



Approved December 15, 2016

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

GOVERNANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 2, 2016

7:00pm

3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200

Fairfax, VA 22031

MEETING SUMMARY

I. Call to Order

Chair Hynes

- Chair Hynes called the meeting to order at 7:13pm.
- Attendees:
 - ✓ Members: Chair Hynes; Supervisor Nohe; Council Member Snyder.
 - ✓ Staff: Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Michael Longhi (CFO).
 - ✓ Other Attendees: Noelle Dominguez (Fairfax County); Tracy Baynard (McGuire Woods, LLC).

Action

II. Approval of Meeting Summary for the October 13, 2016 meeting

- Council Member Snyder moved approval of the minutes of October 13, 2016; seconded by Supervisor Nohe. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Information

III. Review of Draft 2017 Legislative Program

Chair Hynes

- Chair Hynes introduced the updated draft FY2017 Legislative Program, noting that the format had been changed from previous years to call out the Authority's position on each item. Ms. Backmon noted that the highlighted sections indicate updates from the 2016 Legislative Program. The following updates were noted:
 - ✓ Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) - Language was added regarding support of the Metro Safety Commission.
 - ✓ Land Use Planning – Language was added regarding the 2016 General Assembly proffer bill. The added language was based on verbiage that member jurisdictions included in their legislative programs.
 - ✓ Surface Transportation Program Reauthorization - Language was updated to state it is essential that programs receive the funding amount authorized

in the FAST Act. Additional language was added based on the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) implementing the FAST Act.

- ✓ Marketplace Fairness Act – Based on current legislation, if the Marketplace Fairness Act were passed, transit might receive less funding than it does currently.
- The following revisions were suggested by the Committee:
 - ✓ D on page two should not be bold.
 - ✓ Land Use Planning – Revise to: “The Authority supports land use and zoning as fundamental local responsibilities and objects to certain land use provisions in state law which could override the work done collaboratively by local governments, residents, property owners and business communities on land use and transportation plans.” The Committee recommended “further” be deleted from the position on the proffer legislation.
 - ✓ Surface Transportation Program Reauthorization – The Authority’s position should be bolded.
 - ✓ WMATA Enhanced Capacity – Revise Federal position wording to be more federal government specific and to include the federal government as a funding partner. The Committee also suggested using terms such as the National Capital Region to help federalize the conversation. Ms. Baynard presented a revised draft of the language in this section. There was general agreement with the proposed revised language. It was requested that “evacuation concerns” be removed from the revised language. The Committee recommended that language be added stating that the federal government needs to contribute significant long-term Operating and Capital funds to WMATA as many of WMATA’s riders are part of the federal workforce.
 - ✓ Virginia Railway Express – The Committee recommended that a position on positive train control be added to the Federal position, requesting the federal government continue to require the railroads meet the deadline for this technology. The Committee also recommended that we thank the federal government for the Atlantic Gateway funding, and add that additional funding is needed for the Long Bridge and DC to RVA projects. It was agreed to add a DC corridor position to this section.
 - ✓ Marketplace Fairness Act – The Committee recommended removing this section from the Program.
 - ✓ Maximizing Use of Facilities and Operations – The Committee recommended this section be strengthened. Suggestion was to move the position statement to the beginning of the paragraph and revise to add: “A vital component of our transportation network is transportation demand management, such as high occupancy vehicle use and teleworking, safe pedestrian and bicycle movement. The Authority supports ...” It was also suggested that the additional sentences in this section could be eliminated.

IV. Review of Draft Policy on Responses to Information Requests from Candidates for Political Office

Mr. Longhi, CFO

- Ms. Backmon noted that these two drafts provide policies for NVTA staff, as there have been requests from candidates for political office for meetings regarding transportation in Northern Virginia. She noted that one question that arose was whether meeting with one candidate requires meeting with all. She stated that these are first drafts at addressing these issues. Ms. Backmon added that the policies were modelled after Prince William County's policies on these topics.
- The Committee stated that these policies made sense and would be good to have.
- Ms. Backmon stated that the NVTA Council of Counsels had not yet had a chance to review the drafts. There was consensus that the draft policies are reasonable and that NVTA staff should communicate with any political candidate that requests information. It was agreed that the provision stating no new research, therefore requests must rely on existing, public documents, was good.
- The Committee recommended that if candidates raised questions during an election cycle, the NVTA staff could post all questions and responses to the website, as opposed to reaching out to each candidate to set up a meeting. It was noted that Prince William's policy is to treat each candidate request like a FOIA request and when the reply is made to that candidate, it is copied to all candidates.

V. Review of Draft Policy on Political Activity by Staff Members

Mr. Longhi, CFO

- Included in previous discussion.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting of the Governance and Personnel Committee is TBD.

Adjournment

VI. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.