



**NVTC WMATA COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
Via Electronic Participation
Public Streaming via YouTube
April 30, 2020**

NVTC WMATA Committee Members Present via Electronic Participation:

Canek Aguirre, Chair
Walter Alcorn
Matt Letourneau
David Meyer
Paul Smedberg
David Snyder

Other NVTC Commissioners Present via Electronic Participation:

Katie Cristol
Dalia Palchik
Michael Turner

Others Present via Electronic Participation:

Kate Mattice, Executive Director	Scott Kalkwarf
Andrew D’huyvetter	Zach Smith
Allan Fye	Greg Potts

Chairman Aguirre called the WMATA Committee meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. He explained that given the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency and Governor Northam’s ban on the gathering of 10 or more people, this meeting is being conducted electronically. This was possible because the governor signed a legislative amendment to the budget bill into law on April 22, 2020 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 WMATA Committee, Commission, staff and the public.

Chairman Aguirre reviewed the procedures and instructions for the electronic meeting. The only visual component of the meeting was the presentation slides which were shown on Webex for WMATA Committee members and on YouTube livestream for the public.

Andrew D’huyvetter then called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

Chairman Aguirre asked if there were any changes to the February 27th meeting summary. Committee members accepted the summary of the February 27th meeting with no changes.

Work Session on the 2020 Update of the Annual Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA

Chairman Aguirre gave a brief background on NVTC's *Annual Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA*. NVTC's bylaws charge the NVTC WMATA Committee with providing staff with guidance on updates to the annual report. This will be the third annual report produced by NVTC, and this is the first work session for the committee to provide staff with feedback.

Mr. D'huyvetter presented staff's approach to updating the annual report. The structure of the report mirrors the legislative requirements. In the most recent report, there were six chapters. The first chapter focuses on strategies to reduce the growth in costs and improve operational efficiency, which is guided by feedback and direction from the WMATA Committee. Chapter 2 reports on the uses of the dedicated capital funds with information and data provided by WMATA. Finally, chapters 3 – 6 cover data on safety and reliability, financial performance and ridership data. For the 2020 report, staff recommend a preface on the effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency on WMATA in addition to the previous chapters.

Mr. D'huyvetter noted that there is a lag in data from the National Transit Database and other sources, which will impact the metrics that NVTC monitors in this year's report and subsequent reports. Mr. D'huyvetter also reminded the committee that the legislative due date from the report was moved to December 15th.

Mr. Letourneau recommended that the impacts of COVID-19 on WMATA be included throughout the report because it will be a dominant issue for WMATA moving forward. Mr. Snyder agreed that the pandemic will have a significant role in the immediate future and added that WMATA's current investments may support the return of riders. Ms. Mattice responded that staff have considered several approaches to address the impact of the pandemic and will use the committee's feedback to balance the legislative requirements with the current situation in the report.

Mr. Smedberg asked if staff considered a separate or supplemental report on the impact of COVID-19. Ms. Mattice responded that staff are in the early scoping phase and will seek guidance from the WMATA Committee before proceeding.

Mr. Turner agreed that it was important to weave the impact of COVID-19 throughout the report. Mr. Meyer added that it's important that the report continue to track the progress that WMATA is making regarding safety and state of good repair.

3% Cap Working Group

NVTC Chair Cristol provided an overview of the Commonwealth's FY 2021 – FY 2022 budget directing the NVTC chair to convene a working group to review the impact of Virginia's 3% cap on WMATA's operating assistance payment. Mr. Smith presented a historical overview of the Virginia's 3% cap on WMATA, the budget amendment establishing the working group and a tentative list of working group members and work plan.

Mr. Letourneau discussed the challenges of Virginia's 3% cap and the effect it has had on the WMATA budget process. He also discussed the importance of the private sector in participating in the working group.

Mr. Smedberg agreed about the challenges around the cap and discussed the most recent exclusion to the cap related to service increases approved by the WMATA Board. He also noted that it was important to have working group members that can speak to the cap. Ms. Cristol agreed and added that the working group members should provide a thoughtful and analytical assessment of the cap's impact on the jurisdictions.

Mr. Alcorn added that the committee should take its time in developing this report and asked about the timeline. Ms. Mattice responded that NVTC is legislatively mandated to submit a report by November 10th but that future deliberations on the cap could occur after the legislative deadline.

Mr. Snyder added that the 3% legislation is important and that each jurisdiction should have a representative on the working group. Ms. Palchik suggested possible private sector stakeholders for the group.

COVID-19/CARES Act Update

Mr. Smedberg provided an update on the federal CARES Act funding. The WMATA Board approved a resolution in response to the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). As part of this action the WMATA Board also approved the availability of an operating subsidy credit to local transit providers who are not federal funding recipients. Mr. Letourneau detailed the work jurisdictional staff and NVTC has done in facilitating the process.

Mr. Snyder asked for more clarification around the CARES Act and spoke to ongoing concerns about coordination between WMATA and the NVTC Commuter Choice program. Ms. Mattice responded with how WMATA plans to provide credits to each locality and forthcoming discussions on Commuter Choice to help resolve some of the WMATA budget related issues.

Mr. Turner thanked the WMATA Board members for the information and the impact of the CARES Act on Loudoun County.

Other Items of Jurisdictional Importance

Mr. Alcorn discussed the summer shutdown of the Silver Line and concerns that Fairfax County has with the approach. Ms. Palchik agreed and discussed how Fairfax County is working with WMATA to be proactive on this and other issues with service.

Mr. Smedberg and Mr. Letourneau thanked everyone for their comments and stated that they would raise them with the appropriate staff at WMATA.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.