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Update on Virginia General Assembly Special Session and Preview to 2021 Regular Session

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

Governance and Personnel Committee

October 8, 2020 Meeting



How We Got Here – 2020 Regular Session

- Authority and stakeholders succeeded in restoring another \$50 million in dedicated revenue for Northern Virginia transportation needs
 - \$20 million each year in state revenues from the Commonwealth Transportation Fund via the Northern Virginia Transportation District Fund
 - \$.10/\$100 regional grantors tax
 - 1% increase in the regional transient occupancy tax (TOT) for the Metro Capital Fund, Prince William County, Manassas and Manassas Park to make up for a \$.05/\$100 reduction in their regional grantors tax
 - Then the global pandemic hit and the economy slowed



How We Got Here – 2020 Regular Session Veto Session

- In recognition of the hard hit hospitality industry, the administration and General Assembly decided to delay all increases in TOT approved during the special session
- This delays full implementation of the Authority's replacement funding.
- As a result of action at the Veto Session
 - July 1, 2020 \$20 million from Commonwealth Transportation Fund starts
 - July 1, 2020 \$.05 new regional grantors tax for Authority starts
 - May 1, 2021
 - \$.10 new regional grantors tax for Authority starts
 - \$.10 reduced regional grantors tax for Metro Capital Fund starts
 - \$.10 reduced regional grantors tax for Prince William, Manassas and Manassas Park starts
 - 3% increased regional TOT starts for Metro Capital Fund, Prince William, Manassas and Manassas Park



2020 General Assembly Special Session Transportation Focused Matters

- The Governor proposed several language amendments that provide flexibility for VDOT and DRPT to maintain schedules for projects in FY 21-22 by
 - Using money programmed in the Revenue Sharing Program and other programs not needed until later years in the Six Year Program
 - The language does not change anything for the Authority's \$20 million from the Commonwealth Transportation Fund or the timing of the grantors and TOT changes made at the Veto Session
 - No project will be delayed due to this reprogramming and deadlines set for replacing money
 - Specific mention to making sure transit operating funds and the state's PRIIA match are available
- The House of Delegates approved additional language amendments:
 - Requires reports back to the General Assembly on funding actions planned and taken and results of actions taken to make changes at the project level of detail;
 - Prohibits the Commonwealth Transportation Board from taking action to change project allocations at the same meeting where they are proposed
 - Permits any joint meetings of public entities to be held remotely during a state of emergency for a health pandemic, i.e. the joint public meeting held by the Authority, NVTC, VRE and VDOT



What's Next – the 2021 Regular Session

- This is a short session starting January 13, 2021
- COVID-19 will continue to dominate matters
 - Revenue impact for state and local governments
 - Assistance needed for individuals and companies
 - Healthcare response
- Economic Recovery
 - Reluctance to increase taxes
 - Government assistance to keep people working
 - Replenish the unemployment fund
- Criminal Justice Reforms
- Racial and Economic Equality Initiatives
- 2021 is an election year for the House of Delegates and statewide offices



Proposed 2021 Focus Areas for the Authority

- Protect dedicated revenues including gains achieved in 2019 and 2020
 - State of the economy may make delaying TOT increase attractive and make any additional tax increases less feasible
 - Determine if 2019 interstate highway revenue sources have stabilized and become predictable within context of pandemic
- Protect Authority's ability to meet its mission
 - Conflicts from local projects is prompting citizens to attack the Authority's powers and constitutionality
 - Citizen outreach to state legislators complaining about actions the Authority has taken to fund local projects
- Support Authority members if needed regarding implementation of Six Year Program funding allocation and flexibility

As of 9-15-20

2021 Virginia General Assembly Schedule and Key Dates

July 20, 2020	Bill prefiling period begins
November 30, 2020 5:00 pm	Last day to submit request to draft legislation to Legislative Services for a prefiled bill
December 3, 2020 Midnight	Last day for committees to act on legislation from the 2020 General Assembly session
December 16, 2020	Governor presents revenue forecast and budget
December 31, 2020 Midnight	Deadline for staff to return draft prefiled bills for review
January 8, 2021 5:00 pm	Last day to request Legislative Services redraft a prefiled bill
January 12, 2021 Noon	Staff will have all redrafts for prefiled bills available
January 13, 2021 10:00 am	Bill prefiling period ends
January 13, 2021 Noon	General Assembly Session Convenes
<i>In session calendar deadlines determined on first day of session</i>	
February 27, 2021	General Assembly Session Adjourns