



**NVTC WMATA COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
Via Electronic Participation
Public Streaming via YouTube
September 17, 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:

Katie Cristol
Michael Turner

Staff and Others Present via Electronic Participation:

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

Chairman Aguirre called the WMATA Committee meeting to order at 6:05 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 that no public comments were received prior to the meeting.

Chairman Aguirre asked for any changes to the July 16 WMATA Committee meeting summary. Committee members accepted the summary of the July 16 meeting with no changes.

Update on WMATA's FY 2021 and FY 2022 Budgets

Chairman Aguirre asked the Committee if there were any objections to re-ordering the first two agenda items from the materials that were sent the previous week because NVTC Chair Cristol had a conflict and wanted to be a part of the Committee's discussion on the 3% Cap Working Group. The Committee had no objections to re-ordering the agenda.

Mr. Smedberg and Mr. Letourneau presented an overview of a WMATA's updated FY 2021 operating budget and background on WMATA's FY 2022 Budget. Mr. Smedberg stated that WMATA's ridership and revenue are well below budget due to the continued effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. He then presented proposed WMATA Board to offset the operating budget gap for FY 2021. Mr. Letourneau discussed the impact of the updated FY 2021 operating budget on the startup timeline for Silver Line Phase 2. He then presented proposed WMATA management actions to offset the operating budget gap for FY 2021.

Mr. Turner asked for clarification on the effect of turnbacks on rail service. Mr. Letourneau responded with WMATA's proposed Metrorail service adjustments for the Red and Yellow Lines. Mr. Snyder discussed the potential negative impacts that increasing rail headways could have on rail ridership. Mr. Alcorn asked if the service changes would close the operating funding gap in FY 2021 or if additional actions will be necessary. Mr. Letourneau responded that the combination of management and Board actions will address the budget gap in FY 2021. Mr. Turner discussed the need for WMATA to develop a messaging and marketing plan that communicates WMATA's safety efforts. Mr. Snyder added that employers have a strong role in helping rebuild ridership. Mr. Smedberg responded that WMATA continues to develop strategies to bring riders back.

Mr. Smedberg presented a brief overview of how WMATA is preparing the FY 2022 budget. Mr. Letourneau added the FY 2022 budget discussion underscores the need for federal COVID-19 relief. Mr. De Ferranti asked if there were any proposals for additional federal COVID-19 relief. Mr. Smedberg responded that WMATA has engaged the region's federal delegation on additional federal funding and that there was a House bill that included COVID-19 relief funding for transit.

NVTC Chair Cristol joined the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

3% Cap Working Group

NVTC Chair Cristol provided brief remarks on the 3% Cap Working Group's final report to the General Assembly and added that the Working Group will provide an additional companion report to the Commission in early 2021. Mr. Smith presented the working group's findings in the report to the General Assembly. Mr. de Ferranti asked if the fluctuations in the operating subsidies could be expected in the future. NVTC Chair Cristol responded that the legislative exclusions impact the overall subsidy payments. Mr. Smith added that, excluding the CARES Act funding, the startup costs for Silver Line Phase 2 had a significant impact on the overall subsidy in FY 2021.

WMATA Committee members agreed to refer the report to the Commission.

Other Items of Jurisdictional Importance

The WMATA Committee members did not discuss any other items of jurisdictional importance. Chairman Aguirre reminded the committee that WMATA General Manager Paul Wiedefeld is expected to address the Commission at the October NVTC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.