



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

**GOVERNANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, January 14, 2020**

**5:30 PM**

**NVTA Offices**

**Meeting conducted on WebEx and Live Streamed via YouTube**

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order** Chair Randall
  - ✓ Chair Randall called the meeting to order at 5:37pm.
  - ✓ Attendees:
    - Members: Chair Randall; Chair Wheeler, Board Member Cristol;
    - Staff: Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Michael Longhi (CFO); Peggy Teal (Assistant Finance Officer), Dev Priya Sen (Financial Analyst); Margaret Duker (Executive Asst/Clerk).
    - Other Attendees: Tracy Baynard (McGuireWoods Consulting LLC); Daniel Robinson (Council of Counsels – Fairfax County); Rob Dickerson (Council of Counsels – Prince William County); Steve MacIsaac (Council of Counsels – Arlington County); Joanna Anderson (Council of Counsels – City of Alexandria); Council Member Snyder joined at 5:56pm.
    - Other Attendees: Jurisdictional and agency staff attended the meeting via the Authority's YouTube channel.
  
2. **Resolution Finding the Need to Conduct the January 14, 2020 Governance and Personnel Committee Meeting Electronically** Chair Randall

*Recommended Action: Adoption of Resolution*

  - ✓ Chair Randall made the motion to adopt Resolution to Find the Need to Conduct Meeting by Electronic Communication Means during the Governor's Declared State of Emergency during COVID-19 Pandemic; seconded by Chair Wheeler. Motion passed unanimously.
  
3. **Approval of the Meeting Summary of the December 17, 2020 Meeting**

*Recommended Action: Approval of Meeting Summary, with abstentions from those who were not present.*

  - ✓ Board Member Cristol moved approval of the December 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes; seconded by Chair Wheeler. Motion passed by 3-0-2.

**Discussion/Information**

4. **2021 General Assembly Updated (Verbal Report)**

Ms. Backmon, Executive Director  
 Ms. Baynard, MWC, LLC

- ✓ Ms. Baynard proceeded with an update of the General Assembly, noting that the first day of the Session was January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and Sine Die is February 11, 2021.
- ✓ She added that the House and Senate have agreed on an organizational procedural resolution. This resolution will enable the General Assembly to carry over any unfinished business (Bills) from the regular Session into the 2021 Special Session.
- ✓ Chair Randall inquired from Ms. Baynard, whether carrying unfinished work into the Special Session would cause any issues?
- ✓ Ms. Baynard responded that both groups in the General Assembly are interested in getting work done as quickly as possible during the course of this regular Session and most likely all business can be completed within that timeframe.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard went on to remind everyone that the focus areas for 2021 are:
  - To protect the Authority's revenue, its ability to meet its mission, and further highlight the need to return \$32 million of Authority revenue.
  - To support the flexibility to hold virtual meetings in times of health and safety concerns.
  - To support the distribution of any federal relief funds for transit operators.
- ✓ She noted that some General Assembly initiatives for the Authority to follow include:
  - Senators Bell/Ebbin and Delegate Krizek, Patrons of The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC), have submitted a budget amendment which seeks a one-time \$30 million in State General Fund assistance to enable WMATA Compact Members meet their FY2022 operating obligations for Metro. Ms. Baynard pointed out that as an organization, this is one initiative she recommends the Authority to support.
  - She also noted that the implementation of the 2020 Grantor's Tax deferred rate is due on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. She noted that the full rate implementation was pushed out due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, since the economy has still not recovered fully, there could be a move to push this implementation further back, thus the need to be mindful of it.
  - See noted the introduction of HB 1903 (Carr) which permits localities to reduce speed limit on local roads to less than 25 mph but not less than 15 mph.
  - Delegate Levine has put forward a bill which states that a member of a public body, may attend a meeting remotely due to the care of a family member for either two meetings a year or 25% of the meetings held that year. Chair Randall asked why there cannot be more than that? Ms. Baynard responded that given the history of recent remote participation in meetings due to the pandemic, more stakeholders are likely to want to weigh in on this discussion so there is more to come regarding this conversation.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard added that other initiatives which do not necessarily impact the Authority directly but are worth noting are:
  - The Governor has proposed a \$50 million one-time General Fund transfer to enhance and expand capital rail for passenger rail service along the U.S 29/I-81 corridor. This will create an additional roundtrip service for Burke, Manassas, Charlottesville and other cities.

- The Chair for House Transportation, Delegate McQuinn, has called for DRPT to conduct a study into transit, equity and modernization needs over a two-year period. An interim report is due at end of 2021 and more discussion with respect to timing are ongoing with DRPT Executive Director, Ms. Mitchell.
- Virginia is programmed to receive \$252.7 million in federal transportation COVID relief funds. The federal guidelines regarding the funding are broad and flexible and more details maybe forthcoming when Secretary of Transportation, Shannon Valentine meets with the appropriation.  
Chair Randall inquired whether this includes transit funds? Ms. Baynard responded that yes, it does.
- ✓ Other matters worth noting included the introduction of access to electric/low-emission/zero emission vehicles and the transportation sector's role in promoting this.
- ✓ Chair Wheeler noted how difficult it really is to control greenhouse gases in a growing community like Prince William County.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard noted that SB 2023 speaks to need to develop better infrastructure like charging stations and so forth.
- ✓ Also noted that Delegate Cole proposed HB 1910. A bill that creates an alternate process for the creation of regional transportation authorities in Virginia. There are currently four of such regional transportation entities in Virginia; Northern Virginia, Hampton Roads, I-81 and most recently, Central Virginia.
- ✓ This bill enables two or more localities to come together to address their local transportation needs, using their own revenue. However, it does not provide new state dedicated revenue sources and will continue to be a topic for discussion in the weeks to come.
- ✓ Council Member Snyder asked to know more about the clean energy bills.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard responded that these bills are mostly proposing infrastructure enhancements like charging stations to support electric vehicles like the Boysko/Howell bill.
- ✓ Board Member Cristol inquired whether Ms. Baynard had heard anything regarding locomotives?
- ✓ Ms. Baynard responded that the Boysko-Howell bill covers all those areas and also seeks to expand this to cover school buses.
- ✓ Board Member Cristol informed the Committee that the District of Columbia used some of their relief funds to electrify Armtrak locomotives and same could be considered for transit.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon also added that the over the years, the Authority has made great investments in clean energy projects like electric buses in Alexandria, with maintenance and charging infrastructure.

5. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:04pm.

**Next Meeting: February 11, 2021 at 5:30 PM**  
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