



**NVTC WMATA COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020
Via Electronic Participation
Public Streaming via Youtube**

6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

AGENDA

1. Review of February 19, 2020 NVTC WMATA Committee Meeting Summary
2. Work Session on the 2020 Update of the Annual Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA
3. Three Percent Cap Working Group
4. COVID-19/CARES Act Update
5. Other Items of Jurisdictional Importance

Members

Canek Aguirre (Chairman)
Walter Alcorn
Matt Letourneau
David Meyer
Paul Smedberg
David Snyder



**NVTC WMATA COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
NVTC Conference Room, Suite #230
2300 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, Virginia
February 19, 2020**

NVTC WMATA Committee Members Present:

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

NVTC WMATA Committee Members Absent:

Christian Dorsey
David Snyder

Others Present:

Kate Mattice, Executive Director	Jen Slesinger
Matt Friedman	Brent Riddle
Allan Fye	Regina Sullivan
Zach Smith	Penny Newquist
Kirk Dand	Todd Horsley
Lynn Rivers	Tim Roseboom

Chairman Letourneau called the WMATA Committee meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Committee members accepted the summary of the December 18th meeting with no changes.

Chairman Letourneau gave a brief background on the role and scope of the WMATA Committee. Mr. Fye provided additional information on the structure of the WMATA Committee, its role within NVTC and an overview of the committee's work plan for the remainder of the year. Mr. Fye stated that the committee would discuss items such as WMATA's Blue, Orange and Silver Line Study and develop the next NVTC's Annual Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA. Ms. Mattice added other items could arise in which NVTC staff may seek feedback and guidance from the committee.

Mr. Letourneau stated that a draft copy of additional comments to WMATA on the GM/CEO's FY2021 Budget was provided to committee members before the meeting and asked Mr. Fye to provide context on the budget to the committee before reviewing the letter. Mr. Fye provided

an overview of the WMATA General Manager/CEO's proposed FY2021 budget as well as proposed changes to Metrorail service and Metrobus routes, fare increases, and fare policy for the committee to consider.

Mr. Fye reviewed discussions with Virginia jurisdictional staff about the proposed Metrobus changes. Mr. Smedberg stated that the Montgomery County Council sent a letter to WMATA with their formal position on Metrobus changes. Mr. Letourneau discussed the Virginia WMATA Board members conversations about the potential Metrobus changes. Mr. Meyer asked about the next steps on Metrobus service cuts. Chairman Letourneau responded that jurisdictions are engaging and negotiating with WMATA on the proposals. Mr. Aguirre added the need to strike the right balance between rightsizing routes and the budget.

Mr. Fye briefly discussed the operating budget and the legislatively mandated 3% cap on operating costs. Chairman Letourneau asked if there were more discussions at WMATA on naming rights. Ms. Regina Sullivan (WMATA) responded that JCC would have a discussion about naming rights.

Mr. Fye discussed the letter's comments on restoring some late-night rail hours. Chairman Letourneau asked if the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission (WMSC) has provided WMATA with a formal opinion on the late-night rail proposal. Ms. Sullivan responded that the WMSC has not weighed in on the matter, but the WMATA GM believes restoring some late-night rail hours is possible. Mr. Smedberg added that WMATA staff feel confident that this proposal is achievable. Chairman Letourneau discussed the importance of safety and maintaining the system.

Mr. Alcorn asked for more discussion on changes to the peak-base fare. Mr. Fye responded with additional details on WMATA's proposed changes to the peak-base fare and max fare increase.

Mr. Alcorn asked if the committee has discussed flat fares in the past. Mr. Fye added WMATA's proposal to increase its fare pass products. Mr. Aguirre discussed the benefits of short trip passes and that WMATA should continue to explore fare pass options. Mr. Smedberg stated that there should be a strategic approach to fare policy.

Mr. Fye discussed WMATA's open comment period on the budget. The committee approved transmitting the letter to WMATA after the committee reviewed changes discussed during the meeting.

Chairman Letourneau stated that committee members have a copy of the draft endorsement of the vision, strategy and goals of the Bus Transformation Project that the Commission will take action on in March. He asked if there was a need for the resolution. Mr. Fye responded with NVTC's previous comments and actions related to the Bus Transformation Project. Ms. Mattice added that NVTC should be at the table during regional transit discussion. Ms. Mattice also stated that the resolution highlights issues of concern and the bus-related initiatives occurring in Northern Virginia.

Mr. Smedberg stated that there are additional phases and next steps for the Bus Transformation Project. Mr. Alcorn stated that the Commission should be cautious to not endorse any policies or measures that they disagree with. Ms. Mattice responded that the Bus Transformation Project Team will be at the March Commission meeting and that it would be an opportune moment to ask questions about the project.

Mr. Letourneau discussed WMATA-related items that the Commissioners should note. Mr. Letourneau gave a brief overview of WMATA's new debt policy and jurisdictional engagement on that issue.

Ms. Mattice discussed potential changes in the NVTC WMATA Committee membership. With Mr. Dorsey no longer serving as NVTC's Principal Director for the WMATA Board, the Commission is expected to take action on NVTC appointments to the WMATA Board and committee chairmanship at the March 5, 2020 NVTC meeting. Selection of a new NVTC WMATA Committee Chair is anticipated to be needed because NVTC bylaws state that the chair of the NVTC WMATA Committee should be an Alternate Director of the WMATA Board.

Mr. Fye discussed possible dates for the next meeting and that NVTC staff will send an email regarding potential dates.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

2020 Update to NVTC's Annual Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA

NVTC WMATA COMMITTEE

APRIL 30, 2020

Background

- 2018 Transit Omnibus legislation created dedicated capital funding for WMATA
- This legislation mandated that NVTC produce an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly on the Performance and Condition of WMATA.
- In order to take on these new duties, NVTC updated its bylaws and formed the WMATA Committee to provide guidance to staff on the annual update of the report.

Structure of the Report

Chapter	Title	Source(s)
1	Strategies to Reduce the Growth in Costs and Improve Operational Efficiency	Policy Decision by the Commission
2	Use of Dedicated Capital Funds	WMATA
3	Safety & Reliability	National Transit Database (NTD) and Metro Quarterly Performance Reports
4	Metrorail Financial Performance	
5	Metrobus Financial Performance	
6	Metrorail & Metrobus Ridership	

For the 2020 Report, staff recommend adding a preface for evolving COVID-19 Impacts

Chapter 2: Uses of WMATA Capital Fund

Chapter 2: Uses of the WMATA Capital Fund

- In the 2018 legislative sessions, Virginia, Maryland, and D.C. established \$500 million in annual dedicated capital funding for WMATA
- The WMATA Capital Fund is Virginia's \$154 million share of the \$500 million
- The Annual Report included expenditure reporting at the CIP Program level.

Chapter 2: Uses of the Fund

WMATA FY2019 Expenditures of the WMATA Capital Fund (Virginia's Dedicated Funding)

CIP Category	CIP Program
Railcar Investments	Railcar Acquisition
	Railcar Maintenance/Overhaul
	Railcar Maintenance facilities
Rail Systems Investments	Propulsion
	Signals & Communication
Track and Structures Rehabilitation Improvements	Fixed Rail
	Structures
Stations and Passenger Facilities Investments	Platforms & Structures
	Vertical Transportation
	Station Systems
Bus and Paratransit Investments	Bus and Paratransit Acquisition
	Bus Maintenance/Overhaul
	Bus Maintenance Facilities
	Bus Passenger Facilities/Investments
Business Support Investments	Information Technology
	Metro Transit Police Department
	Support Equipment/Services

Note: Data is provided by WMATA

Chapters 3 – 6: Data Reporting Chapters

Chapter 3: Safety and Reliability

- Safety, Reliability, and On-Time Performance
- Mean Distance Between Delays/Failures

Chapter 4,5: Metrorail and Metrobus Financial Performance

- Metrorail Farebox Recovery
- Metrorail Service per Rider
- Cost per Metrorail Service Hour

Chapter 6: Metrorail and Metrobus Ridership

- Unlinked Passenger Trips
- Passenger Miles Traveled

Chapter 1: Strategies to Reduce Growth in Costs

Summary of the 2019 Report

- Five new strategies were added
 - (Maximize use of eight-car trains, Improve Weekend Rail Service, Develop Parking Pass Products, Optimize Parking Facilities, Expand and Enhance Fare Pass Products)
- Strategies span 1-5 year implementation horizon
- Previous strategies were consolidated and tracked

2019 Committee Guidance for the next Update

- Integrate Bus Transformation Project Recommendations in future report
- Focus on bus strategies

Chapter 1: Strategies to Reduce Growth in Costs

NVTC Staff Recommendations for the 2020 Update

- Add a preface for (evolving) COVID-19 impacts
- Update report for any new NVTC resolutions or policy towards WMATA
- Continue tracking WMATA's progress on prior recommendations
- Integrate Bus Transformation Project (BTP) recommendations when finalized, where supported by NVTC and where within WMATA's scope.

Next Steps

- June Committee Meeting: Work Session #2 on the Update to the Annual Report
- Fall Committee Meeting: Review Strategies Chapter draft
- November/December Commission meeting: Approve the report for distribution
- December 15: (new) legislative deadline for the Annual Report

NVTC's Working Group on WMATA's 3% Operating Cap

NVTC WMATA COMMITTEE

APRIL 30, 2020

History of WMATA's 3% Operating Cap

- In 2017, the WMATA GM/CEO proposed a three percent cap on **total jurisdictional operating subsidy (i.e. regional)** increases.
- The 2018 Virginia General Assembly imposed a three percent cap on **Virginia's operating subsidy** increases. CTB established guidelines to withhold state funds if WMATA exceeds cap.
- The 2018 Maryland General Assembly passed similar legislation imposing a three percent cap on **Maryland's operating subsidy** increases.

Legislative Exclusions

- Current legislative exclusions to the 3% cap include increases related to:
 - major capital projects;
 - service, equipment, or facility required by law; and
 - legal disputes or proceedings.
- The 2020 Virginia General Assembly added an additional exception to allow for any service increases approved by the WMATA Board to be excluded from the 3% operating cap.

Budget Amendment Establishing Working Group

- The General Assembly included a provision in the FY2021-FY2022 budget directing the chair of NVTC to convene a working group on WMATA's 3% cap.
- NVTC will submit a report by November 10 to the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees on (1) the usefulness of the cap and (2) whether additional items should be excluded from the operating cap.

Roles and Responsibilities

Working Group

- Provide Guidance to WMATA Committee on WMATA's 3% Operating Cap

NVTC WMATA Committee

- Review working group recommendations
- Refer Report to the Commission for Approval

Commission

- Approve Report and Transmit to the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees

Working Group Members

- The budget amendment directs NVTC to include the Director of DRPT, local government representatives, and private sector stakeholders in the working group.
- NVTC staff would invite the following members to participate:
 - Senior Transportation Officials representing NVTC jurisdictions;
 - The Director of DRPT; and,
 - Senior Executive(s) representing private sector stakeholders.

Additional Stakeholders

- The Working Group will seek input on the usefulness of the cap and any additional legislative exclusions from:
 - the Director of the District Department of Transportation;
 - the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation; and,
 - The GM/CEO of WMATA.

Work Plan

April WMATA Committee

- Overview of 3% Operating Cap Working Group
- Refer recommendations on guidelines and working group members to the Commission

June 3% Working Group

- Presentation on 3% operating cap
- Discuss usefulness of the cap with input from Maryland, DC, and WMATA

June WMATA Committee

- Receive an update on working group and provide feedback

July 3% Working Group

- Discuss additional exceptions to the cap
- Provide guidance to staff to write the report
- Refer recommendations to the WMATA Committee

August/September NVTC

- Write report and circulate among working group members
- Present final draft to NVTC WMATA Committee

Key Dates (as of April 30, 2020)

Date	Meeting	Action
April 30, 2020	NVTC WMATA Committee	Refer recommendations on guidelines and working group members to the Commission
May 7, 2020	NVTC Commission	NVTC Chair to convene working group
May 2020	NVTC Jurisdictional Staff	Preliminary discussions with staff on 3% cap
June 2020	3% Working Group	Feedback on usefulness of the 3% operating cap
June 2020	NVTC WMATA Committee	Receive update on Working Group
July 2020	3% Working Group	Refer recommendations to NVTC WMATA Committee
Sept./Oct. 2020	NVTC WMATA Committee	Review recommendations and refer report to the Commission
Nov. 5, 2020	NVTC Commission	Approve report

Discussion

- Is this the right approach regarding working group members, timeline and process?