

MINUTES
NVTC COMMISSION MEETING – JANUARY 4, 2007
NVTC CONFERENCE ROOM – ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

The meeting of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission was called to order by Chairman Connolly at 8:11 P.M.

Members Present

Sharon Bulova
Gerald Connolly
Jeannemarie Devolites Davis
Adam Ebbin
William D. Euille
Paul Ferguson
Catherine M. Hudgins
Tanya Husick (DRPT)
Dana Kauffman
Thomas Rust
Scott Silverthorne
Paul Smedberg
David F. Snyder
Mary Margaret Whipple
Christopher Zimmerman

Members Absent

David Albo
Eugene Delgaudio
Jay Fiset
Joe May
Elaine McConnell

Staff Present

Rhonda Gilchrest
Scott Kalkwarf
Jana Lynott
Adam McGavock
Kala Quintana
Elizabeth Rodgers
Jennifer Straub (VRE)
Richard K. Taube
Dale Zehner (VRE)

Minutes of NVTC's Meeting of December 7, 2006

On a motion by Mrs. Bulova and a second by Delegate Rust, the commission unanimously approved the minutes. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Devolites Davis, Ferguson, Hudgins, Husick, Kauffman, Rust, Silverthorne, Smedberg, Snyder and Zimmerman.

Election of 2007 Officers and Oath of Office

Chairman Connolly reported that NVTC's executive committee served as the nominating committee and has recommended the following slate of officers for 2007:

Chairman: Dave Snyder
 Vice-Chairman: Bill Euille
 Secretary-Treasurer: Chris Zimmerman

There were no further nominations and Mr. Ferguson moved, with a second by Mr. Smedberg, to approve the slate of officers. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Devolites Davis, Ferguson, Hudgins, Husick, Kauffman, Rust, Silverthorne, Smedberg, Snyder and Zimmerman.

Chairman Connolly administered the oath of office to Mr. Snyder and Mr. Zimmerman. Newly elected Chairman Snyder expressed his pleasure and honor in serving with the other commissioners on NVTC. He presented a plaque to Mr. Connolly recognizing his service as last year's chairman. Mr. Connolly stated that it was a privilege to serve as NVTC's chairman. Despite a diversity of views, NVTC works well providing a common ground where transportation issues can be addressed through regional cooperation. He also thanked NVTC's General Assembly members for their efforts in seeking funding for this region's transportation needs.

Selection of NVTC Representatives to Boards and Committees

Chairman Snyder announced the following nominations for the WMATA, VRE and VTA boards, as well as committee assignments, for 2007:

WMATA Board

Principals: Dana Kauffman, Chris Zimmerman
 Alternates: Catherine Hudgins, Bill Euille

VRE Board

Principals: Sharon Bulova, Dana Kauffman, Elaine McConnell
 Alternates: Chris Zimmerman

Virginia Transit Association Board of Directors

Principals: Sharon Bulova, Chris Zimmerman

Alternates: Dave Snyder, Mary Margaret Whipple, Rick Taube

NVTC Legislative Committee

Gerry Connolly (Chairman)
 Dave Albo (House of Delegates)
 Mary Margaret Whipple (Senate)
 Bill Euille
 Paul Ferguson
 Scott Silverthorne
 Dave Snyder
 Eugene Delgaudio

NVTC Executive Committee

Dave Snyder, Chairman
 Bill Euille, Vice-Chairman
 Chris Zimmerman, Secretary-Treasurer and
 WMATA Board
 Dana Kauffman, WMATA Board
 Mary Margaret Whipple, General Assembly
 Gerry Connolly, Immediate Past Chairman

Mr. Zimmerman moved, with a second by Mr. Connolly, to approve the recommended selections for board and committee assignments, contingent on Fairfax County Board action at its January meeting. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Devolites Davis, Ebbin, Ferguson, Hudgins, Husick, Kauffman, Rust, Silverthorne, Smedberg, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman.

Designation of NVTC Signatories and Pension Trustees

Chairman Snyder stated that Resolution #2047 would establish that Mr. Zimmerman, as the new Secretary-Treasurer, is eligible to sign NVTC documents, including financial transactions, and to serve as trustee of NVTC's Employees' Pension Trust.

On a motion by Mr. Connolly and a second by Mrs. Bulova, the commission unanimously approved the resolution (copy attached). The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Devolites Davis, Ferguson, Hudgins, Husick, Kauffman, Rust, Silverthorne, Smedberg, Snyder and Zimmerman.

Review of 2006 NVTC Accomplishments

NVTC staff provided highlights on progress made during 2006 on significant NVTC projects. Ms. Lynott reported on the Senior Transportation Study and as a result of comments made by Mrs. Hudgins at last month's meeting, staff is working to provide at least one group session in Spanish. Mrs. Hudgins suggested staff contact organizations that could provide free translating. Mr. Connolly stated that the Senior Korean Center would most likely be interested in helping if Korean translators are needed. Ms. Lynott also reported

that there has been strong support from senior center staff. Mr. Connolly stated that it is important to train senior center staff so they can turn around and train seniors.

Mr. Euille arrived at 8:22 P.M.

Mr. McGavock provided updates on the SmarTrip project, the regional customer service center, NTD data collection and the MARTHA project. Mr. Kalkwarf reported that he continues to monitor gas tax revenues and discovered over \$600,000 in gas tax revenue misallocated between NVTC jurisdictions. He has requested that the gas tax auditors begin doing a "desk review" to verify allocations.

Ms. Rodgers reviewed the work done on the I-66 Cordon traffic count. Six out of 10 commuters are using transit or HOV. Ms. Quintana reviewed the projects she has been working on for the last six months, including the electronic schedule project and public outreach. Commissioners listened to a four-minute story "Cities Lure White Collar Workers Onto Buses" that was reported on NPR news. Mrs. Hudgins stated that it would be helpful to hear what others are doing with bus service and how to move people to use buses. Chairman Snyder suggested Mrs. Hudgins request be included in the work program. He stated that it is important to look at ways to make bus service more reliable, attractive and available. Bus shelters are also important.

Mr. Connolly congratulated staff on their outstanding work over the last year.

Chairman Snyder observed that Mr. Euille had arrived and he administered the oath of office to Mr. Euille.

Public Hearing on and the Approval of NVTC's 2007 Workprogram and Schedule

Mr. Taube reviewed the draft workprogram and meeting schedule. A briefing on bus shelters will be held at the March meeting. The February meeting is scheduled to be held in Richmond so that NVTC's General Assembly members can participate. In regards to the workprogram, the three most important components are to advocate for more funding, fix VRE subsidy and governance concerns and get SmarTrip fareboxes installed on all Northern Virginia transit systems.

Chairman Snyder opened the meeting for public comment.

Ed Tennyson stated that his remarks are not meant to detract from NVTC's stellar performance, but there are issues that need to be addressed. He stated that the General Assembly must be told that part of their so-called surplus is caused by underfunding of transit operations. The law calls for 95 percent funding on non-labor transit expenses.

Mr. Tennyson also expressed his opinion that free bus fares should not be expanded for Code Orange days. He suggested that instead of free fares, a charge of 25-cents should be imposed, which will avoid waste and still support the program.

Regarding VRE's subsidy and governance issues, Mr. Tennyson stated that Arlington and Alexandria should be given a vote. Concerning Metro, NVTC should work with WMATA's new general manager to encourage Metro to restore efficiency and reliability. The proposed fare increase would reduce ridership, and thus add to congestion, pollution and traffic casualties.

Mr. Tennyson also stated that with the BRAC proposal for Fort Belvoir, the region must plan for Light Rail Transit on US 1, the Richmond Highway and from there to Springfield. Light Rail done right will lower operating costs per passenger-mile while boosting ridership and bypassing congestion. He also stated that Dulles Rail construction should start in 2007 because construction costs are rising. It is important for the region to identify the local matching funds required for this project. Mr. Tennyson provided NVTC with a copy of his complete comments.

There were no other citizens wishing to comment and Chairman Snyder closed the public hearing.

Mr. Zimmerman moved, with a second by Mr. Connolly, to approve NVTC's 2007 workprogram and schedule.

Chairman Snyder stated that Mrs. Hudgins comments on bus related issues should be included in the workprogram. He also expressed an interest in Light Rail and stated that he would like to see a study conducted. Mr. Connolly thanked Mr. Tennyson for his remarks and stated that they should be incorporated into the workprogram.

The commission then voted on the motion with the added comments and the motion passed. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Devolites Davis, Euille, Ferguson, Hudgins, Husick, Kauffman, Rust, Silverthorne, Smedberg, Snyder and Zimmerman.

VRE Items

Report from the VRE Operations Board and VRE Chief Executive Officer. Mrs. Bulova urged commissioners to read the minutes of the December 15, 2006 VRE Operations Board meeting.

Consideration of Revisions to the VRE Master Agreement Relating to Governance and Subsidy Allocation. Mrs. Bulova reported that the VRE Operations Board has not completed its examination of these proposed changes to the Master Agreement. As discussed at the last NVTC meeting, several

concerns were raised and are being addressed. Also, significant increases in local subsidies in the proposed FY 2008 VRE budget have added a further complicating factor. The Governance Subcommittee is expected to meet on January 11th and the VRE Operations Board will discuss it again at its January 19th meeting.

Senator Whipple arrived at 8:55 P.M.

Washington D.C. to Richmond Third Track Feasibility Study. Mrs. Bulova reported that the feasibility study has been completed. DRPT's report, which was completed by HDR, Inc., does not rigorously address costs. It does offer a "minimum/partial cost estimate of \$684 million in 2006 dollars...for the construction of a nearly continuous third track," excluding costs of rights-of-way and a new bridge across the Potomac River. Electrification would add another \$953 million in 2006 dollars. In the report, DRPT suggests several follow up actions, including:

- Add \$20 million to complete already promised capital improvements;
- Complete a \$1 million, year-long alternatives analysis, perhaps involving the private sector through the PPTA;
- Complete environmental review and preliminary engineering for \$40 million over two years;
- Execute agreements with stakeholders; and
- Identify a dedicated source of funding.

FY 2008 VRE Budget and FY 2007 Budget Revisions. Mrs. Bulova moved, with a second by Mr. Connolly, to defer action on the budget until the next NVTC meeting to give the VRE Operations Board the opportunity to complete its examination of subsidy allocation and governance issues.

Mr. Connolly stated that it is important to give adequate time to the process so that the budget will reflect the subsidy allocation changes.

The commission then voted on the motion to defer and it passed. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Devolites Davis, Euille, Ferguson, Hudgins, Husick, Kauffman, Rust, Silverthorne, Smedberg, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman.

Mr. Zehner reported that PRTC also deferred this action. He stated that there could be problems with the subsidy allocation issue. Mr. Connolly stated that if Fairfax County continues to pay 44 percent of the VRE budget, then it will insist on 44 percent of the vote.

Contract Amendment with Scheidt & Bachmann for Fare Collection Equipment Maintenance. Mrs. Bulova explained that the VRE Operations Board recommends approval of Resolution #2049, which would authorize VRE's CEO to amend the fare collection equipment contract with Scheidt & Bachmann to

provide one additional year of maintenance services for an amount not to exceed \$558,412, plus a contingency of \$29,500, for a total contract value not to exceed \$4,390,933.

Mr. Smedberg asked if VRE's fare collection system will be compatible with SmarTrip. Mr. Zehner stated that it is not currently compatible, but VRE is working to make it compatible.

On a motion by Mrs. Bulova and a second by Mr. Connolly, the commission unanimously approved Resolution #2049 (copy attached). The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Devolites Davis, Euille, Ferguson, Hudgins, Husick, Kauffman, Rust, Silverthorne, Smedberg, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman.

Extension of Railroad Operating/Access Agreements. Mrs. Bulova moved to approve Resolutions #2050 (CSXT) and #2051 (Norfolk Southern), which would authorize VRE's CEO to execute an extension of the existing amended operating/access agreements with CSXT and Norfolk Southern to July 31, 2007. Negotiations over new agreements have stalled over the level of required liability protection. Mr. Connolly seconded the motion. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Devolites Davis, Euille, Ferguson, Hudgins, Husick, Kauffman, Rust, Silverthorne, Smedberg, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman. (Copies of the resolutions are attached.)

Award Contract for Hydrogen Fuel Injection Bus Demonstration

Mr. McGavock reported that NVTC issued a Request for Proposals for this state-funded demonstration. One proposal was received from Canadian Hydrogen Energy Corporation of Toronto, Canada for the purchase of four Hydrogen Fuel Injection (HFI) systems to be installed on four CUE buses. Fuel savings and emissions reductions will be measured. The company guarantees at least 10 percent reductions in fuel usage and there should be significant reductions in emissions.

Mr. Zimmerman moved, with a second by Mr. Connolly, to authorize NVTC's executive director to execute the contract and issue the notice to proceed.

In response to a question from Chairman Snyder, Mr. McGavock reviewed the technical aspects of the project. In response to a question from Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Taube explained that the total contract amount would be \$55,000, NVTC received an \$86,000 grant from DRPT for this demonstration project, which will cover the costs of the HFI systems as well as the emissions testing to be done in West Virginia.

Mr. Connolly requested that for future meetings, staff include cost details and other important information in the memorandums.

The commission then voted on the motion and it passed. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Devolites Davis, Euille, Ferguson, Hudgins, Husick, Kauffman, Rust, Silverthorne, Smedberg, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman.

Mr. Smedberg suggested issuing a press release.

Change Order for SmarTrip Farebox Contract

Mr. Taube reported that two local transit operators (Fairfax Connector and Alexandria DASH) would like to make changes to their existing SmarTrip equipment orders. Cubic is willing to provide and install this equipment as a change order to its existing contract with NVTC. Accordingly, the commission is asked to authorize the executive director to execute the proposed change order and to arrange with local jurisdictions to pay all of the costs totaling \$161,581. There would be no cost to NVTC.

Mr. Connolly, moved, with a second by Mrs. Hudgins, to approve the change order. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Devolites Davis, Euille, Ferguson, Hudgins, Husick, Kauffman, Rust, Silverthorne, Smedberg, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman.

NVTC Draft FY 2007 Administrative Budget

Mr. Taube reported that the budget is the same as the preliminary budget that was presented to the commission in September. Traditionally, NVTC discusses its budget again in January prior to formal action in February.

In response to a question from Mr. Smedberg, Mr. Taube explained that Alexandria and Arlington's allocation in FY 2008 decreases but the proportion of funding that the jurisdictions received from NVTC also decreased.

Mr. Connolly expressed some concern regarding a quorum for the February meeting. He asked why the budget could not be adopted at this meeting. Mr. Taube stated that it has traditionally been formally adopted in February. In response to a question from Mr. Euille, Mr. Taube stated that local staffs have reviewed the budget.

Mr. Connolly moved, with a second by Mr. Zimmerman, to approve the budget. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Devolites Davis, Euille, Ferguson, Hudgins, Husick, Kauffman, Rust, Silverthorne, Smedberg, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman.

Chairman Snyder stated that the action passed subject to legal counsel review and revoting if needed.

Legislative Items

Mr. Taube commended Senator Whipple, who has agreed to introduce legislation to provide the option of increasing per diem payments for local NVTC commissioners to receive the same amount as General Assembly members.

Chairman Snyder gave General Assembly members the opportunity to discuss legislative initiatives.

Senator Devolites Davis reported that she is filing a Northern Virginia Regional Transportation Bill and will make another attempt to get it approved. She stated that local government support is very important. Senator Whipple stated that she is also reintroducing legislation providing a 1/4-cent sales tax for Metro funding. Mr. Connolly observed that it's been 21 years since the gas tax has been increased.

Delegate Rust stated that he will introduce the same bill he introduced last Session, with one major change, dealing with recordation fees. His bill would provide well over \$300 million annually to NVRTA for Northern Virginia transportation projects.

Mr. Connolly expressed his personal view that NVTC should stay as flexible as possible on its positions to work with legislators to gain revenues. Chairman Snyder stated that the Executive Committee will monitor legislative initiatives and will keep commissioners informed. Commissioners had no objections to this approach. He thanked the legislators for their efforts in the past and in this upcoming General Assembly Session. Mr. Euille suggested NVTC send its legislative brochure to local Chief Administrative Officers.

In response to a question from Chairman Snyder, Ms. Quintana stated that a press release will be distributed regarding NVTC's Legislative Agenda.

Mr. Ebbin arrived at 9:32 P.M.

Metro Items

Proposed Budget for FY 2008. Metro staff proposed a budget that would require \$64 million of additional revenue, primarily through fare and local subsidy increases. Among the proposals is a call for greater use of congestion pricing by time period and station.

New General Manager. Mr. Kauffman announced that John Cato has been named WMATA's new general manager. His first day on the job is January 25th. Cato is a native of D.C. and has been serving as second in command at the Los Angeles MTA. He has particularly strong experience in bus operations and has pledged to continue customer service as Metro's top priority. Mrs. Hudgins stated that Mr. Cato should be invited to a future NVTC meeting.

Regional Transportation Items

Transportation Technology Summit. On December 7-8, 2006, the Center for Innovative Technology hosted a Transportation Technology Roundtable. The purpose of the event was to bring together numerous transportation and technology professionals from public and private organizations across Virginia. NVTC staff attended.

National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission. This commission, established by Congress in SAFETEA-LU, is due to report to Congress and the President by the end of 2007. NVTC's executive director has been invited to serve on the Blue Ribbon Panel of Transportation Experts.

Urban Partnership Agreements. The USDOT has announced more details about its program to encourage pilot projects of value pricing in congested urban areas. NVTC will host a meeting and state, regional and local staff on January 5th to begin to consider whether the region should seek to participate.

NVTC Financial Items for November, 2006

The financial reports were provided to commissioners and there were no questions.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Zimmerman and a second by Mrs. Bulova, the commission unanimously agreed to adjourn. Chairman Snyder adjourned the meeting at 9:35 P.M.

Approved this 1st day of February, 2007.

David F. Snyder
Chairman

Christopher Zimmerman
Secretary-Treasurer