

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**NVTC LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**NVTC Suite #230 Conference Room**  
**2300 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Virginia**  
**Public Streaming via YouTube**  
**November 12, 2021**

**NVTC Legislative and Policy Committee Members Present:**

David Meyer, Chair  
Canek Aguirre  
Adam Ebbin  
Libby Garvey  
David Snyder

**NVTC Legislative and Policy Committee Members Absent:**

Matt Letourneau  
James Walkinshaw

**NVTC Staff and Others Present:**

Kate Mattice, Executive Director  
Tenley O'Hara  
Aimee Perron Seibert (*via electronic participation*)  
Alex Thorup (*via electronic participation*)  
Bennett Resnick

Legislative and Policy Committee Chairman David Meyer called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. He stated that COVID-19 safety protocols are being followed due to the surge in the Delta variant and this meeting is being livestreamed on YouTube for the public and staff.

Chairman Meyer asked for any changes to the October 7, 2021 Legislative and Policy Committee Meeting Summary. Committee members accepted the summary of the October 7, 2021 meeting with no changes.

**General Assembly Update**

NVTC's Legislative Liaison Aimee Perron Seibert stated that the statewide elections earlier in the month shifted power to the Republicans with the election of Governor-Elect Glen Youngkin, Lt. Governor-Elect Winsome Sears and Attorney General -Elect Jason Miyares. They will be sworn in on January 15, 2022. As of now, the House of Delegates shifted power to 52 Republican members and 48 Democratic members, but two slots could go to recount. There are 17 new Delegates.

Mr. Thorup provided an overview of the governor-elect's transition team and the transition process. He does not anticipate any announcements about cabinet selections until after Thanksgiving or even later. Ms. Perron Siebert stated that current Secretary of Finance Aubrey Layne, who was Secretary of Transportation during the McAuliffe administration, is a transition advisor to Governor-Elect Youngkin. Since transportation issues were not a big part of Youngkin's campaign platform, it is hoped that there will not be significant legislative changes introduced regarding transportation. She expects to see something on repealing the gas tax, so they will be monitoring that. She observed that since Governor-Elect Youngkin lives in Northern Virginia, he understands transportation and congestion issues in the region. She did state that it will be important to educate the governor and his team of NVTC's great work as well as the good things that are happening in Northern Virginia regarding transit issues. She noted that two Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) studies were recently released which provide good reports on funding and other transportation issues. These will be good resources to provide to the transition team and new Delegates. Ms. Mattice agreed that there is a good story to tell on the Commonwealth's performance-based allocation of transit funding. Committee members further discussed the transition process and legislative issues in general.

Mr. Snyder asked if the gas tax gets repealed, what will be the impact to NVTC revenues and what would not get funded as a result. Ms. Mattice explained that the gas tax Governor-Elect Youngkin campaigned about is related to the Commonwealth Transportation Fund and not related to the gas tax revenues NVTC jurisdictions receive for WMATA payments, VRE and WMATA dedicated funding. She stated that staff can gather information about what the impact would be to the Commonwealth Transportation Fund.

Mr. Meyer asked about the Long Bridge project and any potential legislative changes. Ms. Perron Siebert stated that she does not anticipate any changes. She cannot imagine that the new administration would want to stop this project, which will be so transformative for Virginia, as well as the entire east coast. The Long Bridge project is well underway and has momentum.

### Federal Update

VRE's Federal Legislative Liaison Bennett Resnick gave a federal update, including provisions of the Infrastructure Bill. The current continuing resolution for government funding will expire on December 3, 2021 and another continuing resolution is likely, which will result in Virginia not seeing the increases to the Highway Trust Fund that are provisions of the Infrastructure Bill. Mr. Resnick stated that the Build Back Better Act is still working its way through the legislative process.

Ms. Mattice stated that staff is still unpacking the provisions of the Infrastructure Bill and the impact on funding for WMATA and VRE as well as possible discretionary funds for the localities. NVTC wants to be able to position itself to help the jurisdictions if they wish to apply for federal discretionary funds. She reminded the committee that there are strings attached to federal funds, so jurisdictions will need to decide if they want to apply for funding.

## NVTC's Draft Legislative and Policy Agenda

The committee discussed the framework and legislative topics covered in the Legislative Agenda. Ms. Perron Siebert stated that the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) approached NVTC regarding a conflict in Virginia law with federal law that is currently preventing localities to take advantage of the state's transit bus procurement. DRPT is seeking legislative changes to resolve this issue. Ms. Mattice noted that it might make sense for the Virginia Transit Association (VTA) to lead the charge on this issue, as it represents all the transit systems in Virginia. She stated that the issue is already captured in NVTC's Legislative and Policy Agenda under "leveraging state and federal funds." Senator Ebbin stated that he is willing to work with staff and Ms. Perron Siebert to find a legislative solution.

Ms. Mattice stated that the Legislative Agenda is generally broad to be able respond to what is happening in Richmond. Ms. Perron Siebert stated that part of NVTC's strategy is to educate new members and the new administration. Ms. Mattice noted that NVTC has a new communications staff member, Monique Blyther, to help tell some of the region's success stories.

Ms. Garvey stated that the committee in the past has discussed a Northern Virginia transit tour for key legislators, so with the new members and administration, it would be a good idea to revisit a potential tour. Senator Ebbin suggested hosting a tour next summer.

Mr. Snyder stated that it will be important for NVTC and the localities to be ready to explain transit ridership numbers and why they haven't rebounded as highway numbers have. He suggested that the focus be on the successes of bringing riders back.

Ms. Mattice also reviewed the legislative initiatives NVTC supports included in the federal section of the Legislative and Policy Agenda. She stated that staff will monitor the impending fiscal cliff of the Highway Trust Fund. There is time, as it will be five years until the legislation needs to be reauthorized, but it will be important to begin thinking about this issue now and not wait.

Ms. Mattice stated that the 2022 Legislative and Policy Agenda will be presented to the Commission for action at the December 2 meeting. She also reminded committee members about the annual Joint NVTC PRTC Legislative Event on December 6, 2021 at the Embassy Suites in Springfield. She provided an overview of the agenda and speakers.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.