



**NVTC WMATA COMMITTEE  
MEETING SUMMARY  
Via Electronic Participation  
Public Streaming via YouTube  
July 16, 2020**

**NVTC WMATA Committee Members Present via Electronic Participation:**

Canek Aguirre, Chair  
Matt de Ferranti  
Matt Letourneau  
David Meyer  
Paul Smedberg  
David Snyder

**NVTC WMATA Committee Members Not Present:**

Walter Alcorn

**Other NVTC Commissioners Present via Electronic Participation:**

John Bell  
Katie Cristol  
Paul Krizek  
Dalia Palchik  
Michael Turner

**Staff and Others Present via Electronic Participation:**

Kate Mattice, Executive Director  
Andrew D'huyvetter  
Zach Smith  
Regina Sullivan

Chairman Aguirre called the WMATA Committee meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. He explained that given the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, this 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 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 is the presentation slides shown on Webex for WMATA Committee members and on YouTube livestream for the public.

Mr. D'huyvetter then called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present. He also updated the committee on public comments received prior to the meeting.

Chairman Aguirre asked for any changes to the April 30 WMATA Committee meeting summary. Committee members accepted the summary of the April 30 meeting with no changes.

Chairman Aguirre welcomed Mr. de Ferranti of Arlington County, who was appointed to the WMATA Committee by the Commission at the June 4 NVTC meeting.

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

Mr. D'huyvetter presented staff's approach to updating the annual report after receiving guidance from the WMATA Committee at the April 20 meeting. He reviewed the chapters in the report and explained that staff will provide context on how the COVID-19 public health emergency impacts the content of each chapter. Mr. D'huyvetter also presented the committee with an example of a restructured chapter on the strategies to reduce the growth in costs and improve operational efficiency. He indicated that the newly restructured strategies chapter will better track WMATA's progress with NVTC's suggested strategies that were identified in previous reports.

Mr. Snyder joined the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

### 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 the working group's efforts to review the impact of the cap and the working group's feedback on the usefulness of the cap and whether any additional items should be excluded. He also discussed the unintended consequences of WMATA's approach to implement the cap. Ms. Mattice discussed the feedback from staff interviews with WMATA, Maryland and the District of Columbia on Virginia's 3% cap.

Mr. Turner asked about the consequences if WMATA exceeds the cap. Ms. Mattice responded that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) has guidance to withhold the funding allocated to NVTC as capital and operating assistance to help its local jurisdictions meet their financial obligations to WMATA from the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund

Mr. Letourneau stated that the cap appeared useful in budget discussions with WMATA Board members. Mr. Smedberg agreed that the cap has been a helpful tool.

Mr. Bell stated that the intent of the original cap language – to control costs -- continues to serve as a good guideline in these discussions. Mr. de Ferranti asked if the working group has discussed any alternatives to the current legislative cap. Ms. Mattice responded that the WMATA General Manager proposed a regional cap in 2017, but Virginia and Maryland legislatively imposed caps

on each respective signatory. Ms. Sullivan added that the District of Columbia does not have a legislative cap.

Mr. Smith presented the working group's principles to guide any potential changes or modifications to the cap. Mr. Snyder stated that the current legislative cap appears to work reasonably well and that there are other issues that should take precedence at this time. Ms. Cristol stated that the working group is not considering a recommendation to remove the cap. Mr. Meyer agreed with Mr. Snyder's remarks and added that WMATA should continue to address safety concerns.

Mr. Smedberg agreed that the Commonwealth is facing a challenging time for the foreseeable future. Mr. Letourneau also discussed how the WMATA Board is addressing concerns regarding WMATA's budget development process.

WMATA Committee members agreed that the committee does not recommend any legislative changes to Virginia's 3% cap legislation at this time.

#### WMATA's Transit Equity Framework

Mr. Letourneau discussed WMATA's new transit equity framework and its purpose to advance equitable policies and practices that support WMATA's mission. Mr. D'huyvetter highlighted local and Commonwealth initiatives on the topic of low-income fare passes.

#### Other Items of Jurisdictional Importance

Ms. Palchik and Mr. Meyer left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Mr. Letourneau mentioned a derailment on the Red Line near the Silver Spring Station. WMATA is investigating the causes and will report its findings to the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission. Chairman Aguirre reminded the committee that WMATA General Manager Paul Wiedefeld is expected to address the Commission at the September NVTC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.