

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**NVTC LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**Via Electronic Participation**  
**Public Streaming via YouTube**  
**FEBRUARY 2, 2021**

NVTC Legislative and Policy Committee Members Present via Electronic Participation:

David Meyer, Chair  
Canek Aguirre

NVTC Legislative and Policy Committee Members Absent:

Adam Ebbin  
Libby Garvey  
Matt Letourneau  
Dave Snyder  
James Walkinshaw

Staff and Others Present via Electronic Participation:

Kate Mattice, Executive Director  
Allan Fye  
Tenley O'Hara  
Aimee Perron Seibert  
Zach Smith  
Alex Thorup

Chairman Meyer called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. He explained that given the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, the Legislative and Policy 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. 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.

Mr. Smith then called the roll. He also informed the committee that no public comments were received prior to the meeting.

Chairman Meyer asked for any changes to the October 15, 2020 Legislative and Policy Committee meeting summary. Committee members accepted the summary of the October 15, 2020 meeting with no changes.

## General Assembly Session Update

Ms. Perron Seibert reported on actions within the General Assembly during the 2021 Session. Ms. Perron Seibert informed the committee that crossover day is on February 5. Crossover day is when both the House of Delegates and the Senate must finish their work legislative bills and send them to the opposite chamber. She also indicated that the House of Delegates and the Senate are anticipated to release their budget bills on February 7 and that Governor Northam is anticipated to call a special session immediately following the end of the regular session to give lawmakers more time to work.

Mr. Smith provided an update on legislative bills and budget in the General Assembly that NVTC is monitoring:

### *Legislative Bills*

- HB 1931 (Levine): Allows a member of a public body to attend a meeting electronically in order to provide care for a family member with a medical condition
- HJ 542 (McQuinn): Requests DRPT to conduct a two-year study of transit equity and modernization in the Commonwealth
- SB 1271 (McPike): Allows a public body to meet electronically when a locality in which the public body is located has declared a local state of emergency
- SB 1350 (Lewis): Incorporates "resiliency" considerations into statewide transportation planning, but resiliency is not defined

### *Budget Amendments*

- Item 442 #1h: A one-time allocation of \$30 million from the General Fund to NVTC to be distributed using the NVTC formula to localities to support their financial obligations to WMATA in FY 2022
- Item 442 #3h: Authorizes CTB to waive the 25% cap on funds in the Transit Ridership Incentive Program that reduce the impact of fares on low-income individuals
- Item 442 #4h: Provides \$500,000 from the General Fund upon the passage of HJ 542, which requires DRPT to conduct a two-year study of transit equity and modernization in the Commonwealth
- Item 443 H: Governor Northam has proposed a \$50 million budget amendment that would help extend passenger rail service in the New River Valley
- Item 447 #1s: Provides \$10 million from the General Fund to the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund for an urban smart infrastructure test bed in partnership with the City of Falls Church and Virginia Tech

Mr. Aguirre asked about a recent DRPT presentation on revenue forecasts. Mr. Smith responded that there may be a shortfall because of a decline in gas tax and hotel tax revenues. Ms. Mattice added that the presentation from DRPT was about meeting the Commonwealth's contribution to the WMATA Dedicated Capital Fund. Chairman Meyer asked about the projected gap in funding. Ms. Perron Seibert responded that the estimated gap is \$22 million.

Ms. Mattice reviewed talking points for Commissioners about the NVTC-requested budget amendment to help the local jurisdictions pay for their WMATA obligations. Chairman Meyer stated that it is critical for members of the General Assembly to hear support for the budget amendment from the Commission.

### Federal Update

Ms. Mattice provided an update on transportation issues at the federal level. She stated that the Biden Administration has prioritized transportation and infrastructure and made transit-friendly appointments at the U.S. Department of Transportation. Ms. Mattice indicated that potential federal legislation could involve additional COVID-19 relief funding, reauthorization of the surface transportation bill, and an infrastructure bill. Chairman Meyer added that the Commission should watch for potential opportunities to leverage more federal dollars.

Chairman Meyer also asked if a potential shortfall in revenues for DRPT would affect passage of the NVTC-requested budget amendment. Ms. Perron Seibert responded that it may. Ms. Mattice added that staff is preparing a letter on the budget amendment that Commissioners could send to members of the General Assembly.

The meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.