



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

GOVERNANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 11, 2021

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 5:30pm.
- ✓ Attendees:
 - Members: Chair Randall; Chair Wheeler, Mayor Davis-Younger.
 - 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); Joana Anderson (Council of Counsels).
 - Other Attendees: Jurisdictional and agency staff attended the meeting via the Authority's YouTube channel.

2. Resolution Finding the Need to Conduct the March 11, 2021 Governance and Personnel Committee Meeting Electronically Chair Randall

Recommended Action: Adoption of Resolution

- ✓ Chair Randall moved for the adoption of Resolution Finding the Need to Conduct the March 11, 2021 Governance and Personnel Committee Meeting Electronically; seconded by Chair Wheeler. Motion passed by 3-0-2 as two Committee Members were absent.

3. Approval of the February 11, 2021 Meeting Summary

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

- ✓ Mayor Davis -Younger moved for the acceptance of the February 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes; seconded by Chair Wheeler. Motion passed by 3-0-2 as two Committee Members were absent.

Discussion/Information

4. 2021 General Assembly Update

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

- ✓ Ms. Baynard informed Committee members that the General Assembly made programming recommendations of the Federal Transportation COVID Relief money from last December adding it to the Governor's \$55 million in General Funds to put together the 2021 Transportation Funding Initiative, noting that this offers lots of opportunities for Northern Virginia.
- ✓ These opportunities include the following:
 - The Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) has been allowed to dedicate \$3.6 million from the Transit Ridership Incentive Program created during the 2020 General Assembly Session, towards programs focused on congestion reduction and mitigation. More guidelines will be forthcoming once the Governor signs the budget with an application process to follow either in Spring or Summer.
 - Also, \$83.5 million has been dedicated to expanding service on the VRE Manassas line. Pending negotiations with CSX for right of way as they look to expand passenger rail service to the West.
 - Additionally, \$32.4 million has been dedicated to the Metro Capital Fund State of Good Repair (SGR) to fill the funding gap. The remaining funds which could be at least \$10 million, will be used to assist the local WMATA compact members.
- ✓ Chair Randall asked if there will be a stipulated timeframe to use the money.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard responded that the funding will be for immediate use.
- ✓ Also, \$10 million has been dedicated to new regional multi-modal trails and 8 projects have been identified for this funding.
- ✓ She added that the Senate is discussing with Congress to see if an agency under the Department of Transportation can put together a working group to determine how to identify and prioritize projects for this funding.
- ✓ Another \$10 million has been dedicated to establish a fare-free pilot for transit systems in rural and urban communities.
- ✓ The City of Falls Church will receive \$10 million towards a connected transportation pilot program with Virginia Tech. This would involve traffic sensors and timing, gathering data and sending it out to travelers and will tie in with the RM3P program. There is however a requirement to sign an information data sharing agreement for this program.
- ✓ The General Assembly further discussed the electrification of transportation infrastructure. This discussion centered on the role the transportation sector plays in green house carbon emissions, citing that greater use or access to electric vehicles for personal use, businesses and schools, could help in reduction of these gases.
- ✓ State emissions standards will be released, along with efforts to increase the supply of electric vehicles and availability of more charging stations.
- ✓ A rebate program has also been created towards this effort with a goal to encourage more citizens to purchase electric vehicles.
- ✓ The General Assembly previously dedicated Volkswagen diesel settlement funds to charging station infrastructure.
- ✓ There were also discussions about environmental justice and what that means for planning for transportation infrastructure.
- ✓ She noted that the Governor has had an interagency environmental justice working group for about a year now and they just released their report.

- ✓ That group will continue these discussions and may have reports that coincide with the TransAction Update and will be of interest to local jurisdictions.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard also recommended contacting Jennifer DeBruhl at DRPT regarding the transit equity study (which is due by year end), noting that it is important for NVTA to be a part of the initiative as information from it could impact the update to TransAction.
- ✓ Chair Randall inquired about the role NVTA would play in the transit equity study.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon explained that as a regional planning organization as well as a funding entity, it would give NVTA the opportunity to see where the gaps are in the transportation network regarding access. The Authority would be in a position to help identify transit access issues in the network and any areas that may be access deficient compared to other areas throughout the region.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon noted that it is essential to ensure synergies with what the localities and the Commonwealth are doing as it relates to equity.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard added that the theme of resiliency was also discussed, as the General Assembly deliberated on whether the transportation infrastructure was resilient enough and could quickly recover in the face of any adversity like flooding, as has been experienced in certain urban and coastal areas in the region.
- ✓ Such discussions will likely continue at the state level with guidelines which could impact the selection of projects, design and materials.
- ✓ Chair Randall thanked Ms. Baynard for the update, noting the importance of continuing these discussions.

5. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:54pm.

Next Meeting: April 8, 2021 at 5:30 PM
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