



**NVTC LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
Via Electronic Participation
Public Streaming via YouTube
September 10, 2020**

NVTC Legislative and Policy Committee Members Present:

David Meyer, Chair
Canek Aguirre
Adam Ebbin
James Walkinshaw

NVTC Legislative and Policy Committee Members Absent:

Libby Garvey
Matt Letourneau
David Snyder

Other Commissioners Present:

Michael Turner

Staff and Other Present:

Kate Mattice, Executive Director
Zachary Smith
Allan Fye
Aimee Perron Seibert

Gwen Kennedy
Penny Newquist
Chloe Ritter
Alex Thorup

Chairman Meyer called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.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.

Ms. Mattice then called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

Ms. Perron Seibert reported on actions within the General Assembly during the Special Session. NVTC is monitoring the transient occupancy tax (TOT) issue dealing with evictions and budget items that provide flexibility for DRPT and the Secretary of Transportation to move funds. The House and Senate budget is anticipated early next week. She also reported that Delegate Sullivan added a budget amendment that would provide flexibility for NVTC, NVTA, CTB and VRE to hold a joint meeting electronically during a declared emergency.

Senator Ebbin asked for clarification on the TOT issue. Ms. Perron Siebert responded that the Virginia Poverty Law Center sought a way to permit individuals using hotels or motels as permanent housing to receive rental assistance from local, state or federal sources. The proposal created doubt on whether the TOT would still be imposed and collected, which affects revenues for WMATA. However, Senator Locke withdrew the bill.

Senator Ebbin provided an update on Senate activities. He stated that all of the bills aside from the budget have moved through the committees on the Senate side.

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) Connect People to Opportunity through Transit
- 2) Protect Transit Funding
- 3) Protect Regional Stewardship of Regional Programs
- 4) Restore Funding for NVT
- 5) Update Remote Public Meeting Requirements

Senator Ebbin asked, given the fiscal climate, if there is any expectation that the state would go further on restoring NVT funding. Ms. Perron Seibert responded that they are awaiting the outcome of the Special Session to gauge the Commonwealth's funding situation. She stated that restoring NVT's funding continues to be an issue, but it is important to be thoughtful and mindful about the current fiscal situation. Mr. Walkinshaw added that the funding from I-81 to NVT has not generated the revenues that were initially projected. Mr. Turner added that he noticed a discrepancy in a VDOT presentation about the amount of funding that NVT was supposed to receive.

Mr. Smith then detailed the federal legislative priorities:

- 1) Reauthorize Dedicated Federal Funding for WMATA
- 2) Reauthorize the FAST ACT and Fix the Highway Trust Fund
- 3) Identify Federal Funding for Long Bridge
- 4) Support Transit in any COVID-19 Relief Package

Senator Ebbin asked how the NVTC Legislative and Policy Committee should engage federal lawmakers on issues in Northern Virginia and throughout the Commonwealth. Mr. Walkinshaw responded that it makes sense to make the appeal to the federal delegation on NVTC issues. Ms. Mattice added that the Commission has been actively sending letters to push for additional funding from Congress, and NVTC has a good relationship with its Congressional delegation who are receptive to dedicated funding for WMATA as well as additional COVID-19 relief funding. Chairman Meyer stated that NVTC staff could begin initial conversations with Congressional staff and members on Capitol Hill.

Ms. Mattice stated that the annual NVTC-PRTC Legislative Briefing on December 7 will be virtual. She also acknowledged the legislative liaisons from NVTC jurisdictions that joined the committee meeting and asked them to send their legislative priorities to NVTC staff.

Chairman Meyer asked if there were any other comments on the legislative agenda from the committee. He also stated that the legislative agenda should include the important link that transit has to jobs, food security and health care.

The committee meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.