibility study results and the spot improvement results westbound between the Rosslyn tunnel to the Dulles Access Road. Of the analysis results, only one of the three recommended alternatives for spot improvements is fully funded.

Mr. Snyder pointed out that alternative 2A does not reduce delays nor improve speed nor reduce travel time. Ms. Travesky said she would take these comments back, adding that transit will come under the multi-modal side. Chairman Zimmerman expressed concern that the alternatives will simply move the bottleneck further down the highway.

B. Virginia Submission to CLRP Financial Update

By statute, the MPO must update the CLRP at least once every three years. The purpose of the analysis is to estimate the amount of money the region will have available for transportation projects and services between 2006 and 2030. That estimate is based on projects of current revenue from federal, state, local and private sources. Northern Virginia's portion will cost approximately \$35 billion, slightly higher than in 2003; this does not include the identified costs for the TransAction 2030 Plan.

Mr. Connolly raised the issue of asking the MPO for funding to disseminate the TransAction 2030 Plan to the public.

It was noted that a larger portion of the funds is going to maintenance and debt. Ms. Connolly pointed out that revenue from the gas tax is down by ten percent, with Chairman Zimmerman adding that the gas tax rate hasn't changed in 20 years. The members also commented on the fact that 84 percent of local transit operating costs are borne by local share and fares, while state and federal aid amounts to only 14 percent and two percent, respectively. Further, Northern Virginia puts the most local money into transit on a per capita basis, \$200 compared to \$20 per capita in Richmond in Tidewater.

2007 Legislative Platform

Mr. Biesiadny reported that the platform is the same as last year's, with two additional recommended items:

- Consider changes to the VDOT regulations implementing SB 699 (Houck) establishing stronger coordination between transportation and land use. Changes would address practical implementation problems, if these problems remain in the final version of the regulations.
- Consider changes to VDOT's revenue sharing program to restore the program requirements to the way they were before the 2006 General Assembly session and include additional funding.

Mr. Connolly asked that the Authority include a position opposing any legislation that would in effect have a moratorium on the acceptance of secondary roads into the state system until or unless the General Assembly is prepared to allow us to overturn the Albemarle decision.

Information Items

The only information item on the agenda to generate comment was news conference and media coverage of the TransAction 2030 Plan, with Jana Lynott, who coordinated the event, expressing satisfaction with the coverage.

Senator Devolites Davis suggested that the survey be sent again to the General Assembly Members with the final plan.

Senator Devolites Davis advised the members that December 8 is the final date for drafting legislation. The members agreed that their 2007 Legislative Platform should be adopted at the November 9 meeting.

Adjournment

Chairman Zimmerman adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.