



NVTC LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2020

**First Floor Small Conference Room
2300 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201**

5:15 P.M.

AGENDA

1. Summary of the November 14, 2019 Legislative and Policy Committee Meeting
2. Update on 2020 General Assembly Session
3. Update on Federal Legislation

Members:

David Meyer, Chair
Canek Aguirre
Adam Ebbin
Libby Garvey
Matt Letourneau
Dave Snyder
James Walkinshaw

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**NVTC LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

**NVTC Conference Room – Suite #230
2300 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Virginia
November 14, 2019**

NVTC Legislative and Policy Committee Members Present:

David Meyer, Chair
Canek Aguirre
David Snyder
Adam Ebbin
Libby Garvey

NVTC Legislative and Policy Committee Members Absent:

Matt Letourneau
Jeff McKay

Other NVTC Commissioners Present:

Jennifer Mitchell

Staff and Other Present:

Kate Mattice, Executive Director
Zachary Smith
Allan Fye
Matt Cheng
Aimee Perron Seibert
Alex Thorup

Pat Carroll
Greg Potts
Penny Newquist
Joe Swartz
Jen Slesinger

Chairman Meyer called the meeting to order at 5:05 P.M.

Ms. Perron-Seibert briefed the Committee on the outcome of the state elections and potential changes in leadership in the House of Delegates and the Virginia Senate.

Ms. Garvey arrived at 5:08 P.M.

The September 8th Legislative and Policy Committee Meeting Summary was unanimously adopted.

Ms. Perron Seibert continued to discuss the state elections. Ms. Perron Seibert also stated that the NVTC has drafted a broad legislative agenda that is well-equipped for the next Session.

Ms. Mattice asked for any insight on gas tax revenue. Director Mitchell responded that the Secretary Valentine is conducting a study on the sustainability of transportation funding to look at other potential sources of transportation funding and possibly indexing the gas tax to inflation. The recommendations

from the study are expected by December 5, 2019. Senator Ebbin commented that taxing per mile traveled is the most realistic for long-term funding, but the technology isn't ready.

Ms. Mattice briefed the committee on the background and development of the Proposed 2020 NVTC Legislative and Policy Agenda, including key themes of this year's priorities. Mr. Smith briefed committee members on the proposed 2020 NVTC Legislative and Policy Agenda divided into two sections: state legislative and federal legislative priorities. The state priorities are as follows:

- 1) Identify long-term, sustainable transit funding
- 2) Restore funding for NVT
- 3) Preserve NVTC's Programs
- 4) Preserve dedicated funding for transit
- 5) Implement technical fixes to the WMATA dedicated funding bill
- 6) Support access to employment through transit
- 7) Reinstitute the business deduction for transit commuter benefits

Mr. Aguirre suggested referring to the free transit passes as a subsidy or using the same language as commuter benefits. Mr. Snyder expressed support for including a specific reference to Route 7. To which Ms. Mattice replied that more information on Route 7 is included in the federal legislative priorities but the state legislative priorities will highlight it as well. Mr. Smith also explained the technical fix to the NVTC WMATA report.

Mr. Smith then detailed the federal legislative priorities:

- 1) Reauthorize dedicated federal funding for WMATA
- 2) Ensure labor arbitration commitments reflect budget realities
- 3) Reauthorize the FAST ACT and fix the Highway Trust Fund
- 4) Support transit in any congressional infrastructure package
- 5) Identify federal funding for Long Bridge
- 6) Restore federal funding credit for transit on HOT lanes
- 7) Preserve tax benefit for transit commuters

Ms. Mitchell discussed DRPT's outreach to the U.S. DOT on the federal funding credit for transit on HOT lanes and that DRPT has received information from PRTC on its effects. DRPT also supports adding financing to proposals on Long Bridge.

Senator Ebbin inquired about the proposal on labor arbitration and if it has adversely affected WMATA. Ms. Mattice responded that staff will include more details regarding this proposal. Senator Ebbin suggested a Northern Virginia transit tour for key committees in the General Assembly to which Ms. Mattice responded there are materials from past tours that NVTC could reference in developing a tour for spring or summer 2020.

Mr. Aguirre asked that future legislative agendas be developed with consideration of the change in the majority in the General Assembly. Chairman Meyer stated that the committee should seek more aspirational goals for the next two to three years. Mr. Snyder stated that the committee should include electrification of bus fleets in the priorities and make specific reference to major capital projects such as the Route 7 BRT.

Ms. Mattice reminded members and staff of the December 9th NVTC-PRTC Joint Legislative Briefing at the Embassy Suites in Springfield from 8:30 A.M to 11:00 A.M. Ms. Mattice also reminded committee members of the briefing at George Mason University for newly elected officials November 14th — NVTA and NVTC will be presenting at this meeting. The Virginia Transit Association will also hold its legislative meeting on January 27, 2020 and VACo/VML Legislative Day is on February 6th.

The committee meeting adjourned at 5:59 P.M.