

**NVTC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
Via Electronic Participation
Public Streaming via YouTube
February 4, 2021**

NVTC Executive Committee Members Present:

Katie Cristol, Chair
Canek Aguirre
David Meyer
Dalia Palchik
Paul Smedberg (non-voting member)
David Snyder

NVTC Executive Committee Members Absent:

Eileen Filler-Corn
Matt Letourneau (non-voting member)

Other NVTC Commissioners Present:

Jennifer Mitchell

Staff and Others Present:

Kate Mattice, Executive Director
Scott Kalkwarf
Melissa Walker
Steve MacIsaac
Aimee Perron Seibert

Chair Cristol called the Executive Committee meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. She explained that given the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, the Executive Committee 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 Commission, staff and the public.

Chair Cristol reviewed the procedures and instructions for the electronic meeting. The only visual component of the meeting is the presentation slides which are being shown on Webex for Committee members and on YouTube livestream for the public.

Ms. Mattice then called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

Chair Cristol noted that the summary of the January 7, 2021 Executive Committee meeting was provided and there were no corrections.

Chair Cristol asked Ms. Mattice to preview the February 4 NVTC meeting, which follows this committee meeting. Ms. Mattice noted that no public comments were received prior to the meeting. She reviewed the blue items that were provided to Commissioners earlier in the week. She then reviewed the action items, including the minutes and two Consent Agenda items (electronic meeting resolution and a blue-sheeted resolution approving the state transit grant applications to DRPT). Other meeting highlights include a presentation and opportunity for discussion on the WMATA FY 2022 Budget; a presentation on NVTC's FY 2022 General and Administrative Budget and 2021 Work Plan; updates on state and federal legislative actions and the Commuter Choice program; and a Closed Session at the end of the meeting regarding acquisition of real property at the Broad Run VRE station.

Regarding the budget, Ms. Mattice explained that given the feedback staff received from Executive Committee members and jurisdictional staff, staff is proposing that the full Commission's budget presentation be kept at a high level. Knowing that there are a lot of moving parts in the General Assembly and with jurisdictional budgets that will still be in flux going into the March NVTC meeting, she asked for Executive Committee members' support for an approach of delaying the budget approval process where staff would return in May with a fully updated budget – reflecting what is learned from the jurisdictions' budget processes – and seek final approval of the budget in June. This delay is possible since the budget does not go into effect until July 1, 2021.

Chair Cristol expressed support for this approach as it will allow Commissioners to gain more insights into their individual jurisdictional budget challenges, before taking action on NVTC's budget. In response to a question from Ms. Palchik, Ms. Mattice explained the regular NVTC budget process. By delaying Commissioners will be able to make a more informed decision about the two budget options, one of which includes salary compensation for NVTC staff, after the jurisdictions have passed their own budgets. Executive Committee members had consensus that this is a good approach and directed staff to present this recommendation to the full Commission to delay the budget approval process.

Ms. Mitchell joined the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

Chair Cristol asked NVTC WMATA Committee Chair Aguirre and Legislative and Policy Committee Chair Meyer to give committee updates. Mr. Aguirre reported that the NVTC WMATA Committee met on January 21 and had a good discussion on recent revisions to WMATA's proposed FY 2022 Budget. This revised proposed budget fully utilizes additional federal aid to maintain service levels and postpone layoffs until about January of 2022 when service cuts and layoffs would be needed to close the remaining budget gap. The actions necessary to close the budget gap and the individual trade-offs they entail was a source of much discussion by the committee. Staff have incorporated the committee's comments into the themes for the WMATA budget letter, which will be presented to the full Commission at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Meyer reported that the Legislative and Policy Committee met on February 2 to discuss key bills in the 2021 General Assembly Session and the potential for federal infrastructure legislation with the new Administration and Congress. Because of last year's transportation omnibus bill and the General Assembly's actions to reduce the impact of the pandemic on local transit operators

during the Special Session, members have not offered many transportation-related bills this Session. However, local cities and counties continue to face revenue losses resulting from the pandemic. To help support its jurisdictions, NVTC has requested a budget amendment for a one-time allocation of \$30 million in General Funds to help the localities pay their FY 2022 Metro bill. Immediately after the committee meeting, members of the Executive and Legislative and Policy Committees began calling and sending letters to key General Assembly members to voice their support for NVTC's one-time budget request.

Ms. Perron Seibert thanked committee members for reaching out to the legislators, especially because it is so important for legislators to hear directly from the jurisdictions. She also acknowledged the hard work of NVTC's legislative members, including Speaker of the House Filler-Corn, Senators Bell and Ebbin, and Delegates Krizek, Reid and Sullivan. One of the big challenges is that the revenue reforecast won't be released until after the budget is released on Sunday. Executive Committee members then discussed the budget challenges at the regional, state and federal levels. There is a finite number of dollars available with many competing needs. Ms. Perron Seibert stated that she remains optimistic regarding the \$30 million funding but did note that it is a big ask.

DRPT Director Mitchell reported that the Commonwealth expects a shortfall of \$22 million in its WMATA dedicated funding obligations, primarily due to the drastic reduction in the hotel transient occupancy tax caused by the pandemic. The expectation is that this will continue to be an issue going into future years until tourism and the hotel industry recovers. The assumption is that the shortfall will not transfer to the localities. Ms. Mitchell also gave a brief overview of the statewide capital program and the applications received by the February 1, 2021 deadline.

Mr. Snyder stated that it is important to have the latest and best information about how the Commonwealth is dealing with the pandemic (such as vaccinations, when are federal and other employees going back to work sites, etc.) because the states cannot count on the federal government coming to the rescue with additional funding relief in the future. He asked that this component be added to future discussions. Mr. Snyder also asked if DRPT is seeing capital applications for electrification of transit vehicles to meet climate change goals. Ms. Mitchell replied that DRPT is not seeing as many applications as they would like, but Alexandria, Hampton Roads and Blacksburg requested funding for electric vehicles.

Ms. Mattice reviewed upcoming Commission actions. WMATA General Manager/CEO Paul Wiedefeld will be joining the Commission at the March meeting. Following that meeting, the Commission will be sending formal comments on the WMATA FY 2022 budget. Beyond that, the Commission will be discussing and deciding a number of Commuter Choice actions in the spring.

The Executive Committee adjourned at 6:17 p.m.