



**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
Matt Friedman
Allan Fye
Zach Smith
Kirk Dand
Lynn Rivers

Jen Slesinger
Brent Riddle
Regina Sullivan
Penny Newquist
Todd Horsley
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.