

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

Summary Minutes

March 13, 2003

held at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission
7535 Little River Turnpike, Suite 100, Annandale, Virginia

Members

(those present are highlighted)

Kerry J. Donley (arrived 7:42 p.m.)

Christopher Zimmerman

Robert F. Lederer

Katherine K. Hanley

David Snyder

Scott K. York

Harry J. "Hal" Parrish, II

William Wren

Sean T. Connaughton

William Mims

Vincent F. Callahan, Jr.

John A. Rollison, III

J. Kenneth Klinge

Margaret E. G. Vanderhye

Karen Rae

Tom Farley

Mayor, City of Alexandria

Arlington County Board

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

Chairman, 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; NVTA Chairman

Governor's Appointee

Director, VDRPT (non-voting member)

District Administrator, No. Va. region, VDOT (non-voting member)

Staff Present

Linda Summerall

Executive Secretary

Call to Order

Chairman Klinge 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.

Approval of Minutes

Councilman Wren moved approval of the minutes of the February 13, 2003, meeting. The motion was seconded and carried, with Chairman York and Chairman Connaughton abstaining.

Technical Committee Report

• *Applications for the Governor's Congestion Relief Program*

Tom Biesiadny reported that the Governor's Congestion Relief Program was established in December 2002 in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads to help relieve traffic congestion as well as to help meet air quality standards. Each region has \$20 million for ten projects that must be completed in twelve months. The recommended projects must be based on a multimodal analysis, including transit, HOV and demand management options.

Eighty-seven applications were received from 33 different applicants, which included local jurisdictions, agencies, individuals, organizations and private entities. The Technical Committee met on February 27 and March 4 to review and discuss the proposals. In preparing a list of recommended projects, the committee considered reductions in vehicle miles traveled, increases in throughput (as measured by persons per hour and vehicles per hour), reductions in emissions,

regional balance and modal balance. Given the one-year completion deadline, the committee felt that projects having outstanding right-of-way requirements probably could not meet the project deadline.

Mr. Biesiadny again emphasized the committee's recommendation that the Authority get additional information on the funding source for this program. Mr. Farley said he is still waiting for this information.

Chairman York asked what would happen if the Authority received \$10 million in funding. Mr. Biesiadny replied that the Technical Committee would review its list of recommendations.

Mr. Zimmerman commended the committee members for their work.

In reply to Councilman Wren's inquiry, Mr. Biesiadny said the VRE proposal does not include a parking deck in Old Town, instead calling for leasing parking spaces in Manassas.

Chairman Hanley moved that the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority approve the projects set forth in Attachment 1 for submission under the Governor's Congestion Relief Program for 2003, provided, however, that all requested funds for these projects are in addition to, and not deducted from, funds otherwise available to the jurisdictions and agencies for transportation projects, and provided further that if the funds provided under the Governor's Congestion Relief Program for 2003 are less than the requested funds for these projects that the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority will review the list of projects to establish priorities from the list based on reduced funding. The motion was seconded.

The Valley Commuter Assistance Program proposal generated a great deal of discussion by the Authority members. It would provide for car pools in Front Royal, bringing people into the Northern Virginia region for work. Chairman Connaughton and Chairman York expressed reservations that funding this proposal could encourage additional commuters. Chairman Klinge noted that studies have shown that 50 percent of these commuters exit at the Greenway, Route 28 and Centreville.

Councilman Snyder noted that this project is the lowest in cost of the recommended projects and has the highest NOx reduction.

Chairman York called for separation of the question. The Valley Commuter Assistance Program was carried, with two opposed.

The main motion carried unanimously.

Chairman York commented that the Authority should look at a proposal such as Nu-Ride's regionally. Chairman Klinge said he would consider this for a presentation at a future meeting.

• *Options for NVRTA Technical Committee*

At the request of Chairman Klinge, the interim Technical Committee re-reviewed the requirements for the Technical Committee. The State Code states that the Technical Committee shall be composed of nine members; six to be chosen by the nine local governments of the NVRTA and three by the Chairman of the CTB (the Secretary of Transportation). In February, the Authority recommended that six members be chosen by the Authority and that the CTB Chairman be asked to pick from the other three localities. Everyone else was to be *ex-officio* members. It was not clear which six localities were being selected by the Authority nor which localities were being recommended to the CTB Chairman.

In lieu of selecting the Technical Committee at this time, the interim Technical Committee recommends establishing a resource subcommittee composed of representatives from the nine Northern Virginia jurisdictions, the towns, and the transportation agencies (VDOT, DRPT, NVTC, PRTC, WMATA, VRE, TPB, and MWAA).

Chairman Connaughton and Mr. Zimmerman were not in agreement, stating that the statute was clear and the Authority should follow it.

Chairman Klinge asked Senator Mims and Delegate Rollison to review the statute and report back to him.

Committee Updates

• *Budget Committee*

The proposed budget of \$30,000 annually was distributed. Chairman York reported that as Chairman of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, he will make this request of VDOT, which provides the other planning district commissions with \$50,000 annually.

After discussing staffing needs and cooperation, the members decided that the budget should be addressed at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission.

Other Business

Chairman Klinge thanked Mayor Donley for presenting the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority's position at the pre-allocation hearing. He added he believes the Secretary and Commissioner are beginning to appreciate Northern Virginia's air quality problems.

Delegate Rollison reported that he has discussed transportation and air quality with the region's Congressional representatives, and they are aware that this is a serious problem. Councilman Snyder suggested it might be worthwhile to have the tri-area Congressional representatives discuss air quality.

Delegate Rollison stated the importance of relaying this message to the public. Chairman Klinge suggested using the Authority's website. He also agreed to write a letter to *The Washington Post*.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Klinge adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.