



**Northern Virginia Transportation Authority**  
*The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia*

**Thursday, March 23, 2017**  
**6:00pm**  
**3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200**  
**Fairfax, VA 22031**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order** Chairman Nohe

- Chairman Nohe called the meeting to order at 6:24pm.

**II. Roll Call** Ms. Speer, Clerk

- Voting Members: Chairman Nohe; Chairman Bulova; Chair Randall; Council Member Lovain; Chair Fisette; Mayor Parrish; Mayor Meyer; Council Member Snyder; Mayor Rishell; Delegate Hugo; Delegate Minchew (arrived 6:32pm); Senator Black; Ms. Hynes; Mr. Kolb (arrived 6:28pm).
- Non-Voting Members: Mayor Burk; Ms. Cuervo; Ms. Mitchell (departed 7:24pm).
- Staff: Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Michael Longhi (CFO); Keith Jasper (Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming); Sree Nampoothiri (Transportation Planner); Harun Rashid (Transportation Planner); Carl Hampton (Investment & Debt Manager); Peggy Teal (Assistant Finance Officer); Camela Speer (Clerk); various jurisdictional staff.

**III. Minutes of the February 9, 2017 Meeting**

- Chair Randall moved approval of the February 9, 2017 minutes; seconded by Chairman Bulova. Motion carried with nine (9) yeas and three (3) abstentions [with Delegate Hugo, Senator Black and Council Member Lovain abstaining as they were not at the February 9, 2017 meeting].

**Presentations**

**IV. I-66 and I-395 Corridor Updates**

Ms. Jennifer Mitchell, DRPT and Ms. Susan Shaw, VDOT

- Ms. Shaw presented progress updates on the I-66 and I-395 Corridor projects, noting work done to date, project milestones and public outreach efforts.

*(Mr. Kolb & Delegate Minchew arrived.)*

- Ms. Mitchell presented updates on the transit and multimodal components of the I-66 and I-395 Corridor projects.

**V. Manassas Park Parking Expansion Study Update** Ms. Sonali Soneji, VRE

- Mr. Allen and Ms. Soneji briefed the Authority on the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Manassas Park Parking Expansion project. Ms. Soneji reviewed the process, major evaluation criteria, options studied, preferred alternative and next steps.
- Chairman Nohe asked if the preferred alternative site is publically or city-owned. Mayor Rishell responded that it is city-owned. Chairman Nohe asked how the site was acquired by the City, adding that it would be interesting to know if federal dollars were used to acquire the site, noting that if not, this project is not automatically federalized. Mayor Rishell responded that she would check on it, stating that she did not believe federal dollars are involved. Chairman Nohe responded that projects get more complicated when they are federalized.
- Ms. Soneji also announced upcoming public meetings on March 29 & 30, 2017, for the VRE Crystal City Station improvements funded in the Authority's FY2015-2016 Program.
- Chair Fisette stated that one element being considered in this project is adding the ability to walk from downtown Crystal City to National Airport. Chair Fisette stated it would add tremendous accessibility if proven to be feasible.
- Delegate Minchew asked about the status of the VRE Gainesville Haymarket Expansion Study. Mr. Allen responded that the VRE Operations Board and the Prince William Board exercised much diligence in reviewing all the analysis on this study, noting that Chairman Nohe was the lead for Prince William County. He stated the decision made by the VRE Operations Board was to pursue an expansion of VRE's capacity at the existing Board Run complex. He added the resolution that was passed also speaks to the consideration of a future extension to Gainesville. Mr. Allen concluded that VRE will be focused on expanding capacity to operate more trains from the existing Board Run facility. Chairman Nohe added that Prince William County will keep the Gainesville Haymarket Expansion in its Comprehensive Plan, even though at this time it is not economically feasible to advance. He concluded that the short range goal is to get more trains on the track and the way to do that in the next few years is to expand the Board Run facility.
- Senator Black stated that he very much wanted to see the VRE extend to Haymarket. He added that a very thorough examination was done to see if there was any possibility to make this work. He concluded that even the most passionate advocates for this project recognized that there is not adequate ridership to make this practical at this time.
- Mr. Allen added that the thorough analysis that was done by VRE staff, particularly Christine Hoeffner, and its consultants was only possible because of the funding that the NVTA provided to do the study to make sure it was the

right investment. He concluded Broad Run will be a fine location to add the needed capacity and that VRE will make it function extremely well.

### **Action**

#### **VI. Approval of Financial Statement Audit Services Contract**

Chairman Parrish, Finance Committee

- Mayor Parrish thanked NVTA staff and the Finance Committee members. He stated the Finance Committee discussed a number of items at its last meeting, as detailed in the Finance Committee Report. He added that one of those items was the recommendation to seek Authority approval to contract for financial statement audit services with PBMares.
- Mayor Parrish moved approval to acquire financial statement audit services through a rider on the VRE/PBMares LLP contract and authorize the NVTA Chief Financial Officer to sign related service agreements for fiscal year 2017 through fiscal year 2021; seconded by Chairman Bulova. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **VII. Approval of Budget Transfer to Advance the FY2018 Planning Technology Project**

Chairman Parrish, Finance Committee

- Mayor Parrish stated that the Finance Committee discussed the transfer of funds from the FY2018 Budget to the FY2017 Budget to accomplish planning technology projects that will allow the implementation of GIS mapping functions to show what NVTA funded projects are doing for the region. He added that this is something the Authority has been trying to do for a while.
- Mayor Parrish moved approval of an FY2017 transfer of \$25,000 from the NVTA Operating Reserve to Expenditure Account 320 – HW/SW Peripheral Purchase GIS Costs, and an offsetting FY2018 transfer of \$25,000 from Expenditure Account 320 to the NVTA Operating Reserve; seconded by Chairman Bulova. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **VIII. CMAQ/RSTP Reallocation Request for Fairfax County**

Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

- Chairman Bulova moved approval of the reallocation of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds for Fairfax County; seconded by Senator Black. Motion carried unanimously.

## Discussion/Information

### **IX. 2017 Legislative Update**

Ms. Hynes, Chair, Governance and Personnel

- Ms. Hynes noted Ms. Baynard was unable to attend this evening's meeting. She invited Ms. Backmon to present the legislative update and Ms. Mitchell to present an additional information item.
- Ms. Backmon provided a brief summary of the 2017 legislative items related to the Authority. She noted that the bills the Authority opposed were defeated. She highlighted:
  - ✓ HB 2121 that proposed adding sidewalks to the approved uses of 70% regional revenues was defeated. She added that the NVTA can fund sidewalks with 70% funds, provided the projects undergo the Authority's evaluation process.
  - ✓ HB 2120/SB 929 were both defeated, but not without a lot of work in the House. This bill proposed adding a town member as an 18<sup>th</sup> and voting member to the Authority.
  - ✓ HB 2137 was amended. The bill passed, but does not require additional analysis of the long range regional transportation plan and has a delayed enactment date of July 1, 2018. This bill requires the Authority to consider for revision and revise as necessary its regional transportation plan at least once every five years. The Authority is also required to specify any obstacles to achieving a reduction in congestion in Planning District 8 and any need for cooperation relating to any locality embraced by (i) the Authority, (ii) the District of Columbia, (iii) the State of Maryland, or (iv) any other regional entity in the metropolitan Washington area. Ms. Backmon stated that the Authority is already doing these things. She added the bill also requires the Authority to annually publish on its website any land use or transportation elements of a locality's comprehensive plan that each locality embraced by the Authority is currently required to report when such locality's plan is inconsistent with the Authority's regional transportation plan. An existing bill currently requires localities to notify the Authority of any changes to their transportation or land use sections of their comprehensive plan that are inconsistent with TransAction, now the Authority must post this information to its website.
- Ms. Mitchell briefed the Authority on the announcement earlier in the day regarding the State budget amendments related to Metro. She noted the General Assembly passed two versions of the Metro Safety Commission bill – HB 2136 and SB 2515 – and it is expected the Governor will sign these. She thanked Delegate Minchew for his work on the enactment clause that asks the State to look at financial and operational governance reforms at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), in close coordination with the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC). Ms. Mitchell stated that that morning the Governor had announced that Virginia will be initiating a study to provide an independent review of WMATA. She noted Maryland and the District of Columbia were invited to

join the effort which will be led by former US Department of Transportation Secretary, Ray LaHood. Ms. Mitchell added that Secretary LaHood's participation is important to gain the support of all the regional partners and to provide the level of independence and credibility necessary to result in true changes at WMATA. She stated the study will begin right away and the consultants are already on-board. Ms. Mitchell stated that a final report will be ready by November. Ms. Mitchell added that additional details will be forthcoming about how Authority members will be engaged in this effort.

- Mayor Burk stated the towns are disappointed that the NVTA continues to object to the town's having a voting representative on the Authority.
- Chair Fisette asked, in addition to Virginia, if Secretary LaHood is being brought on-board by Maryland and the District of Columbia as well. Ms. Mitchell responded that Virginia is bringing him on, adding that the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) is funding the study. She stated that it is expected that Secretary LaHood will be the regional facilitator of this effort. Chair Fisette asked if Maryland and the District were supportive of this. Ms. Mitchell replied that Governor McAuliffe had spoken to Governor Hogan and, by now, likely Mayor Bowser. She added that District staff had been contacted and are on board participating in this effort.
- Chair Randall thanked Delegate Minchew for his work on the Metro Safety bills, adding that Delegate LeMunyon was also a contributor. She expressed interest in a future meeting with Delegate Minchew to agree on a Loudoun response, and to update him on meetings with Mayor Bowser on Metro issues.
- Chairman Bulova spoke in support of the engagement of Secretary LaHood in the process to review WMATA governance and financing issues. She stated she had spoken to Secretary Layne regarding the number of groups looking at different aspects of WMATA. She noted a few:
  - ✓ The Federal City Council is looking into WMATA governance, adding this is very District-centric.
  - ✓ The Board of Trade is working on WMATA governance issues.
  - ✓ The Council of Governments (COG), in particular, is looking at a regional funding mechanism.
  - ✓ There are efforts addressing governance and everything that is in the Virginia state legislative enactment clause.

Chairman Bulova stated that it is good that Secretary LaHood has been engaged for this study because he has the gravitas and ability to bring parties together. Chairman Bulova applauded Governor McAuliffe for reaching out to Secretary LaHood. She stated she had worked with Secretary LaHood when Fairfax was struggling with cost over-runs on Phase II of the Silver Line; the disagreement with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) board over an underground or above ground station at the airport; and Loudoun County's reconsideration of their involvement in the Silver Line plans. She noted that Secretary LaHood was magnificent in bringing everybody together. Chairman Bulova concluded Secretary LaHood can be really helpful in bringing all the regional entities together on the complicated and complex governance issues, adding that he understands all these things. She stated that

it is her belief that with changes or improvements to WMATA governance, support will flow for increased revenue for maintaining the Metro system.

- Ms. Mitchell stated that when Secretary LaHood was asked to lead this study, he made it clear that he did not want to be involved if this was just a one-sided, political statement by Virginia that the state wanted him to put his name on to give it credibility. He stated that he would only participate if this was a true regional, collaborative effort that would be independent. Ms. Mitchell stated that the Administration had confirmed that this was what was expected.
- Council Member Snyder stated it is important to remember that there is a statutorily authorized approach that involves the Governor and NVTC.
- Delegate Minchew requested a correction to the legislative report, noting that comments regarding HB 2120 indicated he had helped defeat this bill. Delegate Minchew stated that he had made the motion to report the bill, which passed on a 5 to 1 vote. He requested this be corrected. He noted that the bill would have recognized the five super towns (towns with population of 3,500 or more) in Northern Virginia - Leesburg, Dumfries, Herndon, Vienna and Purcellville - giving them a rotating seat on the Authority. Delegate Minchew stated that this bill had passed the subcommittee, but that issues had been brought to Delegate Keam's attention that caused him to allow his own bill to be tabled, at his own request. Delegate Minchew added that the main issue was NVTAs Bond Counsel's concern that it might present a non-conformance issue with the indenture documents if the Authority had a town, which is part of a county, with double voting power.
- Delegate Minchew provided some additional information regarding the enactment clause added to the Metro Safety Commission bill. He stated that the first version of the enactment clause included some very strong directives, or mandates, for WMATA to engage in institutional reforms to get labor costs in control and to work on a revision to the WMATA Compact, as has been requested by both sides of the Potomac. Delegate Minchew noted that this caused consternation from the Virginia Secretary of Transportation, therefore, the final version will empower NVTC and Secretary Layne's secretariat, to continue efforts to allow WMATA to get back on track. He concluded that it is an uncodified enactment clause, but one that in an indirect way may have given rise to today's announcement by the Commonwealth to retain Secretary LaHood and initiate a study of WMATA.

*(Ms. Mitchell departed.)*

- Chairman Nohe directed NVTAs staff to correct the legislative report, as requested by Delegate Minchew. Ms. Backmon responded affirmatively.

## **X. Finance Committee Report**

Mayor Parrish, Chair

- No verbal report.

- XI. Technical Advisory Committee Report** Mr. Boice, Chair
- No verbal report.
- XII. Planning Coordination Advisory Committee Report** Supervisor Buona, Chair
- No verbal report.
- XIII. Monthly Revenue Report** Mr. Longhi, CFO
- No verbal report.
- XIV. Operating Budget Report** Mr. Longhi, CFO
- No verbal report.
- XV. Executive Director’s Report** Ms. Backmon, Executive Director
- Ms. Backmon stated the NVTA will be hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ITS Roundtable “Planning for Tomorrow’s Transportation Today” on Wednesday, April 5, 2017, from 8am – noon. She thanked those Authority members who have registered to attend.
  - Ms. Backmon stated that of the 79 regional projects, 14 have been closed out and an update is included in her report.
  - Ms. Backmon reminded the Authority that there will be no April meeting. The next meeting will be May 11, 2017.
- XVI. Chairman’s Comments**
- XVII. Adjournment**
- Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.