



# Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

## GOVERNANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

### AGENDA

Thursday, March 14, 2024

6:00pm EST

3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200

Fairfax, VA 22031

*This meeting will be conducted in person and live-streamed via YouTube<sup>1</sup>*

1. **Call to Order** Chair Randall, Chair

### Action Items

2. **Approval of January 11, 2024, Meeting Summary Minutes** Chair Randall, Chair

*Recommended Action: Approval of January 11, 2024, Meeting Summary Minutes*

### Discussion/Information Items

3. **Update on 2024 General Assembly Session** Ms. Backmon, Chief Executive Officer  
Ms. Baynard, Sr. Vice President, McGuireWoods Consulting, LLC

### Closed Session

*(If needed)*

4. **Adjournment** Chair Randall

### Correspondence

*(Presented as needed)*

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<sup>1</sup> *If technical difficulties arise, the meeting may be audio or video recorded. Any recordings will be made available on the [GPC's Meetings](#) webpage.*



## GOVERNANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 11, 2024

5:30 pm

NVTA Offices

Meeting conducted in-person and live-streamed via YouTube

### SUMMARY MINUTES

#### 1. Call to Order

Chair Randall, Chair

- ✓ Chair Randall called the Governance and Personnel Committee (GPC) meeting to order at 5:36 pm.
- ✓ Attendees:
  - Members: Chair Randall, Mayor Davis-Younger, Mayor Rishell (Appointed by Chair Randall as temporary substitute)
  - Staff: Monica Backmon (CEO), Amanda Sink (Executive Assistant), Michael Longhi (CFO) (Remote), Abigail Hillerich (Communications and Public Affairs Manager)
  - Other Attendees: Councilmember Snyder (Authority member), Board Member Takis Karatonis, Tracy Baynard (McGuireWoods LLC) (Remote), Daniel Robinson (Council of Counsel), Christina Brown (Council of Counsel), MinhChau Corr (6:00pm) (Council of Counsel)

### Action Items

#### 2. Approval of April 13, 2023, Meeting Summary Minutes

Chair Randall, Chair

- ✓ Chair Randall moved approval the April 13, 2023, GPC Meeting Summary Minutes seconded by Mayor Davis-Younger. Motion passed with an abstention from Mayor Rishell.

#### 3. Calendar Year 2024 Governance and Personnel Committee (GPC) Meeting Schedule

Chair Randall, Chair

- ✓ Chair Randall stated that there will be times during the General Assembly session that both the GPC and the Authority will need to act quickly and be unable to wait until the next meeting date. She noted that she will send out a straw poll vote which can be ratified at the next regular meeting when necessary.
- ✓ Chair Randall moved approval the Calendar Year 2024 GPC Meeting Schedule, seconded by Mayor Rishell. Motion passed unanimously.

### Discussion Items

#### 4. Update on 2024 General Assembly Session (Verbal)

Ms. Backmon, CEO

Ms. Baynard, McGuire Woods Consulting, LLC

- ✓ Ms. Baynard began by noting there are over 1100 bills filed in the House and over 500 bills filed in the Senate. The last day to file bills is January 19<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ From a transportation perspective, Ms. Baynard noted there are a number of bills regarding safety issues. Primarily these safety bills focus on expanding local government's ability to use photo monitoring for traffic lights and speed, and control of speeds on local roads. She mentioned that it is likely stakeholders will coalesce around a few bills and together make an effort of combined support.
- ✓ Mayor Rishell asked about how the definition will be changed in the school zones and Ms. Baynard responded that from one bill she's reviewed the definition would expand to more of a corridor rather than a specific school.
- ✓ Board Member Karatonis asked about the chance the governor would agree to expand the photo enforcement beyond schools and work zones. Ms. Baynard responded that the current administration shares similar concerns for safety issues. The administration is focused on data to show that implementation of programs has been effective. However, issues around privacy concerns remain. Ms. Baynard also noted there is a bill that would permit retired in good standing public/police officers to review the media data before issuing a citation.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard continued that there is a bill that would permit the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to waive certain requirements regarding installation of crosswalks. She noted that there is potential to see more bills like these that help streamline processes. Chair Randall inquired if there are differences between installation of crosswalks in school zones versus other locations and Ms. Baynard stated she would need to review information further to answer.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard stated there are two bills, HB 201 and HB 1175, that would restore the requirement that appointments made by the speaker of the house be members of the house of delegates. Additionally, Senator Boysko has filed a bill, SB 158, to clarify the Authority's appointments to the Technical Advisory Committee.
- ✓ Ms. Baynard highlighted the concerns around HB 557 and its language stating that NVTA will prioritize the preservation of natural beauty and resources, and the limits it places on the Authority to consider or fund projects that involve public land such as trails. Ms. Backmon noted that NVTA's Standard Project Agreements (SPAs) require the project sponsors to adhere to all local, state, and federal laws including environmental. Board Member Karatonis noted that this bill is motivated by the few who oppose the Washington and Old Dominion (W&OD) Trail project due to environmental concerns. He continued that the trail has cleared all federal and local regulations. There was discussion around the consequences this bill would have on future projects. Ms. Baynard stated that this bill would be reviewed by the House Transportation Committee, and if voted positively it would then proceed to the Senate Transportation Committee. Efforts will be made to communicate opposition of the bill to the House Transportation Committee members.

- ✓ Lastly Ms. Baynard stated that the governor did not include additional funding for Metro in the introduced budget but did include a pathway to temporarily adjust the 3% cap on subsidies to Metro. Additionally, the governor's budget list specific desires for operational reform for Metro. Budget amendments are due January 12<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Chair Randall asked if there was any funding set aside for the Potomac Yard Metro station. Ms. Baynard answered that the administration is still working through the precise transportation improvements for that entire area.

**5. Adjournment**

Chair Randall

- ✓ Chair Randall concluded the meeting at 6:14 pm.

DRAFT

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR:** Chair Phyllis J. Randall and Members  
Governance and Personnel Committee

**FROM:** Tracy Baynard, Sr. Vice President, McGuire Woods Consulting, LLC

**DATE:** March 6, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Update on 2024 General Assembly Session

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1. **Purpose:** To update the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) Governance and Personnel Committee (GPC) on the 2024 General Assembly Session.
2. **Discussion:** The date of this memo, March 6th, will conclude the 57th day of the sixty-day session. With the final days of session ahead, the House of Delegates and the State Senate have many significant policy and funding issues to resolve. For NVTA and other transit stakeholders in the region, a top issue remains for the General Assembly to address is providing state funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro).
  - A. **Legislation Specifically Impacting the Authority:**
    - I. Senator Boysko succeeded in securing the technical amendment to the Virginia Code in regard to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) appointments. [SB 158](#) passed the Senate and House unanimously including subcommittee and committee levels. If signed by the governor, the bill will clarify in the Virginia Code that the Authority appoints members of the TAC.
    - II. Delegates Paul Krizek (D-Alexandria) and Mark Sickles (D-Fairfax) combined their bills into [HB 120](#) which mandates that the Speaker of the House must appoint members of the House of Delegates to serve on the Authority. The bill is on its way to the governor.
  - B. **State Stop Gap Funding for Metro:**
    - I. The House and Senate budget versions are now in the hands of twelve budget conferees to work on consensus. The House conferees are Delegates Luke Torian (D-Prince William), Mark Sickles (D-Fairfax), David Bulova (D-Fairfax City); Betsy Carr (D-Richmond), Terry Austin (R-Botetourt) and Robert Bloxom (R-Accomack). Senate conferees are Senators Louise Lucas (D-Portsmouth); Creigh Deeds (D-Bath), Mamie Locke (D-Hampton), Jennifer Boysko (D-Fairfax), Ryan McDougle (R-Hanover) and Todd Pillion (R-Washington County).
    - II. The House [budget](#) amendment contains a total of \$149.5 million over the biennium, a two-year suspension of the 3% subsidy increase cap and asks Metro to complete a comparison of its costs against specific transit systems.
    - III. The Senate [budget](#) amendment is similar to the governor's introduced budget. It contains no state funding; permits funding over the 3% subsidy cap if Metro meets outlined specific planning and correction action plan initiatives. These include measures to reduce total and overhead costs using specific transit systems as

benchmarks; size employee headcount relative to ridership and vehicle-revenue miles and provide a detailed timeline to automate the Metrorail system. Senator Louise Lucas announced on Twitter that she is now comfortable with putting funding for Metro in the budget with assurances on reforms. The exact language of the reforms/accountability measures will be contained in the conference budget document. The hard work of Delegate Torian, Delegate Sickles and Senator Boysko was key in moving the initiative forward.

- IV. Conversations about Metro have been ongoing throughout the session. The region's stakeholders at all levels have advocated on behalf of Metro connecting its stability to Northern Virginia's economic success and educating new members about the system. These conversations have noted that this is only a stop gap measure and additional work at every level is needed to insure a stable future for Metro.
- V. The General Assembly has adopted a resolution creating a two-year study of operating and capital funding needs and potential operation reforms for Metro, Virginia Railway Express (VRE) and Northern Virginia transit systems. Language for such a study was submitted by Senator Adam Ebbin (D-Alexandria) in the form of [SJ 28](#) and budget language from Delegate Vivian Watts (D-Annandale). The Senate budget [amendment](#) includes \$500,000 in FY2025 to secure consultant services to help with the Metro related activities, with reports due November 2024 and November 2025. The scope of the study is outlined on lines 65-86. The study has broad support from localities, business community and other transit stakeholders. SJ 28 assigns a seat for the Authority on the technical working group.
- C. **Virginia Sports and Entertainment Authority and Financing Fund:** The Senate did not take up either of the bills to create a Sports and Entertainment Authority or create a financing fund. It is not completely clear when a substantive discussion of the initiative will take place. The Authority is focused on ensuring any legislation to recapture state sales and use tax revenue from economic activity in the district excludes the regional 0.7% sales and use tax that flows to the Authority for local and regional transportation needs.
- D. **Traffic Safety Initiatives:** Continuing concern over traffic accidents, injuries and deaths on local roadways prompted thirteen bills and resolutions introduced to stop the growing conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians/bicyclists. The thirteen bills fell into three categories:
- Return local authority to reduce speed limits on local roads owned by Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) below 25 mph.
  - Expand use of photo speed monitoring cameras beyond the current school zone and work zone permissions.
  - Efforts to reduce conflicts between cyclists and vehicles at intersections.
- This session has seen two bills succeed:
- [HB 1071 \(Carr\)](#) has passed the House and Senate. It permits localities to reduce the speed limit to less than 25 miles per hour, but not less than 15 miles per hour, on highways within its boundaries located in a business district or residence district including VDOT roadways. The locality is required to notify

the Commissioner of Highways of a change in speed limit. VDOT did not oppose the initiative this year.

- [SB 336 \(Roem\)](#) has passed the Senate and House and is on its way for governor action. It expands use of photo speed monitoring cameras to “high-risk intersections.” As defined in the bill the monitored road segment is no more than 1000 feet from a school border and there has been a fatal accident since 2014. Revenue from fines are deposited into the Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program.

The overwhelming bills that failed were in the photo speed monitoring camera and cyclist protection areas. This included a bill that would have provided localities the ability to hire retired police officers to help review the videos from the cameras. There seems to be consensus that VDOT will once again convene a stakeholder group including state police, Department of Motor Vehicles (regarding education initiatives), localities and other stakeholders to try to come up with a strategic set of initiatives to reverse the universally acknowledged troubling increase in serious injury and fatalities for pedestrian and cyclists across Virginia. The goal is to bring forth legislation for the 2025 General Assembly session.