

MINUTES
NVTC COMMISSION MEETING – FEBRUARY 1, 2007
ROOM 4 EAST, GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING – RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

The meeting of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission was called to order by Chairman Snyder at 5:38 P.M.

Members Present

Sharon Bulova
Gerald Connolly
Adam Ebbin
William D. Euille
Paul Ferguson
Jay Fisette
Joe May
Paul Smedberg
David F. Snyder
Matt Tucker
Mary Margaret Whipple
Christopher Zimmerman

Members Absent

David Albo
Eugene Delgaudio
Jeannemarie Devolites Davis
Catharine Hudgins
Dana Kauffman
Elaine McConnell
Thomas Rust
Scott Silverthorne

Staff Present

Kala Quintana
Jennifer Straub (VRE)
Richard K. Taube
Dale Zehner (VRE)

Minutes of NVTC's Meeting of January 4, 2007

On a motion by Mr. Euille and a second from Mr. Smedberg, the commission unanimously approved the minutes. Affirmative votes were cast by commissioners Bulova, Euille, Ferguson, Smedberg, Snyder, Tucker, Whipple and Zimmerman.

Award of Contract for Evaluation of Ozone Alert Free Bus Fares

On a motion by Mrs. Bulova and a second from Mr. Ferguson, the commission voted unanimously to authorize the award of a contract and notice to proceed to MCV Associates, Inc. to conduct on-board surveys and analyze the effectiveness of free bus fares in Northern Virginia on Ozone Alert Days. The price is \$50,000 from the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program.

The vote in favor was unanimous. Affirmative votes were cast by commissioners Bulova, Euille, Ferguson, Smedberg, Snyder, Tucker, Whipple and Zimmerman.

State Grant Applications for FY 2008

On a motion by Mr. Zimmerman and a second by Mr. Euille, the commission unanimously adopted Resolution #2052 (copy attached). Mr. Taube explained that this resolution authorizes NVTC's executive director to submit to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation electronic applications including \$290 million of eligible expenses for Metro, local bus systems and VRE. He anticipates state aid will fall far short of this total unless the General Assembly acts to provide more funding for the state transit assistance programs. Affirmative votes were cast by commissioners Bulova, Euille, Ferguson, Smedberg, Snyder, Tucker, Whipple and Zimmerman.

VRE Items

Report from the VRE Operations Board (with minutes of the meeting of January 19, 2007) and from VRE's CEO. Mrs. Bulova asked commissioners to be aware of the attachments that include ridership and on-time performance reports.

Commissioner Ebbin arrived at 5:42 P.M, Commissioner Connolly at 5:43 P.M. and Delegate May at 5:48 P.M.

Revised VRE Governance and Subsidy Proposal. Mrs. Bulova moved approval of Resolution #2053 (copy attached), with a second by Mr. Connolly. Mrs. Bulova explained the proposed changes. Mr. Zimmerman questioned the distinction between participating and contributing jurisdictions in the quorum

requirements slide. Mr. MacIsaac pointed out remaining differences between such jurisdictions in the VRE Master Agreement. Mr. Connolly commended the Operations Board for crafting the proposed subsidy and governance changes. The vote in favor was unanimous with affirmative votes from commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Ebbin, Euille, Ferguson, May, Smedberg, Snyder, Tucker, Whipple and Zimmerman.

VRE FY 2008 Budget and Revised 2007 Budget. Mrs. Bulova moved approval of Resolution #2054 (copy attached) with a second from Mr. Zimmerman. This resolution forwards two versions of the FY 2008 budget to the local jurisdictions. One version allocates local subsidy using the current Master Agreement formula while the second employs the changes just adopted by the commission. If all of the jurisdictions agree to the subsidy changes the second version would be implemented. The vote in favor was unanimous with affirmative votes cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Ebbin, Euille, Ferguson, May, Smedberg, Snyder, Tucker, Whipple and Zimmerman.

Correspondence

Chairman Snyder asked commissioners to turn their attention to his January 18, 2007 letter to Secretary of Transportation Pierce Homer. The letter requested the immediate release of \$40 million for Metro railcars appropriated by the 2005 General Assembly. Mr. Taube explained that a federal shortfall in Metro Matters funding means that Northern Virginia's Metro localities will be asked to pay over \$42 million more than they previously committed.

Secretary Homer explained that he has only recently received railcar cost information from WMATA and also has concerns about the proper allocation of the funds if they are provided to WMATA. Senator Whipple asked what was needed to obtain the release of the funds. Mr. Tucker stated he was willing to meet to discuss the issue further. Mr. Taube added that the allocation among localities has been resolved.

Commissioner Fisetto arrived at 6:00 P.M.

Legislative Items

Chairman Snyder pointed out a set of five principles for evaluating proposed state transportation funding packages. These had been the subject of a joint press conference of NVTC, NVTA and NVRC earlier in the day. On a motion by Mr. Euille and a second by Mr. Smedberg, the commission formally adopted the five principles. Affirmative votes were cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Ebbin, Euille, Ferguson, Fisetto, Smedberg, Snyder, Tucker, Whipple and Zimmerman. Delegate May abstained.

Adjournment

Without objection, Chairman Snyder adjourned the NVTC meeting at 6:05 P.M. The discussion continued with Secretary Homer, VDOT Commissioner Eckern and others as the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority convened its meeting in the same location.

Approved this 4th day of January, 2007.

David F. Snyder
Chairman

Christopher Zimmerman
Secretary-Treasurer