



**NVTC LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
Via Electronic Participation
Public Streaming via YouTube
October 15, 2020**

NVTC Legislative and Policy Committee Members Present:

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

NVTC Legislative and Policy Committee Members Absent:

Matt Letourneau
James Walkinshaw

Other Commissioners Present:

Paul Krizek
Michael Turner

Staff and Others Present:

Kate Mattice, Executive Director	Gwen Kennedy
Allan Fye	Penny Newquist
Zachary Smith	Pat Carroll
Aimee Perron Seibert	Noelle Dominguez
Alex Thorup	

Chairman Meyer called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. He explained that given the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, the Legislative and Policy Committee meeting is being conducted electronically. This is possible because the governor signed into law on April 22, 2020 a legislative amendment to the budget bill to allow public bodies to meet electronically without a physical quorum present to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of that public body. NVTC staff followed the procedures and guidelines in the legislation to give notice to the Commission, staff and the public. The only visual component of the meeting is the presentation slides which are being shown on Webex for committee members and on YouTube livestream for the public.

Mr. Smith then called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present. Chairman Meyer asked for any changes to the September 19 Legislative and Policy Committee meeting summary. Committee members accepted the summary of the September 19 meeting with no changes.

Ms. Perron Seibert reported on actions within the General Assembly during the Special Session including transportation-related provisions in the revised biennial budget. A budget agreement

was reached on October 14 and is anticipated to be approved by both chambers soon. She reported that amendments allowing the Secretary of Transportation flexibility to adjust funding within transportation programs were included in the budget agreement. She also reported that budget agreement allows joint meetings of public bodies to convene electronically and thanked Delegate Sullivan, Delegate Krizek and Senator Ebbin for their efforts to get the language included in the budget. Senator Ebbin added that the Senate is anticipated to adopt the budget on October 16. Delegate Krizek stated that the House is also anticipated to adopt the budget on October 16.

Mr. Snyder asked if there were any changes in transportation revenues or funding formulas. Ms. Perron Seibert responded that favorable revenue forecasts were released on October 14 for the Commonwealth overall and that there were no substantial changes to funding formulas. Delegate Krizek responded that the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees meets in December and expects another revenue forecast.

Chairman Meyer asked staff to send the current revenue forecast to the committee. Ms. Mattice responded that DRPT will be asked to speak about the transportation revenues at the next Commission meeting.

Ms. Garvey asked what the drivers behind the favorable revenue forecast were. Delegate Krizek responded that the Commonwealth presented a very conservative budget last year and strong retail sales tax revenues are most likely the cause of a favorable revenue forecast.

Mr. Turner asked if Congress has determined how to allocate potential federal funding for transportation if provided in the next COVID-19 relief bill. Ms. Mattice responded that various federal funding proposals use traditional formulas to allocate funding such as the CARES Act.

Mr. Smith briefed committee members on the proposed 2021 NVTC Legislative and Policy Agenda divided into two sections: state legislative and federal legislative priorities. The state priorities are as follows:

- 1) Protect Existing Transit Programs and Funding
- 2) Connect Riders to Opportunity through Transit
- 3) Continue Support for the Transforming Rail in Virginia Program
- 4) Restore Funding for NVT
- 5) Preserve NVTC Stewardship of NVTC Programs
- 6) Update Remote Public Meetings Language

Mr. Snyder asked if the priority regarding Long Bridge would necessitate funds shifting to support its rehabilitation. Ms. Mattice responded that it is unlikely that any additional state resources would be shifted to Long Bridge and that there is an expectation that some resources would come from the federal government for the project.

Ms. Garvey stated that transit is still needed in order to make the transportation system work. Chairman Meyer added that it is important to still have the revenue streams to continue to maintain and grow the transit network regardless of the current situation the Commonwealth is facing with the pandemic.

Mr. Smith then detailed the federal legislative priorities:

- 1) Reauthorize Dedicated Federal Funding for WMATA
- 2) Continue Support for COVID-19 Relief for Transit Agencies
- 3) Reauthorize the FAST ACT and Fix the Highway Trust Fund
- 4) Identify Federal Funding and Financing for Long Bridge
- 5) Continue Support for Commuter Tax Benefits

Chairman Meyer asked if there were any other comments on the legislative agenda from the committee. Ms. Mattice reminded the committee about the annual NVTC-PRTC Legislative Virtual Briefing on December 7.

The committee meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.