

MINUTES
NVTC/NVTA JOINT MEETING – FEBRUARY 9, 2012
GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING – RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

NVTC Members Present

Sharon Bulova
Barbara Comstock
John Cook
James Dyke
William D. Euille
Jay Fisette
Mark R. Herring
Catherine Hudgins
Mary Hynes
Joe May
Jeffrey McKay
Ken Reid
Paul Smedberg
Lawrence Webb (alternate, Falls Church)
Christopher Zimmerman

NVTC Members Absent

John Foust
Jeffrey Greenfield
Thomas D. Rust
David F. Snyder

NVTA Voting Members Present

Sharon Bulova
Kerry Donley
William D. Euille
Joe May
Martin Nohe
Jonathan Way (alternate, city of Manassas)
Lawrence Webb (alternate, Falls Church)
Christopher Zimmerman

Non-Voting Members Present

Garrett Moore
Kevin Page (alternate, DRPT)
Mayor Robert Lazaro

NVTA Members Absent

Thelma Drake
Robert F. Lederer
Harry J. "Hal" Parrish, II
Bryan Polk
Thomas D. Rust
David Snyder
Suzanne Volpe

NVTA Business

The meeting of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) was called to order by NVTA Chairman Nohe at 5:30 P.M.

NVTA conducted its business, including a detailed presentation of pending legislation in the Virginia General Assembly by Noelle Dominguez, and concluded at 5:39 P.M.

NVTC Business

The meeting of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission was called to order by NVTC Chairman Fisette at 5:39 P.M.

Minutes of the January 20, 2012 NVTC Meeting

Mr. Euille moved, with a second by Mrs. Bulova, to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2012 NVTC meeting. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Comstock, Cook, Dyke, Euille, Fisette, Herring, Hudgins, Hynes, McKay, Reid, Smedberg, Webb and Zimmerman.

VRE Items

Report from the VRE Operations Board and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Zehner reported that VRE on-time performance (OTP) for the month of January was 98.3 percent, which is the best on-time performance VRE has had in its entire history. VRE ran 600 trains during the month and only 10 were late by over five minutes at their destination stations. Ridership for January was 19,545 average daily trips and for 10 out of 20 days ridership reached over 20,000. Chairman Fisette observed that these are impressive statistics.

VRE Railcar Procurement. Mrs. Bulova reported that the VRE Operations Board recommends approval of Resolution #2185, which would authorize VRE's CEO to award a contract to Sumitomo Corporation of America for \$21.2 million plus a \$1.9 million contingency for the purchase of eight new railcars. VRE has a plan to purchase 15 new railcars to replace 20 old railcars but at present has only enough funding to buy eight. The proposed contract has options to eventually purchase an additional 42 railcars.

On a motion by Mrs. Bulova and a second by Mr. Smedberg, the commission approved Resolution #2185 (copy attached). The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Comstock, Cook, Dyke, Euille, Fisette, Herring, Hudgins, Hynes, McKay, Reid, Smedberg, Webb and Zimmerman.

Other VRE Business. Mrs. Bulova reported that Mr. Zehner has announced his retirement as of June 30, 2012. The VRE Operations Board will determine at its next meeting the process for searching for and selecting a new CEO.

NVTC's FY 2013 State Transit Assistance Application

Mr. Taube explained that Resolution #2186 would ratify the state transit assistance applications submitted by NVTC staff on February 1, 2012 to DRPT on behalf of NVTC's five WMATA jurisdictions for regional and local bus and Metrorail service and on behalf of VRE. For WMATA and local buses, capital funding requests for FY 2013 are down by \$17 million from FY 2012, but operating assistance requests are up \$20.7 million. For VRE, capital requests are down \$50.6 million and operating assistance requests are up \$0.2 million. Mr. Taube noted that there were some slight changes compared to what was mailed to commissioners.

Mr. Taube stated that NVTC has also applied for up to \$87,500 in matching funding from DRPT for the high-capacity transit study in the Route 7 corridor (Alexandria to Tysons Corner). PRTC is applying for significant start up funding for the Vanpool Incentive Program co-sponsored by NVTC, PRTC and the George Washington Regional Commission.

Mr. Smedberg moved, with a second by Mrs. Bulova, to approve Resolution #2186 (copy attached). The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Comstock, Cook, Dyke, Euille, Fisette, Herring, Hudgins, Hynes, McKay, Reid, Smedberg, Webb and Zimmerman.

WMATA Items

NVTC's WMATA Board members gave a presentation on WMATA's updated vision, mission and strategic goals. Mrs. Hudgins reported that on-time performance is just below target on Metrorail and above target for Metrobus. Over the past year, WMATA has changed its governance structure, with 11 new board members; implemented an operational plan and a strategic planning process; developed a mission statement and vision statement; and adopted operational and governance goals. WMATA's mission is that Metro leads the region forward by providing for safe, equitable, reliable, cost-effective public transit. The vision is "Our Future Rides on Metro."

Mrs. Hynes reviewed the governance changes, which have focused on modernizing the WMATA Board of Directors; strengthening the governance framework (created By-Laws, revised Code of Ethics, Roles and Responsibilities, streamlined meetings, eliminated chair rotation, etc.); enhancing the oversight role; and strengthening communications to make WMATA more transparent. Mrs. Hynes reviewed the three WMATA Board strategic goals: 1) Improve mobility in the region; 2) Support development of complete communities; and 3) Ensure financial sustainability.

Mr. Euille reported that the WMATA Board determined that immediate priorities are safety, the overall capital infrastructure and customer service. WMATA is committed to changing the culture from top to bottom regarding safety, including such things as rebuilding the Safety Department; fulfilling NTSB recommendations; and implementing fatigue management. As a result, customer and employee injury rates are down. Capital accomplishments include \$1 billion in capital improvements since July 2010, including accelerated track work, 116 new hybrid electric buses, rehabilitation or replacement of 37 escalators and three elevators, and over 10 station platform rehabilitations. The Vital Signs Report has improved accountability and transparency and is a good way to measure and monitor the progress of strategic goals. It is showing that performance is improving.

Mr. Dyke stated that the Metro system carries over one million bus and rail trips each day, which is 40 percent of peak period trips to the core. Without Metro, the region would need 1,000 new lane-miles to maintain current speeds, which is equivalent to two Beltways. In the core, Metro's capacity is already strained and there is no new funding for expansion beyond the Silver Line. Mr. Dyke stated that WMATA endorses and will play a key role in helping to achieve Region Forward's goals and targets.

Mrs. Hudgins stated that WMATA does not have a dedicated funding source for operations. That means the jurisdictions need to come up with these funds and often needs have gone unmet. Annual operating costs are projected to rise at a faster rate than ridership. For the FY 2013 budget, WMATA is looking at an operating budget of \$1.6 billion, which represents a net increase of \$116 million over the FY 2012 budget. \$55 million of the increase provides for improvements in safety, security, reliability and the preparation of the Silver Line. Mrs. Hudgins recommended that NVTC request that the Commonwealth help with one-time funding for the Virginia portion of the needed \$20 million for the Silver Line. Mrs. Bulova asked if this additional funding has been requested during this General Assembly Session. Mrs. Hudgins responded that no legislation has been introduced.

Mr. Zimmerman observed that in the Vital Signs Report the reliability of service dropped during November, 2011, especially on the bus side. Mrs. Hynes stated that it could be partly due to increased construction on D.C. streets. Mrs. Hudgins offered to come back with the answer. Mr. Zimmerman noted that the numbers for the series 2,000, 3,000 and 4,000 Metrorail cars are not included in the report, which is a large portion of the fleet.

Senator Herring left the meeting at 6:00 P.M. and did not return.

Mr. Smedberg asked if all the major repair projects will be completed before the start of the budget. Mrs. Hudgins replied no since there are constant repairs to an older system that did not have the needed maintenance for so many years. However, the repairs are continuing at a rapid pace. Mr. Smedberg also asked about the morale of the WMATA employees. Mrs. Hudgins replied that the morale seems to be positive. The General Manager is very engaged with the employees.

Delegate May arrived at 6:05 P.M. at the same time Delegate Comstock was leaving.

In response to a question from Mr. Reid, Mrs. Hudgins explained that when the Silver Line is extended into Loudoun County, then the county will be part of the funding allocation unless there is a change. Every Virginia jurisdiction's share will go up because there will be a 25 percent increase in the system miles.

Delegate May asked about track maintenance and if there is any sort of automated track geometry or measurements being done on a recurring basis. Mr. Euille replied that WMATA has a new \$14 million piece of equipment that will measure or sense damage or fatigue to the rails. Mrs. Hudgins offered to send Delegate May a video clip with all the data concerning this equipment.

Mr. Reid asked if there will be any change to the WMATA Compact regarding the costs of arbitration. Mrs. Hudgins stated that the WMATA Board will be working with the General Manager to look for improvements to the contract, which expires in June, 2012. Mr. Euille also noted that pension issues are being reviewed. Mrs. Hynes explained that the Compact requires binding arbitration. To make any changes to the Compact would require all four jurisdictions (Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia and the federal government) to pass identical legislation. It is unlikely that the Compact will be opened for arbitration issues.

Mrs. Hudgins stated that she will forward planning data on investment return to NVTC. Mrs. Hynes also stated that she will provide a report titled "Making the Case for Transit: WMATA Regional Benefits of Transit." Chairman Fisette directed staff to post this information on NVTC's website.

Legislative Items

Chairman Fisette recognized five members of the General Assembly who attended this meeting: Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn, Delegate Barbara Comstock, Delegate Joe May, Senator Mark Herring and Senator David Marsden.

Mr. Taube stated that federal legislation has been passed in the House committee that would result in transit no longer having a dedicated funding source. NVTC should monitor this closely.

Mrs. Bulova updated the commission on the proposed NVTC/NVTA consolidation legislation. NVTC opposes it, as well as Fairfax County. There are legal and financial implications to a consolidation. She reported that Delegate Albo introduced an alternate amendment tonight in the General Laws Committee that would direct NVTA to conduct a study of possible consolidation among different agencies, including the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, NVTA and NVTC. NVTA would report back to the General Assembly by December 1, 2012.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Dyke and a second by Mrs. Bulova, the commission unanimously agreed to adjourn. Chairman Fisette adjourned the meeting at 6:30 P.M.

Approved this 1st day of March, 2012.

Jay Fisette
Chairman

Paul C. Smedberg
Secretary-Treasurer



RESOLUTION #2185

SUBJECT: VRE Railcar Procurement.

WHEREAS: VRE issued a Request for Proposals for new passenger railcars;

WHEREAS: VRE received one response from Sumitomo Corporation of America;

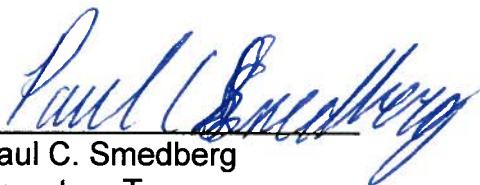
WHEREAS: The single proposal was determined to be technically compliant;

WHEREAS: VRE has identified the funding necessary to execute the contract for the base order of eight railcars; and

WHEREAS: VRE will return to the Operations Board to exercise an option to order more railcars once additional funding sources have been identified.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission authorizes the VRE Chief Executive Officer to award a contract to Sumitomo Corporation of America for \$21,240,000, plus a contingency of \$1,900,000, for a total amount not to exceed \$23,140,000 for the purchase of eight new passenger railcars.

Approved this 9th day of February, 2012.



Paul C. Smedberg
Secretary-Treasurer



Jay Fisette
Chairman





RESOLUTION #2186

SUBJECT: Approval of FY 2013 NVTC and VRE State Administrative/FTM, Capital, and Related Grant Applications and Authority to Apply for Funds from the Commonwealth Transportation Board, Federal Transit Administration and other Grant Agencies.

WHEREAS: The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) wishes to obtain state and federal grants to help defray NVTC, WMATA, local bus systems and Virginia Railway Express (VRE) operating and capital costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission's executive director is authorized, for and on behalf of NVTC and its members, 1) to execute and file an application to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), for grants of public transportation assistance for the fiscal year 2013 commencing July 1, 2012 in the amount of \$193.0 million to defray the public transportation cost of NVTC and its members for administration, fuels, tires, lubricants and maintenance parts at a matching ratio of 95%; 2) to accept from DRPT grants in such amounts as may be awarded; and 3) to furnish DRPT such documents and other information as may be required for processing the grant request.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC's executive director is authorized, for and on behalf of NVTC and its members, 1) to execute and file an application to DRPT, for grants of public transportation assistance for FY 2013 for capital expenses in an amount that will not exceed \$86.9 million to defray up to 95 percent of the costs borne by NVTC and its members for equipment, facilities and the associated expenses of any approved capital grant; 2) to revise the capital portion of the application to reflect refined estimates by WMATA or local governments when they become available; 3) to accept from DRPT grants in such amounts as may be awarded; and 4) to furnish to DRPT such documents and other information as may be required for processing the grant request.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC's executive director is authorized, for and on behalf of NVTC and PRTC and their members, 1) to execute and file FY 2012 VRE applications to DRPT and to seek up to \$14.0 million for FTM and administrative costs and up to \$12.4 million for capital; 2) to revise the application to reflect refined estimates by VRE; 3) to accept from DRPT grants in such amounts as may be awarded; and 4) to furnish to DRPT such documents and other information as may be required for processing the grant request.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC's executive director is authorized to apply for technical assistance funds from DRPT of up to \$87,500 to cover the non-federal costs of completing a high-capacity transit feasibility study in the Route 7 corridor (Alexandria to Tysons Corner).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC certifies that the funds for all of the above grants will be used in accordance with the requirements of Section 58.1 638.A.4 of the Code of Virginia, that NVTC will provide matching funds in the ratio required by the Act, that the records of receipts of expenditures of funds granted to NVTC may be subject to audit by DRPT and by the State Auditor of Public Accounts, and that funds granted to NVTC for defraying the public transportation expenses of NVTC shall be used only for such purposes as authorized in the Code of Virginia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC's executive director is authorized, for and on behalf of NVTC and its members, to furnish to TPB, CTB and other state and federal funding agencies such documents, information, assurances and certifications as may be required for pursuing the above grant requests and continuing previously awarded grants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC's executive director is authorized to amend the above described applications at the request of NVTC's member jurisdictions to include the most recent information and project costs.

Approved this 9th day of February, 2012.


Paul C. Smedberg
Secretary-Treasurer


Jay Fiset
Chairman