

***2021 General Assembly Session  
Update for the Authority***

*January 14, 2021*

Presented by:  
Tracy Baynard  
McGuireWoods Consulting, LLC





# Schedule Highlights for the 2021 General Assembly Session



- **January 13, 2021**
  - General Assembly convened for a 30 day session
    - Senate has a 12 bill limit
    - House has a 7 bill limit
- **January 22, 2021 Last Day to Introduce Bills**
- **Crossover February 5, 2021**
- **Sine Die February 11, 2021**
- **Special Session I**
  - With an affirmative vote any bill or resolution introduced during the 2021 session may be carried into a subsequent first 2021 Special Session



# 2021 Focus Areas for the Authority As Approved December 2020



- Protect Authority's revenue and ability to meet its mission
- Support efforts to provide permanent flexibility to hold virtual business meetings in time of health and safety concerns
  - **SB 1271 (McPike) Codifies temporary flexibility**
- Support quick and equitable distribution of any federal relief funds for transportation to transit operators



# Initiatives for Authority Consideration

- NVTC Budget amendment seeks one-time \$30 million in General Fund revenue to help WMATA Virginia compact members meet their FY 2022 operating obligations for Metro transit services
  - Budget amendments from Senators Bell/Ebbin and Delegate Krizek
- Will someone propose a further delay in implementing the TOT increase of 2020 which is needed for the Authority to achieve full \$.10/\$100 grantors tax. Current start date May 1, 2021
- HB 1903 (Carr) Permits localities to reduce speed limits on local roads to less than 25 mph but no less than 15 mph
- Several concepts for providing additional flexibility for public bodies to hold meetings via virtual means
  - HB 1931 (Levine) clarifies a member of a public body may attend a meeting remotely due to care of a family member for either 2 meetings a year or 25% of meetings held that year



## Initiatives for Authority Consideration (Con't)

- Governor's proposed \$50 million one-time General Fund appropriation for capital rail improvements in the U.S 29/I-81 corridor for additional passenger rail service
  - Would add an additional roundtrip serving Burke, Manassas, Culpeper, Charlottesville, Lynchburg and Roanoke with goal to extend service to Christiansburg
- HJ 542 (McQuinn) Calls for DRPT to study transit equity and modernization needs over a two year period
- Programming \$252.7 million projected Virginia share of new transportation federal COVID-19 relief funds
  - Eligible uses include Surface Block Grant projects, preventive and routine maintenance, operations and personnel costs, debt service and recovery for revenue losses



## Other Matters Of Note

- Various initiatives regarding use of/access to electric/low-emission/zero emission vehicles and the transportation sector's role in GHG
  - HB 1850 (Reid) Increase allowable weight limits for vehicles powered by electric battery power by up to 2,000 lbs. - cap for highways at no more than 82,000 lbs.
  - HB 1979 (Reid) Rebate for electric vehicle purchase or lease
  - HB 1965 (Bagby) Direct State Air Pollution Board to develop guidelines for low-emission or zero-emission vehicle standards starting with the 2025 model year
  - SB 1223 (Boysko-Howell) Amends Clean Energy Plan to require analysis and strategies/policies to support net-zero carbon emissions from the transportation sector
- HB 1910 (J. Cole) Creates an alternative process for creating regional transportation authorities. Bill does not provide new state dedicated revenue sources