

**MEETING SUMMARY  
JOINT NVTC-PRTC LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING  
DECEMBER 4, 2017  
SPRINGFIELD HILTON – SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA  
9:15 A.M.**

**NVTC Members Present**

Jim Corcoran  
Katie Cristol  
Christian Dorsey  
Libby Garvey  
Jeff McKay  
Jennifer Mitchell (Alternate, Commonwealth)  
Paul Smedberg

**NVTC Members Absent**

Sharon Bulova  
John Cook  
Adam Ebbin  
John Foust  
Jeff Greenfield  
Catherine Hudgins  
David LaRock  
James LeMunyon  
Matt Letourneau  
Tim Lovain  
Ron A. Meyer  
J. Randall Minchew  
David Snyder  
Jennifer Wexton

**NVTC Staff Present**

Matt Cheng  
Karen Finucan Clarkson  
Nobuhiko Daito  
Andrew D'huyvetter  
Rhonda Gilcrest  
Dan Goldfarb  
Patricia Happ  
G. Julian Palmer  
Kate Mattice  
Aimee Perron Seibert  
Colethia Quarles  
Melissa Walker

**PRTC Members Present**

Ruth M. Anderson  
George L. Barker  
Todd Horsley (Alternate, DRPT)  
John D. Jenkins  
Jackson H. Miller  
Jennifer Mitchell  
Frank J. Principi  
Jeanette Rishell  
Pamela Sebesky

**PRTC Staff Present**

Gina Altis  
Tracy Dean  
Althea Evans  
Doris Lookabill  
Perrin Palistrant  
Bob Schneider

## Opening Remarks

Jeff McKay, Chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and Fairfax County Supervisor representing the Lee District, welcomed everyone to the third annual NVTC-PRTC Joint Legislative Briefing. He recognized Joe Alexander, former NVTC Commissioner, who has been a lifelong advocate for transit in the region.

NVTC Chairman McKay recognized state legislators, including Senator George Barker, Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn, Delegate Mark Keam, Delegate Jackson Miller, Delegate Kathleen Murphy, Delegate Kenneth Plum, Delegate Mark Sickles, Delegate Vivian Watts, as well as Delegate-Elect Jennifer Carrol Foy, Delegate-Elect Elizabeth Guzman, Delegate-Elect David Reid and Delegate-Elect Kathy Tran. NVTC Chairman McKay also recognized Mary Hynes, who serves as a member of the Commonwealth Transportation Board. NVTC and PRTC Commissioners were also recognized.

NVTC Executive Director Kate Mattice and PRTC Executive Director Bob Schneider provided introductory remarks about the state of transit in the region.

PRTC Chairman Frank Principi serving as the panel moderator for the first panel discussion of transit leaders, introduced DRPT Director Jennifer Mitchell, VRE CEO Doug Allen, and WMATA General Manager/CEO Paul Weidefeld.

DRPT Director Mitchell gave an overview of transit initiatives by the Commonwealth over that last year. She stated that the 2018 General Assembly Session will be critical for transit funding, especially for WMATA. With the looming transit capital fiscal cliff, the Commonwealth will lose \$110 million annually in bonds. The Commonwealth needs to find a solution to replace this funding source. It is expected that the governor's budget will address the fiscal cliff and Metro funding. She stated that allowing WMATA to fail is not an option; there needs to be new dedicated funding.

VRE CEO Doug Allen stated that key issues for VRE during the upcoming General Assembly Session include a solution to the transit fiscal cliff since it will impact VRE access fees and other capital funding; a gas tax floor, since lower than projected tax levels especially impact VRE's smaller jurisdictions; and VRE's long-range financial outlook and the need for an additional funding stream. VRE needs \$45 million in additional funding annually to continue service or \$60 million to expand its System 2040 Plan. VRE will be proposing a legislative solution to create a Commuter Passenger Rail Operating Capital Fund (CPROC), similar to the Intercity Commuter Passenger Rail Operating Capital fund (IPROC). VRE is not proposing to use any intercity rail funds for the CPROC.

WMATA General Manager/CEO Paul Weidefeld stated WMATA is committed to safety and security, service reliability and fiscal management. The SafeTrack program allowed WMATA to conduct three years of maintenance in one year. WMATA will need \$15 billion over the next 10 years for its capital program. The federal government needs to be part of the equation. He reviewed initiatives taken by WMATA to improve the organization and service.

PRTC Chairman Principi opened the discussion for questions from the audience.

NVTC Chairman McKay, serving as the moderator for the second panel discussion on how transit impacts the business community, introduced Jon Godsmark, Senior Vice-President, Infrastructure, Ernst and Young (EY); Maggie Parker, Vice-President, Communications and Community Outreach, Comstock Partners, LC; Seema Wadhwa, Assistant Vice-President for Sustainability and Wellness, Inova; and John Touhey, President, Venues, Monumental Sports and Entertainment.

Mr. Godsmark stated EY has 2400 employees in Tysons and District of Columbia, so it needs a transportation system that is flexible, reliable and fast. In the next year, EY will hire another 400 employees, many of those will be straight out of college. They will have different demands, including the desire to live in urban areas. EY wants to build consensus and drive change with a partnership with other leaders from Baltimore to Richmond ("super region"). The Greater Washington Partnership has four major initiatives, including connecting this super region; improving the consumer experience, ensuring access for everyone; and integrating innovation. Success will be based on a collaborative effort.

Ms. Parker stated Comstock Partners is a real estate development company focused on transit oriented development (TOD). The Silver Line has provided a dynamic platform of which to grow development along that corridor. The Reston project is a redevelopment site, in partnership with Fairfax County. This partnership has generated \$10 million with only two buildings completed. There is also an Ashland site. The Silver Line gives an incredible jump start on place making and new community. It has put Reston on the map in a different way.

Mr. Touhey stated transit is important to businesses. Monumental Sports and Entertainment would not exist without it, not only for the customers but also the workers. He does not envy Mr. Weidefeld's position to fix a Metro system that was deferred way too long. He applauds WMATA's hard work. It is the hotels, restaurants, clubs, late night services that need transit. Those workers don't live in the District and rely on transit. He understands that dedicated funding is needed. Other areas, such as Clarendon and Crystal City, also have vibrant night life that need late night transit services.

Ms. Wadhwa stated Inova Health Systems has 17,000 employees and is one of the largest employers in the region. These 17,000 employees have different work schedules and transportation is a key issue. Inova has implemented its own bus fleet on I-66 and I-95, and made transportation a key engagement strategy, such as a car free challenge. She also reviewed how transportation impacts our health. The best grade the region has received is a "C" in air quality by the 2016 State of the Air Report put out by the American Lung Association. This has an impact on people's health but also adds to health care costs. She asked what legacy is being left for the next generation. Inova wants to be part of the transportation solution.

NVTC Chairman McKay opened the discussion for questions from the audience.

Closing Remarks

NVTC Chairman McKay thanked the panel members for their participation. The materials provided at this briefing will be distributed to legislators who could not attend.

Approved this fourth day of January 2018.

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Paul C. Smedberg  
Chairman

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Katie Cristol  
Secretary-Treasurer