

**Northern Virginia Transportation Authority**  
Summary Minutes  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2006

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

Members  
(those present are highlighted)

<b>William Eulle</b>	<i>Mayor, City of Alexandria</i>
<b>Christopher Zimmerman</b>	<i>Chairman, Arlington County Board; NVTA (incoming) Chairman</i>
<b>Robert Lederer</b>	<i>Mayor, City of Fairfax</i>
<b>Gerald E. Connolly</b>	<i>Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors</i>
<b>David Snyder</b>	<i>Falls Church City Council; NVTA (outgoing) Chairman</i>
<b>Scott K. York</b>	<i>Chairman, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors</i>
<b>Harry J. "Hal" Parrish, II</b>	<i>Vice Mayor, City of Manassas</i>
<b>Bryan Polk</b>	<i>Manassas Park City Council</i>
<b>Martin Nohe (alternate)</b>	<i>Prince William Board of County Supervisors</i>
<b>Jeannemarie Devolites Davis</b>	<i>Virginia Senate, District 34</i>
<b>Vincent F. Callahan, Jr.</b>	<i>Virginia House of Delegates, District 34</i>
<b>Jeff Frederick</b>	<i>Virginia House of Delegates, District 52</i>
<b>Margaret E. G. Vanderhye</b>	<i>Governor's Appointee</i>
<b>Tanya Husick (alternate)</b>	<i>VDRPT (non-voting member)</i>
<b>Dennis Morrison</b>	<i>No. Va. District Administrator, VDOT (non-voting member)</i>

Staff Present

Linda Summerall

*Executive Secretary, NVRC*

Call to Order

Chairman Snyder called the meeting to order at 7:40 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 June 13 meeting. The motion was seconded and carried, with Mr. York abstaining.

Adoption of TransAction 2030 Resolution

Mr. Connolly moved adoption of the resolution and the motion was seconded.

Mr. York asked that the Authority drop the portion to widen Rt. 50 by two lanes just west of Rt. 15 to Middleburg, as Loudoun County has recently decided to implement traffic calming on that section. The motion to amend was seconded. After discussion, the amended motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Connolly noted that TransAction 2030 strikes a good balance between transit and roads. The plan is a cooperative, regional effort that will make a difference in people's mobility. Mr. Zimmerman concurred, adding that the plan is a carefully crafted consensus across the region; the plan reflects carefully chosen criteria and established priorities.

Mr. Zimmerman asked that the next to last clause be amended by substituting “used” for “considered” and adding “the Commonwealth” after “regional agencies.” Chairman Snyder asked that “federal authorities” also be added. Mr. Connolly accepted these amendments. Mr. York commented on the lack of state funding for this plan and transportation in general.

Chairman Snyder called attention to the letter opposing the plan signed by the Coalition for Smarter Growth and five other organizations. Several NVTA members expressed disappointment in the comments, reiterating that TransAction 2030 reflects the best efforts of the region and provides a balance between transit and road projects. Del. Frederick stated that he found the letter’s comments helpful.

The TransAction 2030 resolution as amended was adopted with Del. Frederick opposed.

Chairman Snyder thanked Rick Canizales and Jana Lynott for their leadership and work on the TransAction 2030 Plan and presented them with plaques of appreciation.

[Mr. Nohe departed the meeting at 8:05 p.m.]

Chairman Snyder recognized Steve DeBenedittis, Mayor of Herndon, and Jane Seeman, Mayor of Vienna.

#### Proposed Albo-Rust Transportation Funding Bill

Tom Biesiadny, Chairman of the Interim Technical Committee, reported that the General Assembly’s pertinent committees will meet September 25-26 and the General Assembly will meet September 27-29 for a special session on transportation.

Del. Thomas Davis Rust noted he had worked on the 2020 Transportation Plan when he served on the Herndon Town Council. He thanked the members for their comments on the draft legislation, adding that changes to the bill had been made, and distributed updated copies.

Delegates May, Watts, McQuigg, Callahan, Scott and Sickles also worked on this legislation. Del. Rust said this bill is just one effort — there are other bills — to start to attempt to solve the transportation problem in Northern Virginia. Del. Rust added that the bill’s patrons wanted to get the buy-in of the business community before meeting with local elected officials.

The bill contains no increases to the sales, gas, and income taxes; it is not politically feasible to propose tax increases. The bill raises money in Northern Virginia and keeps it in Northern Virginia; NVTA will pick the projects and spend the money; NVTA would also gain a town mayor, two additional House members and one additional Senator as a members. The legislation would raise over \$400 million annually through an additional two percent increase on the lodging tax, two percent increase on the rental car tax, and a 30 cents per \$100 increase impact fee on commercial and industrial properties (those in a special tax district would not be double taxed), an impact fee on new residences, increased registration fees on vehicles, plus a one-time registration fee on new vehicles and first-time registration of a vehicle in the state. Local governments must adopt the entire package or they will not be a part of NVTA and will not receive the funds. Del. Rust explained that the patrons believe that having local government involvement ensures that the funds will stay in Northern Virginia.

Del. Watts noted she had worked on the 2010 Transportation Plan. She commented that the infrastructure has been allowed to deteriorate over the past 20 years, and the situation is worse now than the last time the governor and legislature addressed this issue. She stated that in Virginia, because the budget is the last bill to be passed, the budget language can override

anything currently in the code. The concern is that state money — funds that go through the state budget — can be overridden by code as opposed to local money going to this Authority. Local money has to be enacted locally.

Mr. Connolly stated he appreciates the delegates' efforts but sees the bill as an abrogation of state responsibility; where is the state's contribution? He added that Fairfax County cannot support this bill. Mr. York added that Loudoun County will not support the bill. Mr. Euille concurred, noting the VML Legislative Committee agreed that the state must provide transportation funding, adding that Alexandria has problems with the legislation. Ms. Vanderhuy expressed concern that the funding raised by the legislation will be depleted by maintenance, since the law mandates that maintenance be funded before construction. Del. Frederick disagreed, noting the state increased funding in other areas higher than the cost of living. Several Authority members pointed out that local governments are increasingly assuming a larger role in funding transportation and transit projects. After discussing the ramifications of the Dillon Rule on land use, Del. Frederick said he favors giving local governments more authority and more funding.

After further discussion with the delegates, Mr. Zimmerman moved endorsement of the staff comments on the Albo-Rust bill. Mr. Connolly added that the members should make it clear that local government will not take 100 percent responsibility for transportation funding. The motion as amended was seconded and passed unanimously.

The members thanked Delegates Rust and Watts for their time and efforts.

#### Nominating Committee Report/Election of Officers

Ms. Vanderhuy, Nominating Committee Chairman, reported that the committee met, and the election slate is Mr. Zimmerman for Chairman and Mr. Nohe for Vice Chairman. Mr. Connolly seconded the slate of officers.

There were no nominations from the floor. Mr. Euille moved that nominations be closed. The motion was seconded and carried and the officers as proposed were elected.

Mr. Snyder said it had been an honor to serve as chairman for two years. The members thanked him and wished Chairman Zimmerman well.

#### Consent Agenda

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

- A. *Approval to Reallocate Arlington County RSTP Funding*
- B. *Approval of CMAQ/RSTP Submission Deadline*

#### *Discussion Items*

##### A. Approval of Position on FAMPO's Request to Reallocate Federal Transit Funds

The Interim Technical Committee recommends no action at this point in time.

##### B. TPB Effort on Transportation and Land Use

The issue is funding, which staff will monitor.

##### C. HOT Lanes on I-95/395

Tamara Ashby (Arlington County transportation staff), briefed the members on jurisdictional staff concerns, including the fact that local jurisdictions and transit providers are not being consulted.

Del. Frederick said he raised concerns last year that promises have a tendency to degrade over time, and he wants HOV lanes to remain as HOV lanes. He added that a U.S. DOT report shows ride-sharing as the most used method of commuting in the I-95/395 corridor. Chairman Zimmerman concurred, noting that Bus Rapid Transit has been dropped from the HOT lane proposal.

Mr. Euille requested a joint briefing with NVTC by the contractor for the HOT lanes.

#### TransAction 2030 News Conference

Jana Lynott reviewed the details for the half-hour press conference tomorrow morning (Sept. 15) at the Dunn Loring Metro station, adding that Messrs. Snyder, Connolly and Nohe and Ms. Vanderhye will represent NVTA; Chairman Zimmerman will be in Richmond that day. Mr. Nohe and Chairman Zimmerman will discuss the plan on Washington Post's radio station the morning of Sept. 18 on a call-in show.

Mr. Connolly moved that the jurisdictional staff comments on the proposed HOT lanes be composed in a letter Secretary Home. Mr. Snyder requested that "no degradation of safety" be added to the bulleted list. The members agreed with both points.

#### *Other Business*

##### A. Resolution

Mr. York called attention to the distributed resolution providing the Northern Virginia Regional Commission with \$50,000 annually from the state for Fiscal Years 2007 and 2008 for administrative support. He moved adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

##### B. Meeting Schedule

Mr. York noted that the Authority has had trouble meeting its quorum for the last few years and asked if the members should consider meeting every other month unless called by the chairman. Some members expressed doubt that that would solve the quorum issue. It was agreed to discuss the meeting schedule at the next meeting, October 12.

#### Adjournment

Chairman Zimmerman adjourned the meeting at 10:03 p.m.