



SUMMARY MINUTES

Thursday, June 9, 2022

7:00 PM

3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200

Fairfax, VA 22031

This meeting was conducted in-person and livestreamed via YouTube

1. Call to Order

Chair Randall, Chair

- ✓ Chair Randall called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm and welcomed everyone in-person and virtually. Chair Randall took a point of personal privilege to thank everyone who reached out and kept her in their thoughts and prayers while she recovered from Covid-19.

2. Roll Call

Mr. Davis, Authority Board Secretary

✓ **Attendees:**

- **Members:**

Chair Phyllis J. Randall, Councilmember David Snyder, Chairman Jeff McKay, Chair Ann Wheeler, Board Member Takis Karantonis for Board Chair Katie Cristol, Mayor Justin Wilson, Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger, Mayor Jeanette Rishell, Senator Jennifer Boysko (remote), Delegate David LaRock, Ms. Mary Hynes, Mr. Anthony Bedell, Mr. John Lynch, Mr. Todd Horsley, Mr. Jim Kolb (7:23).

- **Staff:**

Chief Executive Officer Monica Backmon, Executive Assistant Amanda Sink, Chief Financial Officer Michael Longhi, Authority Board Secretary Jonathan Davis, Communications & Public Affairs Manager Erica Hawksworth, Communications and Marketing Coordinator Abigail Hillerich, Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming Keith Jasper, Senior Transportation Planner Dr. Sree Nampoothiri (remote), Transportation Planner Harun Rashid, and Regional Transportation Planners Mackenzie Love and Ian Newman.

- **Council of Counsel:**

Fairfax County-Daniel Robinson, Esq. (remote), Prince William County-Rob Dickerson, Esq., Arlington County-MinhChau Corr, Esq.

- **Other:**

McGuireWoods Consulting, LLC Senior Vice President Tracy Baynard, and some jurisdictional Staff.

Members of the public and jurisdictional staff were in person and were also able to watch the meeting livestreamed via [NVTAs YouTube Channel](#).

3. Approval of the May 12, 2022, Meeting Summary Minutes

Chair Randall, Chair

- ✓ Chair Randall opened the floor for discussion and questions, but seeing none, opened the floor for a motion to approve the May 12, 2022, Meeting Summary Minutes. Mayor Wilson so moved, and Chairman McKay seconded. The May 12, 2022, Meeting Summary Minutes were unanimously approved.

Presentations

4. Transform I-66 Outside the Beltway Update

Mr. John Lynch, NoVA District Engineer, Virginia Department of Transportation
Ms. Susan Shaw, NoVA Megaprojects Director, Virginia Department of Transportation

- ✓ Mr. Lynch began introductory remarks by announcing that the I-66 Outside the Beltway will open at the end of this year and given the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) changes to the inside and outside of the Beltway, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has begun a campaign to engage the public to increase awareness surrounding these changes and expected opening date. The public outreach plan is detailed in the upcoming presentation.
- ✓ Ms. Shaw began the PowerPoint presentation by introducing a project video that she then began to narrate.

A narrated version of the project video can be watched here: [Interstate 66 Outside the Beltway](#)

The PowerPoint presentation can be viewed here: [I-66 Outside the Beltway PowerPoint Presentation](#)

- ✓ After Ms. Shaw's presentation, Chair Randall opened the floor for questions and discussion.
- ✓ There was discussion and questions from Authority Members regarding the public outreach plan and efforts to ensure the public is aware of the HOV changes to both the outside and inside of the Beltway, as well as to ensure VDOT's effective messaging to the public on the necessity of the changes, in particular the addition of one-way toll lanes.
- ✓ There was a consensus among commenting Authority Members that messaging was key to ensuring the public is well informed of the changes, particularly the additional transportation options such as public transit, vanpooling, and slugging with the addition of HOV3 express lanes. Leveraging public outreach through other community stakeholders like regional employers can significantly increase the public's awareness and use of the multimodal transportation options.

5. Crystal City Virginia Rail Express Station Improvements Update

Mr. Dallas Richards
Chief Engineer, Virginia Railway Express

- ✓ Mr. Richards began his presentation with an outline that identified the Virginia Rail Express (VRE) Crystal City Station project updates and overview, adjacent projects, and related funding (Phases 1 and 2) as well as a detailed phased approach, and the benefits of the recommended phased approach.

The PowerPoint presentation can be viewed here: [Crystal City VRE Station Improvements PowerPoint Presentation](#)

- ✓ Chair Randall opened the floor for questions and discussion. After some discussion and questions regarding the phasing strategy, Chair Randall thanked Mr. Richards for the update on VRE's Crystal City Station improvements.

Action Item

6. Adoption of Resolution 22-01 in support for Northern Virginia Localities and Transit Agencies SMART SCALE Project Applications

Ms. Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

Recommended Action: Adoption of Resolution 22-01 in Support for Northern Virginia Localities and Transit Agencies SMART SCALE Project Applications

- ✓ Ms. Backmon began discussion on the resolution of support by noting that SMART SCALE is in its 5th round of funding. The SMART SCALE process is conducted biennially and incorporates a data-driven process to evaluate projects and prioritize investment decisions that address an identified need in the statewide multi-modal long-range transportation plan, VTrans, on a Corridor of Statewide Significance.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon further outlined the purpose of the resolution of support as well as highlighted the SMART SCALE Project Endorsement List and the next steps leading up to the Commonwealth Transportation Board's (CTB) adoption of the FY2023-2028 Six Year Improvement Program in June 2023.
- ✓ Chair Randall opened the floor for discussion and questions, but seeing none, entertained a motion to adopt Resolution 22-01 in support of Northern Virginia localities and transit agencies SMART SCALE project applications. Mayor Wilson so moved, and Chairman McKay seconded. The resolution of support was unanimously approved with 1 abstention from Ms. Mary Hynes.

Discussion/Information Items

7. FY2022-2027 Six Year Program Public Comment Report

Ms. Backmon, Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Nampoothiri, Senior Transportation Planner

- ✓ Ms. Backmon provided background on the FY2022-2027 Six Year Program Public Comment Period noting that at the March 10, 2022, Authority meeting, the Authority approved the public comment period which began on Friday, April 15, 2022, and concluded at 11:59pm on Sunday, May 22, 2022. She further noted that NVTA received 1,609 comments from 448 members of the public on the 26 candidate projects.
- ✓ Dr. Nampoothiri echoed Ms. Backmon's comments and added that during the Public Hearing, testimony was provided by 9 speakers: 2 in-person and 7 remotely. He further added that most of the 1,609 comments were submitted via email, NVTA's website, or hand delivered/mailed to NVTA offices.
- ✓ As a summary of the public comments received during the Public Comment Period, Dr. Nampoothiri provided an overview of comments received, identified support and opposition on the candidate projects, and shared a spatial view of comment support and opposition to the 26 candidate projects based on the commentors' zip code.
- ✓ Discussion and questions ensued among Authority Members regarding the analytical application of some comments received during the Public Comment Period. Commenting Authority Members

encouraged the consideration of both comments on specific projects as well as comments that address a broader scope of project type.

- ✓ Chairman McKay noted that many of these projects have undergone previous public comment at the jurisdictional level. Chairman McKay further noted that while the Richmond Highway Widening project received a number of opposing comments while the Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project received a number of supporting comments, the two projects are interrelated and cannot exist without each other.

8. Travel Trends Update

Mr. Rashid, Transportation Planner

- ✓ Mr. Rashid began discussion by highlighting traffic safety facts, data, and information from the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (USDOT-NHTSA), Northern Virginia highway travel trends, and transit ridership in Northern Virginia.
- ✓ After much discussion and questions regarding the increase in traffic speeds and related safety concerns, there was an echo among commenting Authority Members to continue with efforts in identifying factors that lead to the increase in traffic speeds in Northern Virginia to include differentiating traffic speed data among freeways, major arterials, and even community and neighborhood streets.

9. Governance and Personnel Committee Report -2022 General Assembly Special Session Update

Chair Randall, Chair

Ms. Baynard, Sr. Vice President, McGuireWoods Consulting, LLC.

- ✓ Ms. Baynard began discussion on transportation related initiatives from the 2022 General Assembly special session highlighting that the conference budget, which was passed by the House and Senate, will reach Governor Youngkin's Office today for review. Governor Youngkin has a week from now to submit back to the General Assembly any recommendations to the budget.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard further highlighted information in her report to include:
 - Elimination of the state portion of the Sales and Use Tax on grocery and personal hygiene products,
 - Additional funding for the Transit Ridership Incentive Program,
 - Established funding for an Office of Multi-Use Trails at the Virginia Department of Transportation,
 - Increased support for City Road maintenance,
 - Noting the Conference Budget includes several Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) related initiatives,
 - Major infrastructure funding outside of Northern Virginia.
- ✓ After some questions and discussion from Authority Members regarding IIJA, Chair Randall provided comments for both the Governance and Personnel Committee Report and the Chair's Comments.
- ✓ Chair Randall noted that she and Ms. Backmon attending a meeting yesterday with Virginia Secretary of Transportation W. Sheppard Miller, adding that it was a fantastic meeting. Secretary Miller was briefed on the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority's work, enabling legislation, and impactful role in the region. Chair Randall further added that Secretary Miller was very

inquisitive during the meeting as well as expressed his views on several subjects to include his intent to use data to review the efficacy of existing programs. Chair Randall agreed with Ms. Hynes as she noted this will be the first of many meetings with Secretary Miller.

- ✓ Ms. Backmon added that there was also conversation with Secretary Miller about strengthening partnerships for project implementation as well as ensuring alliances are communicating and working toward common initiatives, goals, and core values.

10. Planning Coordination Advisory Committee Report

Mayor Colbert, Chair

- ✓ Chair Randall, seeing no discussion and questions on the Planning Coordination Advisory Committee Report as submitted, admitted the report into the record.

11. Technical Advisory Committee Report

Mr. Boice, Chair

- ✓ Chair Randall, seeing no discussion and questions to the Technical Advisory Committee Report as submitted, admitted the report into the record.

12. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Ms. Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

- ✓ Ms. Backmon highlighted two points from the CEO's Report:
 - NVTA's Bond Rating of AA+ has been affirmed by Fitch Ratings, with a continued rating outlook of Stable and adding that AA+ is the highest possible rating for a revenue bond issuer that does not have independent taxing authority. Ms. Backmon thanked the Finance Team for their work given this combination constitutes a strong endorsement of the Authority's credit worthiness and fiscal management.
 - The National Capital Region's Transportation Planning Board (TPB) will consider the adoption of Climate Change Mitigation Goals and Strategies on June 15th and in consideration of NVTA's longstanding relationship with TPB, NVTA has a special interest in the outcome and implementation of TPB goals and strategies as they align with mutual core values and initiatives. Ms. Backmon noted NVTA's Core Values of Equity, Safety, and Sustainability and added that with the outcome of TPB's decision, NVTA will be focused on ensuring equity in transportation throughout the region.
- ✓ Chair Randall thanked Ms. Backmon for her comments and added that some of the conversation with Secretary Miller included equity in transportation. It was noted that the severely low-income in the region are probably unable to afford living in areas where there is higher transit availability. Chair Randall also noted that there was conversation with Secretary Miller about the diversion of NVTA's revenue in 2018, specifically about what remains outstanding and the need for the revenue to be returned to the region while ensuring Northern Virginia's are not re-taxed on account to get that money returned.
- ✓ Ms. Backmon added that NVTA invests in multi-modal transportation because it takes multi-modal options to keep Northern Virginia moving. Investments like the five BRT projects and collaboration with working groups that include stakeholders/jurisdictions beyond the region will ensure a broader availability of BRTs for Northern Virginians. Ms. Backmon further added that in anticipation of identifying where gaps are, she advised there will likely be a request during budget season to conduct a regional BRT study.

13. Chair's Comments

Chair Randall, Chair

Chair's Comments were made during the Governance and Personnel Committee Report

14. Adjournment

Chair Randall, Chair

- ✓ Chair Randall, seeing no further discussion, adjourned the meeting at 8:52 PM

Next Meeting: July 14, 2022, at 7 PM
NVTA Offices