

**MINUTES**  
**NVTC COMMISSION MEETING – APRIL 5, 2018**  
**NAVY LEAGUE BUILDING – FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA**

The meeting of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission was called to order by Chairman Smedberg at 7:28 P.M.

**Members Present**

Sharon Bulova  
Jim Corcoran  
Adam Ebbin  
Libby Garvey  
Catherine Hudgins  
David LaRock  
Matt Letourneau  
Tim Lovain  
Jeff McKay  
Ron A. Meyer  
Paul Smedberg  
David Snyder  
Jennifer Wexton

**Members Absent**

John Cook  
Katie Cristol  
Christian Dorsey  
John Foust  
Jeff Greenfield

**Staff Present**

Karen Finucan Clarkson  
Andrew D'huyvetter  
Nobuhiko Daito  
Rhonda Gilchrest  
Dan Goldfarb  
Patricia Happ  
Scott Kalkwarf  
Aimee Perron Seibert  
Kate Mattice  
Joe Swartz (VRE)

### Opening Remarks

Chairman Smedberg thanked those Commissioners who attended the just concluded public hearing for the I-66 Commuter Choice FY2018 program.

### Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Letourneau moved, with a second by Ms. Bulova, to approve the Agenda. The vote on favor was cast by Commissioners Bulova, Corcoran, Ebbin, Hudgins, LaRock, Letourneau, Lovain, McKay, Meyer, Smedberg, Snyder and Wexton.

### Minutes of the March 1, 2018 NVTC Commission Meeting

Ms. Bulova moved, with a second by Mr. Letourneau, to approve the minutes. The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Bulova, Corcoran, Hudgins, Letourneau, Lovain, Smedberg and Snyder. Commissioners Ebbin, LaRock, McKay, Meyer and Wexton abstained.

### Request for Proposals for NTD Data Collection

Ms. Mattice explained that the Commission is being asked to authorize her to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for National Transit Data (NTD) data collection services for a three-year contract with two, two-year options. NVTC's current contract with Stantec Consulting expires on June 30, 2018. Staff will return with a requested action for contract award at a future meeting.

Mr. Meyer moved, with a second by Ms. Bulova, to authorize the executive director to issue a RFP for NTD data collection services. The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Bulova, Corcoran, Ebbin, Hudgins, LaRock, Letourneau, Lovain, McKay, Meyer, Smedberg, Snyder and Wexton.

### NVTC Comments on the Six-Year Improvement Program

Ms. Mattice explained that the Commission is being asked to authorize the chairman or his designee to comment on the FY2019-2025 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) before the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) at a public hearing in Northern Virginia on April 30<sup>th</sup>. As this will be the first opportunity to present to the CTB following the end of the 2018 General Assembly Session, NVTC's comments will align with NVTC's 2018 Legislative and Policy Agenda and issues related to the implementation of recently-enacted legislation. NVTC will also speak to the I-66 Commuter Choice program.

In response to a question from Mr. Meyer, Ms. Mattice explained that staff provided possible topics for comment, since it is anticipated that the testimony will reflect on

legislation not yet signed by the governor. She encouraged Commissioners to submit comments to staff.

Mr. Letourneau expressed caution depending on the version of the Metro legislation presented that is actually enacted on April 18<sup>th</sup> on how NVTC's comments to "express appreciation to the General Assembly and governor for the enactment of legislation," since some Commissioners are not pleased with the language of the legislation presented to the governor.

Mr. Letourneau moved, with a second by Senator Ebbin, to authorize the chairman or his designee to comment on the SYIP before the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Bulova, Corcoran, Ebbin, Hudgins, LaRock, Letourneau, Lovain, McKay, Meyer, Smedberg, Snyder and Wexton.

#### I-66 Commuter Choice FY2018 Program

Ms. Mattice noted the I-66 Commuter Choice program invests toll revenues in projects to expand transportation capacity in the I-66 corridor Inside the Beltway. NVTC received 18 applications for the FY2018 program and staff has completed the technical evaluation of the FY2018 technical scores for the 18 applications, totaling \$29.6 million. NVTC staff will continue to work with the staff working group, which includes representation from all the jurisdictions, PRTC and VRE. A Commissioner Working Group, comprised of Commissioners Foust, Garvey, Greenfield, Letourneau and Snyder, will meet on April 18<sup>th</sup> to review the applications and provide Commissioner input into a program of projects for Commission selection and approval at the May meeting. All Commissioners are welcome to participate.

Ms. Happ gave a more detailed overview of the program, including the public input and project selection process. The March 20<sup>th</sup> open house and public hearing in Reston was cancelled due to a snow storm, but all meeting materials continue to be available on the website. The second open house and public hearing was held prior to this meeting. The public comment period concludes on April 16<sup>th</sup> and NVTC is accepting comments via telephone, email and the website. In May, staff will present a proposed FY2018 program of projects to the Commission for consideration and approval to submit to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for its May 2018 Workshop. The CTB will be asked to approve the NVTC I-66 Commuter Choice FY2018 Program at its June 2018 Action Meeting.

Senator Wexton asked about the amount of toll revenues available for the FY2018 program. Ms. Happ responded this information is not yet available from the Commonwealth. Delegate LaRock asked who scored the projects. Ms. Happ explained NVTC staff and the consultants completed the technical evaluation and the I-66 Commuter Choice Working Group, made up of local jurisdictional staff, have reviewed the applications and scoring.

### Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Chairman Smedberg announced the WMATA Board approved the FY2019 budget, which includes no fare increase, no service cuts, and a three percent cap in operating subsidy. The Board also approved a one-year extension of the Capital Funding Agreement. WMATA will be working with the jurisdictions and their local governing boards on a new CFA.

Ms. Hudgins reported that the Safety and Service Delivery Committee received an update on the first six months of the Abilities-Ride Program, WMATA's newest paratransit service alternative. It provides MetroAccess eligible customers with a flexible alternative to MetroAccess service in Maryland.

Mr. Corcoran noted that Metrorail ridership is stable with a slight increase, although it is not back to 2016 levels, it is certainly growing over 2017 levels.

Mr. D'huyvetter reviewed the additions to NVTC's WMATA written report, which now includes 2016 ridership and parking data to put current year data into context due to SafeTrack work in 2017. Saturday and Sunday average Metrorail ridership is now included in the ridership tables, as well as Saturday parking data. The impacts from the February 5, 2018 parking changes are reflected in this data.

Mr. McKay noted Franconia-Springfield Metro Station parking continues to see declines. He asked if there has been any progress made to resolve parking charges for VRE riders. He observed VRE riders can park free at every other VRE station, but now must pay a non-rider parking fee at Franconia-Springfield. He would like staff to report back on this issue.

Chairman Smedberg stated the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station project is moving forward. He also reported that he and Mr. Dorsey are working on recommendations for the Riders Advisory Council as to how it is organized and better utilized.

Mr. Letourneau asked about the capital funding discussion and if the a one-year extension of the existing formula will have any impact on projects. Mr. Corcoran explained that 80 percent of the capital budget is projects already in place, so there is no significant impact. There is still some question on when bondable funds can be spent (FY2019 or FY2020).

Mr. Letourneau also asked about the timeline for arbitration and its impact on the operating budget. Mr. Corcoran stated WMATA and labor are currently in arbitration, but the impact will be to the next budget cycle and/or beyond.

### Report from the Co-Chairs of the Legislative and Policy Committee

Chairman Smedberg asked Ms. Seibert to give a legislative update. Ms. Seibert stated the deadline for any amendments by the Governor's office is midnight on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners were provided with copies of letters from the jurisdictions and other

regional bodies commenting on legislation. NVTC's letter focused on technical amendments. There is still concern about the sources of funding for WMATA and this has been communicated to the governor and the legislative team has advocated for new funding solutions. Although the deadline is April 9<sup>th</sup>, the amended legislation will not be posted to the public for several days. The General Assembly reconvenes on April 18<sup>th</sup> and the Special Budget Session begins on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Mattice reviewed the legislation pertaining to state transit capital funding and the prioritization process. The Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee (TSDAC) has already begun to meet to look at these issues. Ms. Mattice stated that it will be important to get Commissioner feedback on these issues. The legislation includes some structural changes to the statewide transit program. The capital prioritization process needs to be in place by December 1, 2018 to be ready for next year's grant cycle.

Ms. Mattice gave a more detailed review of the omnibus transportation funding legislation and stated that the Commission will need to have discussions on NVTC's role and responsibilities pertaining to Metro. The legislation would require NVTC to certify WMATA data and report on benchmarking and performance data. Mr. Meyer stated that the question is if NVTC has the power to play a positive oversight role over WMATA or if it ends up being a pass through of paperwork to the Commonwealth.

There was some Commission discussion on the legislation's language concerning the role of the WMATA alternates. Ms. Mattice stated NVTC requested clarification in its letter since alternates come from all three jurisdictions (MD, DC and VA).

Ms. Mattice asked Delegate LaRock if he would like to speak to his legislation (HB1285) requiring NVTC, NVTA, VRE and CTB to conduct an annual, joint public meeting on transportation projects. Delegate LaRock explained there is benefit to the public to have a joint presentation on projects as well as cooperation and coordination among these entities. Ms. Mattice noted that it fits in well with what NVTC is already doing.

On the federal level, Ms. Mattice reported that President Trump signed a FY2018 appropriations bill for the Federal government. Congress appropriated more to transit than was authorized under the FAST Act to several federal programs that may benefit VRE, PRTC and WMATA. The Federal Transit Administration's State of Good Repair funding was increased, as well as the Bus and Bus Facility Program. Congress funded the TIGER grant program at \$1.5 billion and expanded eligibility for projects to include planning grants. The PRIIA funding for WMATA of \$150 million was also fully funded.

### Virginia Railway Express

Mr. Swartz reported that Mr. Allen has not arrived from PRTC. Ms. Bulova noted that there are no action items this month.

### Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Mr. Horsley directed Commissioners to the written blue-sheeted DRPT Report. The SYIP hearing will be held on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M. at the Northern Virginia VDOT District Office.

### Executive Director Report

Ms. Mattice directed Commissioners to her written Executive Director Newsletter. She updated Commissioners on several upcoming events, including the Commission Working Group for the I-66 Commuter Choice program on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M. at the City of Fairfax City Hall and a WMATA Board Forum on May 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 P.M. at the Providence Community Center in Fairfax near the Vienna Metro Station.

Ms. Garvey arrived at 8:18 P.M.

Ms. Mattice noted that the Financial Report for January 2018 was provided to Commissioners. There were no questions.

Chairman Smedberg stated that the Executive Committee recommends NVTC hold a Strategic Planning Retreat since the last retreat was over four years ago. Staff will send out a save-the-date to Commissioners.

Mr. Snyder asked that the Route 7/Haycock Road project submitted for consideration for the FY2018 I-66 Commuter Choice program be reviewed again. He explained that there is a significant development planned at that location. The I-66 application is an effort to actually plan the transportation as the development is being planned. Ms. Mattice offered staff to meet with Mr. Snyder to discuss this issue.

Mr. Snyder also suggested the Strategic Planning Retreat include a discussion of new technology and its impact on transit. Chairman Smedberg encouraged Commissioners to forward any agenda topics to the executive director.

### Adjournment

Without objection, Chairman Smedberg adjourned the meeting at 8:23 P.M.

Approved this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May 2018.

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Paul C. Smedberg  
Chairman

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Katie Cristol  
Secretary-Treasurer