



**NVTC WMATA COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
Via Electronic Participation
Public Streaming via YouTube
October 29, 2020**

NVTC WMATA Committee Members Present via Electronic Participation:

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

Other NVTC Commissioners Present via Electronic Participation:

Paul Krizek
Michael Turner

Staff and Others Present via Electronic Participation:

Kate Mattice, Executive Director
Andrew D'huyvetter
Allan Fye
Dinah Girma
Zach Smith
Greg Potts

Chairman Aguirre called the WMATA Committee meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. He explained that given the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, the 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 the public comment regarding proposed changes to Metrobus routes that was received prior to the meeting.

Chairman Aguirre asked for any changes to the September 17 WMATA Committee meeting summary. Committee members accepted the summary of the September 17 meeting with no changes.

Presentation on the 2020 Annual Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA

Mr. D’huyvetter presented an overview of the 2020 Annual Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA. Mr. D’huyvetter stated that the report would include the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on WMATA’s ridership and revenue and how WMATA has responded to the pandemic. He reviewed this year’s recommended strategies to reduce the growth in operating cost and improve efficiency and stated that they also support WMATA’s recovery efforts to rebuild ridership and revenue. NVTC’s recommended strategies for 2020 are:

- Communicate and encourage a safe return to transit
- Adapt rail service to meet changing demands
- Leverage expertise of local regional partners to improve the efficiency of the bus network
- Continue focus on ongoing initiatives to reduce the growth in operating costs and improve operational efficiencies

Mr. Alcorn asked if the report was the right vehicle to include a discussion of WMATA’s budget development process, a potential reduction in operating subsidy as well as recommendations to reduce growth in costs and operating efficiencies given WMATA’s current FY 2021 budget. Mr. D’huyvetter responded that the chapter on strategies to reduce the growth in costs and operating efficiencies is included in the report because it is written in the 2018 legislation that directs NVTC to produce the report.

Mr. D’huyvetter presented WMATA’s use of Virginia’s Dedicated Capital Fund for FY 2020. Ms. Girma presented WMATA’s safety, reliability and financial performance data for FY 2020. Ms. Mattice added that the report provides an opportunity to shape NVTC’s priorities and strategies for WMATA each year.

Mr. Snyder asked for clarification on Metrobus equipment reliability. Mr. D’huyvetter responded that the data chapters will include more framing and context to explain WMATA’s performance data. Mr. Alcorn stated that its important to present data even though it may be skewed by the pandemic. Mr. Letourneau discussed the investment in Metrobus by Virginia jurisdictions compared to Maryland and the District of Columbia because of the bus service provided by Virginia’s local bus operators.

Mr. Meyer discussed taking a deeper look into the data to determine whether there is any correlation between Metrobus reliability and the demographics of a given service area. Mr. Smedberg stated that WMATA is exploring equity across the organization and its impact on service. Mr. de Ferranti asked NVTC staff to discuss the impact that the pandemic has had on non-fare revenue after the meeting.

Mr. D’huyvetter reviewed the comments, questions, and follow-up items raised during the meeting about the data and recommended strategies included in the report, and he reiterated that the report is due to the governor and General Assembly by December 15, 2020.

Other Items of Jurisdictional Importance

Mr. Snyder discussed the impact any proposed Metrorail service changes could have on the City of Falls Church. Mr. Meyer discussed the impact of the pandemic on the City of Fairfax’s bus network and ridership. Mr. Letourneau stated that Loudoun County is beginning to prepare its FY 2022 budget but there is still uncertainty because budget managers are unsure if the federal government will provide any additional support. Chairman Aguirre stated that the City of Alexandria is preparing its FY 2022 budget and the pandemic continues to present fiscal challenges to balance the city’s budget. Mr. Smedberg discussed the need for additional federal support for WMATA and potential legislation before Congress adjourns. Chairman Aguirre reminded the committee that the Commission will receive a presentation on the report at the November meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.