



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

GOVERNANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 18, 2021

5:30 PM

NVTA Offices

Meeting conducted in person and Live Streamed via YouTube

SUMMARY MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Randall

- ✓ Chair Randall called the meeting to order at 5:40pm.
- ✓ Attendees:
 - Members: Chair Randall; Board Member Cristol; Chair Wheeler.
 - Other Authority Members: Supervisor Alcorn (for Chairman McKay).
 - Staff: Monica Backmon (CEO); Michael Longhi (CFO); Erica Hawksworth (Communications and Public Affairs Manager); Margaret Duker (Executive Asst/Clerk).
 - Other Attendees: Council of Counsels-Daniel Robinson (Fairfax County); Rob Dickerson (Prince William County); MinChau Corr (Arlington County); Tracy Baynard (McGuire Woods Consulting LLC.).
- ✓ Jurisdictional and agency staff as well as the public were able to view the meeting via the Authority's YouTube channel.

2. Approval of Deferred July 8, 2021 Meeting Summary

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

- ✓ Chair Wheeler moved approval of the July 8, 2021, GPC meeting minutes, seconded by Board Member Cristol. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the October 14, 2021 Meeting Summary

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

- ✓ Board Member Cristol moved approval of the October 14, 2021, GPC meeting minutes, seconded by Chair Wheeler. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Information

4. Draft 2022 Legislative Program, Report and Discussion

Ms. Backmon, CEO

Ms. Baynard, McGuire Woods Consulting, LLC

- ✓ Ms. Baynard, proceeded with an update of the Draft 2022 Legislative Program, noting the upcoming changes in the administration, House of Delegates leadership and legislative

structure. Ms. Baynard stated that she wants to ensure that the Administration and the General Assembly are on the same page regarding NVTA's 2022 Legislative agenda, with a chief goal to maintain and protect NVTA's current transportation funding, whilst capitalizing on every available opportunity to recover funds previously redirected.

- ✓ She noted a JLARC study undertaken in 2020 has reported more stability for transportation funding in Virginia.
- ✓ She added that the Authority will continue to work with other regional entities and transportation-focused business partners to drive this message across and get commitments from the General Assembly.
- ✓ Further, she mentioned the addition of the Transportation Technology Strategic Plan to the Legislative Program, noting that she believes there will be more electric vehicle related discussions at the 2022 General Assembly Session.
- ✓ She noted that since the new Infrastructure and Investment Act has passed, she is hoping there will be some recommendations from the General Assembly for transportation funding.
- ✓ With regards to the additional flexibility for meetings, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Council is moving forward with the recent changes. There have been various statements made by various groups regarding additional flexibility so hopefully there will continue to be additional discussions regarding this subject.
- ✓ Board Member Cristol inquired about the issue with political pushback regarding potential tax decreases.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard responded that JLARC was tasked with reviewing the State transportation program funding and infrastructure and they reported that vehicle miles were increasingly going up, whilst the fuel tax, which (is the primary revenue source) keeps going down. So, they advised that without tax increases, the sustainability of these revenue sources was going to be a challenge.
- ✓ She noted that JLARC also recommended that the FY2021 surplus transportation funds be given to the Department of Rail Public Transportation to assist with transit operations since transit ridership was still low and may not be restored for a while.
- ✓ She further noted a recommendation made to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to identify and focus on regional corridors of significance in the state.
- ✓ Chair Randall pointed that she could see some statewide corridors of significance being in the regional corridors of significance list but not vice versa.
- ✓ Chair Randall asked if there is a way to present the Authority's Legislative Program in a way that the first two priorities are considered preserving the Authority's status quo for the next five years.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard noted that the Legislative Program will seek to educate incoming elected officials.
- ✓ She also added that the Legislative Program could highlight the importance of transportation funding for critical infrastructure in the region.
- ✓ Chair Randall noted that she was emphasizing this point even before the Authority's money was diverted to WMATA. She added that she understands the need to educate newly elected officials, but the Authority needs assurance that the Authority's revenues will be protected. Looking ahead to the new administration where there maybe tax cuts with no new revenue, it is critical to ensure that nothing is lost.

- ✓ Ms. Baynard noted that from a transportation focus, the new administration has spoken about a statewide gas tax decrease, but there has not been mention of the regional transportation bodies. So, the Authority will need to go before both the new and existing General Assembly members and hope to get their buy-in regarding committing to protect the Authority's revenues.
- ✓ Chair Randall stated that she'd like to know what different strategy could possibly be deployed and who can she work with, to ensure the Authority's funding is protected.
- ✓ Board Member Cristol agreed with Chair Randall stating that with a new administration, a Republican majority in the House of Delegates, and the likelihood of losing at least one Members from the House of Delegates on the Authority, the Authority's funding may be more vulnerable.
- ✓ She went further to ask whether there are any legal means to protect the revenue.
- ✓ Board Member Cristol voiced that she thinks House of Delegates Members appointed to the Authority should be Northern Virginians.
- ✓ Board Member Cristol noted the proposed cuts to the gas tax is concerning.
- ✓ Chair Wheeler agreed adding that everyone will have to be ready.
- ✓ Supervisor Alcorn suggested having conversations with people from the business community, in the effort to be prepared.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard agreed and noted that Ms. Backmon will be having one-on-one meetings with the new Delegates once they assume office, adding she met with the four new Northern Virginia members of the House.
- ✓ She went on to note that with the passage of the Infrastructure Bill, there may be additional funding available for projects that the region may wish to pursue.
- ✓ She informed GPC Members that Governor Northam will be presenting his proposed budget to the General Assembly whose Session starts on January 12, 2022, with Sine die on March 12, 2022.

5. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:17pm.

Next Meeting: December 9, 2021, at 5:00 PM
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