

MEETING SUMMARY
NVTC MEET AND GREET OPPORTUNITY WITH THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
JANUARY 28, 2019
PATRICK HENRY BUILDING – RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Members Present

Canek Aguirre
Libby Garvey
David Snyder
David Meyer
Paul Smedberg
Jennifer Mitchell (Alternate, Commonwealth of Virginia)
Raul “Danny” Vargas

Members Absent

Elizabeth Bennett-Parker
Sharon Bulova
John Cook
Katie Cristol
Christian Dorsey
Adam Ebbin
John Foust
Catherine Hudgins
David LaRock
James M. LeMunyon
Matt Letourneau
Jeff McKay
Ron A. Meyer
M. David Skiles

Staff and Others Present

Shannon Valentine, Secretary of Transportation	Allan Fye
Kate Mattice, NVTC Executive Director	Patricia Happ
Matt Cheng	Jae Watkins
Karen Finucan Clarkson	Doug Allen (VRE)
Joey de St. Aubin	Joe Swartz (VRE)
Andrew D’huyvetter	Wendy Block Sanford

The meeting commenced at 2:10 P.M.

Secretary Valentine welcomed NVTC Commissioners and staff and thanked them for coming to Richmond. She spoke to the major changes in transit legislation during the 2018 General Assembly Session that not only included dedicated funding for WMATA but also set up new performance-based approach to allocating state transit capital and operating funds. Commissioners shared their appreciation for the hard work of the Administration to pass the historic legislation with mutual agreement that the funding package that passed was not ideal.

Secretary Valentine spoke to how the existing multimodal connections in Northern Virginia were key to attracting Amazon and other companies. She highlighted the creation of the Office of Innovation under her secretariat, designed to promote advances in technology across the transportation modes. David Snyder applauded that move and expressed a desire to see the Commonwealth expand broadband in rural areas as well as leverage other technologies. Kate Mattice mentioned NVTC's leadership in the development of a transit fare payment strategic plan and how Northern Virginia transit operators are looking to mobile ticketing opportunities. Secretary Valentine and DRPT Director Mitchell spoke about DPRT's demonstration program.

David Meyer shared his city's concerns on the financial impact of changes to the Department of Rail and Public Transportation's formula for allocating transit operating assistance. Under the proposed approach, the City of Fairfax's bus system (CUE) would see their annual DRPT funding drop by 12 percent between 2018 and 2019.

Libby Garvey thanked the Secretary for her leadership and collaboration with other agencies in the administration in securing Amazon's HQ2 in Northern Virginia. Danny Vargas noted appreciation for the Commonwealth's recognition that strong transit investments help to build economic development and provide important access to jobs.

Secretary Valentine shared concerns over the long-term sustainability of revenues for transportation in the Commonwealth, noting that while vehicle miles travelled (VMT) has increased the net revenues from the state gas tax have not kept pace. She noted that this has been evidenced in the shrinking funding available for the SMARTSCALE program since its inception.

Paul Smedberg thanked the Secretary for his appointment to the WMATA Board as the Commonwealth's representative. Mr. Smedberg asked the Secretary for her thoughts about two major transit projects important to Northern Virginia and the Commission – the Long Bridge project for VRE and the Rosslyn Tunnel for WMATA. Mr. Smedberg also highlighted the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus in relation to the Amazon decision, noting how important transportation is to connect the two organizations.

The Secretary transitioned to speak to the Commonwealth's designation of "vital structures," those bridges, roadways, tunnels and rails that are important to Virginia's transportation network but are approaching the end of their useful life or are reaching capacity. She noted that transit assets such as the Long Bridge and the Rosslyn Metro tunnel fall under this category and that it will be important to identify funding for these types of vital structures.

The Secretary thanked NVTC Commissioners and staff for the visit. The meeting concluded at 2:58 P.M.

Approved this 7th day of March 2019.

Sharon Bulova
Secretary-Treasurer

Matthew F. Letourneau
Chairman