



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

GOVERNANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 8, 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).
 - Other Attendees: Jurisdictional and agency staff attended the meeting via the Authority's YouTube channel.

2. **Resolution Finding the Need to Conduct the April 8, 2021 Governance and Personnel Committee Meeting Electronically** Chair Randall

Recommended Action: Adoption of Resolution

 - ✓ Chair Wheeler moved the adoption of Resolution Finding the Need to Conduct the April 8, 2021 Governance and Personnel Committee Meeting Electronically; seconded by Mayor Davis-Younger. Motion passed by 3-0-2 as two Committee Members were absent.

3. **Approval of the March 11, 2021 Meeting Summary**

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

 - ✓ Chair Wheeler moved the acceptance of the March 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes; seconded by Mayor Davis-Younger. 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 updated Committee members on the recent activities of the General Assembly since the last GPC meeting.
- ✓ She highlighted the proposed 2021 Work Plan which seeks to:
 - Oppose efforts that reduce funding for or powers of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority or weaken its ability to advance regional intermodal transportation priorities.
 - Participate in studies that address transportation needs in Northern Virginia.
 - Monitor state activity around the transportation sector's role in helping Virginia meet carbon emission goals.
- ✓ She pointed that with transportation, climate, emissions and identification of transportation infrastructure being top of the year's General Assembly Session, there are a number of transportation related studies which are currently moving forward.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard highlighted the importance of being part of these activities as they impact what happens in the region.
- ✓ She noted the need to bring to the Authority's attention certain discussions at the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB).
- ✓ The CTB requested an overview of Virginia's Regional Transportation Authorities (RTAs), seeking to understand how these entities, namely the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission and the Central Virginia Transportation Authority operates.
- ✓ In March 2021, the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) provided an analysis of the structure and powers of these three entities, how they were created, their sources of revenue and the standard project agreements used when funding projects.
- ✓ She further noted that at the next meeting, the Office of the Attorney General will provide more information to CTB Members regarding the financing, project selection and prioritization of each of these regional transportation entities.
- ✓ She noted the following questions asked by the CTB members: Whether the SPAs (Standard Project Agreements) used by the regional authorities' localities were similar or different. If different, does it create any inefficiencies for VDOT (The Virginia Department of Transportation).
- ✓ Is VDOT being compensated for rendering services for the projects managed for the regional entities.
- ✓ How much debt has been issued by the regional transportation authorities and who is responsible for it - the authorities, the Commonwealth or the localities?
- ✓ Ms. Baynard noted that the Central Virginia Transportation Authority is yet to issue debt and Hampton Roads has already issued about \$1 billion of debt.
- ✓ Hampton Roads is constructing express lanes and using tolls to service the debt.
- ✓ Chair Randall asked what legislation gives the CTB the authority to question the activities of the regional transportation authorities.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard responded that the statutes which created all these authorities requires cooperation with the Commonwealth, specifically with the Commonwealth Transportation Board, being the transportation oversight entity in the Commonwealth.
- ✓ However, she noted that the statutes as are currently written, do not give the CTB any direct oversight role.

- ✓ Delegate Roem remarked that it appears there is some degree of predisposition to other projects as compared with jurisdictions in Northern Virginia since most multi-modal projects recommended to the CTB are not scoring as highly as other ones.
- ✓ Chair Randall added that if trails are being scored higher than multi-modal projects, then that is essentially shifting the responsibility of all road funding to the Authorities and is a major concern which may need to be addressed at the next General Assembly Session.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard recommended reaching out to the Office of the Attorney General and updating them of how the Authority operates in order to ensure that the appropriate account is conveyed at the CTB when they go back to present the second report on the fiscal activities of the authorities.
- ✓ Chair Randall also asked about how NVTA scores projects, and whether the Environmental scoring criteria of 5% was high enough? She further wanted to know how the criteria was adopted.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon responded that the environmental score/weighting was approved by the Authority.
- ✓ She noted that since the Authority is in the initial stages of updating TransAction, the existing performance measures will be re-evaluated through the various Committees and efforts will be made to scale them down and reassess the weights assigned to each.
- ✓ She also reminded all that this time around, 'equity' which is in the vision statement, is also going to be one of the performance measures noting that the proposed revisions will be vetted through the Committees and recommendations will be presented to the Authority for approval.
- ✓ Chair Randall noted that it will be a good thing to review the performance measures and identify ways to boost them.
- ✓ Delegate Roem wanted to know what will be the projected budget for the call for projects this summer.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon responded that an assessment of the revenue forecasts will be developed as part of the FY 2026-2027 call for projects.
- ✓ Chair Wheeler asked that with regards to transportation infrastructure, has it been considered that Prince William County does not have many charging stations.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard responded that there are some agencies looking into the electrification and charging station infrastructure regarding which areas to focus them and what kind of charging stations should be installed to meet these needs.
- ✓ She further noted that recently, funding as part of the Volkswagen settlement was used to fund charging stations. Also, Virginia is considering joining the Transportation Climate Initiative. This could create additional funding sources which would go towards electrification and charging stations.
- ✓ Chair Wheeler further asked if there was any information regarding how to assess greenhouse gas emissions.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard answered that the Air Pollution and Control Board is the agency to contact for that information.
- ✓ She informed the Authority that the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) is putting together an application process for low and free fares and recommends sharing the information with localities.

- ✓ In addition, Ms. Baynard highlighted various transportation related studies (with their due dates), such as the Springfield Quantico Enhanced Public Transportation Feasibility Study and the Transit Equity Modernization Study which the Authority could collaborate with for the purpose of the TransAction update.
- ✓ Regarding the issue of transportation infrastructure, climate change and greenhouse gas emissions, she noted the Virginia Energy Plan study with an interim update due in October which is likely to cover electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- ✓ She noted that a complete schedule of these studies and their timelines are included in the attachment in the meeting packet.
- ✓ Chair Randall thanked Ms. Baynard for these valuable updates as well as Committee Members for joining in the meeting.

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

Next Meeting: May 13, 2021 at 5:30 PM
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