

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**NVTC LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**NVTC Suite #230 Conference Room**  
**2300 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Virginia**  
**Public Streaming via YouTube**  
**October 7, 2021**

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

David Meyer, Chair  
Canek Aguirre  
Adam Ebbin  
Libby Garvey  
Matt Letourneau (*via electronic participation*)  
Paul Smedberg  
David Snyder  
James Walkinshaw

**Other NVTC Commissioners Present:**

Elizabeth Bennett-Parker  
Jennifer Mitchell

**NVTC Staff and Others Present:**

Kate Mattice, Executive Director  
Tenley O'Hara  
Aimee Perron Seibert  
Alex Thorup  
Bennett Resnick

Chairman Meyer called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. He explained that we are back to in-person meetings, with a few modifications. With the updated NVTC Electronic Participation Policy, it is now easier for Commissioners to participate virtually for specific reasons, as long as there is an in-person quorum. COVID-19 safety protocols are also being followed due to the surge in the Delta variant. He stated that 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 Session Update

Ms. Perron Seibert reported on actions that have taken place at the state level since the last committee meeting on February 2, 2021. She reported that NVTC is monitoring any developments on HJ542 (McQuinn), DRPT's two-year study of transit equity and modernization in the Commonwealth that focuses on transit services and engagement opportunities for underserved and underrepresented communities. In addition, NVTC is waiting on the November Virginia General Election results to determine its messaging and strategy heading into the next General Assembly Session.

## Federal Update

The committee received a federal update from VRE's federal legislative liaison Bennett Resnick. Mr. Resnick stated that Congress passed a 30-day extension of the Fast Act after the Infrastructure Bill did not go through. With focus on both the Infrastructure and Reconciliation bills occurring, there may need to be more extensions as the negotiations, largely over cost and not substance, are still ongoing and may need more time.

## 2022 Draft Legislative & Policy Agenda

NVTC Executive Director Kate Mattice then outlined the 2022 Legislative & Policy Agenda draft that will be finalized in December 2021, which highlights state and federal legislative priorities for the upcoming year. Many items have carried over from the 2021 Legislative & Policy Agenda. DRPT Director Jennifer Mitchell highlighted the need to amend the language in the section involving the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Board member appointments, which was agreed upon to be appointees to the VPRA for the NVTC/PRTC districts are selected from lists provided by the NVTC and PRTC Commissions.

Ms. Mattice then asked Director Mitchell if there were any updates to the Transit Equity and Modernization Study, to which she replied that there are no recommendations yet, and that the interim report will include findings so far, but no policy recommendations are expected as it is too premature. Mr. Snyder mentioned that he wanted to make sure the DRPT study is included in discussion for the November NVTC Commission meeting.

Ms. Mattice continued on to say that NVTC wants to protect existing NVTC transit programs and funding, restoration of funding for NVT and flexibility for electronic meetings. Ms. Perron Seibert added that the FOIA Advisory Council met and wants to simplify electronic meeting codes and they will draft a bill to move forward, but it won't be until after the election. Clarification was asked for on the protect existing NVTC transit programs and funding section, with the note of adding some specificity.

The committee then shifted focus to the federal priorities, which Ms. Mattice said largely depends on the passage of the Infrastructure Bill. It is important to make sure there is flexibility in usage of funds for NVTC's jurisdictions. It was noted that Northern Virginia bus operators are

not typically in the federal space, and NVTC wants to encourage the jurisdictions to go for federal funding that will hopefully come through with the passage of the Infrastructure Bill. It was noted that formula funding will still be available to WMATA, VRE and OmniRide and that there are currently no changes to the commuter tax benefits.

Chairman Meyer mentioned that the committee will meet post-election in November and asked if Commissioners had any questions or comments before adjournment. There were none.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.