

**MINUTES**  
**NVTC COMMISSION MEETING – JANUARY 6, 2022**  
**FIRST FLOOR LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM – 2300 WILSON BLVD.**  
**ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA**

The meeting of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission was called to order by Chair Cristol at 7:04 p.m.

Members Present

Canek Aguirre  
Sarah Bagley  
Katie Cristol  
Matt de Ferranti  
Adam Ebbin  
Eileen Filler-Corn  
John Foust  
Libby Garvey (*via electronic participation*)  
Paul Krizek  
Matt Letourneau (*via electronic participation*)  
Jeff McKay  
David Meyer  
Jennifer Mitchell (Alternate, Commonwealth of Virginia)  
Dalia Palchik (*via electronic participation*)  
David Reid (*via electronic participation*)  
Paul Smedberg  
David Snyder  
Dan Storck (Alternate, Fairfax County)  
Mike Turner  
James Walkinshaw

Members Not Present

Walter Alcorn  
John J. Bell  
Richard Sullivan

Staff Present

Kate Mattice, Executive Director  
Allan Fye  
Matt Friedman  
Scott Kalkwarf  
Melissa Walker

Staff via Electronic Participation

Monique Blyther  
Andrew D’huyvetter  
Rhonda Gilchrest  
Tenley O’Hara  
Ben Owen  
Aimee Perron Seibert  
Rich Dalton (VRE)  
Steve MacIsaac (VRE)  
Mark Schofield (VRE)  
Greg Potts (WMATA)

### Opening Remarks

Chair Cristol welcomed everyone to the January 6, 2022 NVTC meeting and she noted that the meeting is also being livestreamed for the public on YouTube.

Chair Cristol stated that Commissioners Garvey, Letourneau, Palchik and Reid are participating electronically due to medical reasons for either themselves or a family member. Dan Storck will participate in the votes since he is serving as Mr. Alcorn's alternate for this meeting. Executive Director Kate Mattice confirmed a quorum was present.

Chair Cristol noted that when the Commission approved the 2022 NVTC Meeting Schedule, it was not anticipated that there would be an in-person legislative day in Richmond. Since that time, the Virginia Association of Counties (VaCO) and the Virginia Municipal League (VML) have scheduled meetings and an evening reception on February 3, resulting in scheduling conflicts for many Commissioners. Staff have reviewed the NVTC February meeting agenda and have determined that the Commission can keep work moving forward through the three committee meetings scheduled for January and February. After consulting with the Executive Committee and the incoming chair, Chair Cristol stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the February 3 NVTC meeting be canceled. There were no objections.

Mr. Aguirre moved, with a second by Mr. Krizek, to cancel the February 3 NVTC meeting. The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Bagley, Cristol, de Ferranti, Ebbin, Filler-Corn, Foust, Krizek, McKay, Meyer, Smedberg, Snyder, Storck and Walkinshaw. A roll call vote followed for those Commissioners participating electronically. Commissioners Garvey, Letourneau, Palchik and Reid cast affirmative votes. The motion passed.

Chair Cristol stated that staff will update the Commission through staff reports in February. The Commission will still be actively working through the committee meetings scheduled during this time, including the WMATA Committee (January 20), Legislative and Policy Committee (February 17) and Program Advisory Committee (February 23).

Ms. Mattice reported that NVTC received one public comment from a Fairfax County resident pressing that NVTC focus on rail and bus funding to improve safety and reliability. This comment was provided to all Commissioners prior to this meeting.

### Oath of Office for a New Commissioner

Chair Cristol announced that the City of Alexandria has appointed two new Commissioners to NVTC: Sarah Bagley as a principal Commissioner (replacing Elizabeth Bennett-Parker) and Kirk McPike as an Alternate (replacing Mo Seifeldin).

Chair Cristol welcomed Ms. Bagley and invited her to the front for the ceremonial oath of office. Chair Cristol administered the oath of office to Ms. Bagley and the Commission welcomed her to NVTC. Mr. McPike was unable to attend and will be sworn in at a later date.

### Recognition of a Departing Commissioner

Chair Cristol stated that Elizabeth Bennett-Parker was not able to attend tonight's meeting, but the Commission still wants to acknowledge her service on NVTC. Ms. Bennett-Parker is moving on to her new role serving in the Virginia House of Delegates representing the 45<sup>th</sup> District. Even though she is leaving NVTC, the Commission looks forward to continuing to work with Delegate Bennett-Parker to advance transit for the citizens of Northern Virginia. A Resolution of Commendation was prepared for Elizabeth Bennett-Parker to recognize her service on NVTC.

Chair Cristol gave some of the highlights from the resolution. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker served on NVTC since January 2019, representing the City of Alexandria. She also served as chair of the VRE Operations Board in 2021 during a challenging year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and under her leadership VRE continued to provide safe and frequent service for its riders. In 2021 Ms. Bennett-Parker advocated for legislative changes to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), broadening the ability of elected officials to participate electronically in public meetings, which has had an impact on NVTC's meetings.

Mr. Aguirre moved, with a second by Mr. Ebbin, to approve the Resolution of Commendation for Elizabeth Bennett-Parker. The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Bagley, Cristol, de Ferranti, Ebbin, Filler-Corn, Foust, Krizek, McKay, Meyer, Smedberg, Snyder, Storck and Walkinshaw. A roll call vote followed for those Commissioners participating electronically. Commissioners Garvey, Letourneau, Palchik and Reid cast affirmative votes. The motion passed.

### Minutes of the December 2, 2021 NVTC Meeting

Mr. Ebbin moved, with a second by Mr. Aguirre, to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2021 meeting. The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Bagley, Cristol, de Ferranti, Ebbin, Filler-Corn, Foust, Krizek, McKay, Meyer, Smedberg, Snyder and Walkinshaw. Mr. Storck abstained. A roll call vote followed for those Commissioners participating electronically. Commissioners Garvey, Letourneau and Reid cast affirmative votes and Ms. Palchik abstained. The motion passed.

Mr. McKay moved, with a second by Ms. Filler-Corn, to approve the meeting summary of the December 6, 2021 Joint NVTC-PRTC Legislative Briefing. The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Bagley, Cristol, de Ferranti, Filler-Corn, Foust, Krizek, McKay, Meyer, Smedberg, Snyder, Storck and Walkinshaw. Mr. Ebbin abstained. A roll call vote followed for those Commissioners participating electronically. Commissioners Garvey, Letourneau and Reid cast affirmative votes and Ms. Palchik abstained. The motion passed.

### Annual Governance and Leadership

Recommended Slate of Officers for 2022. Chair Cristol stated that the Executive Committee recommends the following slate of officers for 2022:

Chair: Canek Aguirre from the City of Alexandria

Vice-Chair: Dalia Palchik from Fairfax County

Secretary-Treasurer: Matt de Ferranti from Arlington County

There were no further nominations from the floor. Mr. Ebbin moved, with a second by Mr. McKay, to approve the recommended slate of officers. The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Bagley, Cristol, de Ferranti, Ebbin, Filler-Corn, Foust, Krizek, McKay, Meyer, Smedberg, Snyder, Storck and Walkinshaw. A roll call vote followed for those Commissioners participating electronically. Commissioners Garvey, Letourneau, Palchik and Reid cast affirmative votes. The motion passed.

Chair Cristol invited the new officers up front for the oath of office. Ms. Palchik took the oath of office virtually. Commissioners congratulated the new officers.

Chair Cristol noted that this is a historic day for NVTC as it has elected its first Latino chair and first Latina vice-chair in the Commission's 57-year history. She stated that this is incredibly exciting for NVTC as an organization. She observed that transit riders are diverse and according to the Bus Transformation Project, the majority of the region's ridership is non-White riders for bus, which makes it even more important for riders, residents and constituents to see themselves reflected in leadership roles. She congratulated the new officers and passed the gavel to Chair Aguirre, who took over chairing the meeting.

Recognition of the Outgoing Chair. Chair Aguirre stated that on behalf of the entire Commission, he acknowledged Katie Cristol's exceptional service as chair during 2020 and 2021, leading NVTC through an unprecedented time during the COVID-19 pandemic. A Resolution of Commendation was prepared for Ms. Cristol, and he provided some of the highlights.

Chair Aguirre noted that Ms. Cristol has been an advocate of balanced transit investments in the region, transportation infrastructure enhancements, emergency preparedness, economic development, improved transit service, pedestrian-friendly initiatives, reduced-fare initiatives and transportation equity. She led NVTC during its 56<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> years of operations and led the Commission's rapid shift to a 100% virtual environment following the unprecedented shutdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, all the while ensuring Commission business was conducted in a timely and effective manner. This was also during the time that the Commission seamlessly welcomed 10 new members. He stated that he is excited to follow in her footsteps as the new chair for 2022.

Chair Aguirre then presented Ms. Cristol with a copy of the Resolution of Commendation and a recognition award.

Ms. Cristol thanked the Commission and stated that although it may have been challenging and stressful to chair a body during a pandemic, it was also very rewarding and a high-water mark on NVTC's history, not only because of its quality of staff and Commissioners, but also because of the strong support from Richmond. Over the course of her serving on NVTC for the last seven years, she has never seen such a strong participatory delegation from the General Assembly serving on NVTC and the Commission is so fortunate to have these legislative members

championing NVTC's causes in the General Assembly. Their partnership, as well as the partnership of DRPT and the Northam administration, has provided an incredible opportunity to transform rail and transit in this region.

Ms. Cristol reminded Commissioners that prior to the Metro funding legislation in 2018, the region was challenged with how to deal with these funding issues, which resulted in the region reaching a consensus that it would need to become even more collaborative as a region.

Mr. McKay thanked Ms. Cristol for her leadership over the last two years. He noted that the pandemic has been hard on everyone, but it is difficult to chair meetings with all the changes, such as quickly pivoting to virtual meetings and then transitioning back to in-person meetings. He stated that Ms. Cristol navigated it all so well and it was seamless.

Mr. McKay moved, with a second by Mr. Snyder, to approve the Resolution of Commendation for Ms. Cristol for her leadership as NVTC chair during 2020 and 2021.

Mr. Snyder stated that everything Ms. Cristol said about the region is true, but not enough has been said about her leadership – her civility, humor and effectiveness set a new standard. Mr. Letourneau echoed the previous comments and stated that Ms. Cristol was an outstanding asset to NVTC as she chaired for two years during difficult circumstances. He thanked her for her friendship and leadership. Mr. Letourneau also congratulated Chair Aguirre on his election as the new chair.

Chair Aguirre again expressed appreciation for Ms. Cristol as continuity was so important during these challenging two years.

The Commission then voted on the motion. The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Bagley, Cristol, de Ferranti, Ebbin, Filler-Corn, Foust, Krizek, McKay, Meyer, Smedberg, Snyder, Storck and Walkinshaw. A roll call vote followed for those Commissioners participating electronically. Commissioners Garvey, Letourneau, Palchik and Reid cast affirmative votes. The motion passed.

Selection of NVTC Representatives to Various Boards. Chair Aguirre stated that each January NVTC appoints and/or reconfirms its appointments to the WMATA Board of Directors, the Virginia Railway Express Operations Board and the Virginia Transit Association Board of Directors. Resolution #2466 was updated and provided as a blue sheeted item reflecting the City of Alexandria's appointments to NVTC. Sarah Bagley will serve as a Principal member on the VRE Operations Board, with Canek Aguirre serving as the Alternate. Also, Libby Garvey will move into the Principal member role on the VRE Operations Board from Arlington County and Katie Cristol will serve as her Alternate. For the Virginia Transit Association Board of Directors, Canek Aguirre will serve as an Alternate, replacing Elizabeth Bennett-Parker.

The Board appointments are as follows:

**WMATA Board of Directors:****Principals**

Paul C. Smedberg  
(Commonwealth Appointee)  
Term expires 01-05-2026

Matthew F. Letourneau  
(NVTC Appointee)  
Term expires 01-03-2023

**Alternates**

Canek Aguirre  
Term expires 01-07-2025

Walter Alcorn  
Term expires 01-04-2024

**VRE Operations Board:****Principals****Arlington County**

Libby Garvey

**City of Alexandria**

Sarah Bagley

**Fairfax County**

Walter Alcorn

Dan Storck

James Walkinshaw

**Alternates**

Katie Cristol

Canek Aguirre

Jeffrey C. McKay

**Virginia Transit Association Board:****Principals**

David F. Snyder  
Katherine A. Mattice

**Alternates**

Katie Cristol  
Canek Aguirre

Ms. Cristol moved, with a second by Mr. McKay, to approve Resolution #2466 (copy attached). The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Bagley, Cristol, de Ferranti, Ebbin, Filler-Corn, Foust, Krizek, McKay, Meyer, Smedberg, Snyder, Storck and Walkinshaw. A roll call vote followed for those Commissioners participating electronically. Commissioners Garvey, Letourneau, Palchik and Reid cast affirmative votes. The motion passed.

**NVTC Committee Membership.** Chair Aguirre stated that as outlined in NVTC's By-Laws, NVTC has four committees: Executive Committee, WMATA Committee, Legislative and Policy Committee and Program Advisory Committee. Chair Aguirre noted that the committee membership remains basically the same from last year with a few changes:

- Canek Aguirre, as NVTC chair, will serve as chair of the Executive Committee;
- Walter Alcorn will serve as chair of the NVTC WMATA Committee; and will also join the Executive Committee as a committee chair;
- Matt de Ferranti will join the Executive Committee as an officer (Secretary-Treasurer);
- Katie Cristol will continue on the Executive Committee as Immediate Past Chair; and
- Sarah Bagley will join the Program Advisory Committee.

Chair Aguirre reminded Commissioners that they are encouraged to attend all committee meeting as the Commission does significant work at the committee level and the meetings are public meetings. NVTC's committee membership is as follows:

**NVTC Executive Committee**

Chair, Canek Aguirre  
 Vice-Chair, Dalia Palchik  
 Secretary-Treasurer, Matt de Ferranti  
 Legislative & Policy Committee Chair, David Meyer  
 Program Advisory Committee Chair, David Snyder  
 WMATA Committee Chair, Walter Alcorn  
 Immediate Past Chair, Katie Cristol  
 General Assembly Member, Eileen Filler-Corn  
*Non-Voting Members:*  
 WMATA Principal Member, Paul Smedberg  
 (Commonwealth Appointee)  
 WMATA Principal Member, Matt Letourneau  
 (NVTC Appointee)

**NVTC Legislative and Policy Committee**

Chair, David Meyer  
 Commission Members:  
 (drawn from member jurisdictions in a representative manner)  
 City of Alexandria, Canek Aguirre  
 Arlington County, Libby Garvey  
 City of Falls Church, David Snyder  
 Fairfax County, James Walkinshaw  
 Loudoun County, Matt Letourneau  
*Non-Voting Member:*  
 General Assembly Member, Adam Ebbin

**NVTC WMATA Committee**

Chair, WMATA Alternate Member, Walter Alcorn  
 WMATA Principal Member, Matt Letourneau  
 WMATA Principal Member, Paul Smedberg  
 WMATA Alternate Member, Canek Aguirre  
 Commission Members:  
 (drawn from member jurisdictions in a representative manner)  
 Arlington County, Matt de Ferranti  
 City of Falls Church, David Snyder  
 City of Fairfax, David Meyer

**NVTC Program Advisory Committee**

Chair, David Snyder  
 Commission Members:  
 (drawn from member jurisdictions in a representative manner)  
 City of Alexandria, Sarah Bagley  
 Arlington County, Libby Garvey  
 City of Fairfax, David Meyer  
 Fairfax County, John Foust  
 Loudoun County, Michael Turner

Mr. Smedberg moved, with a second by Ms. Filler-Corn, to approve the 2022 NVTC committee membership. The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Bagley, Cristol, de Ferranti, Ebbin, Filler-Corn, Foust, Krizek, McKay, Meyer, Smedberg, Snyder, Storck and Walkinshaw. A roll call vote followed for those Commissioners participating electronically. Commissioners Garvey, Letourneau, Palchik and Reid cast affirmative votes. The motion passed.

Designation of NVTC Signatories and Pension Trustees. Chair Aguirre explained that Resolution #2467 is an administrative housekeeping item that is done every January to designate the newly appointed secretary-treasurer (Matt de Ferranti) as a NVTC signatory and pension trustee.

Ms. Palchik moved, with a second by Mr. McKay, to approve Resolution #2467 (copy attached). The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Bagley, Cristol, de Ferranti, Ebbin, Filler-Corn, Foust, Krizek, McKay, Meyer, Smedberg, Snyder, Storck and Walkinshaw. A roll call vote followed for those Commissioners participating electronically. Commissioners Garvey, Letourneau, Palchik and Reid cast affirmative votes. The motion passed.

### Consent Agenda

Chair Aguirre stated that there are two actions on the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approve Resolution #2468: Approve the Amended and Restated Memorandum of Agreement Regarding the Annual Transit Investment from the 395 HOT Lanes
- B. Authorize the Executive Director to Amend the Envision Route 7 Phase IV Contract with Kittelson and Associates

Mr. Snyder moved, with a second by Mr. Krizek, to approve the Consent Agenda. The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Bagley, Cristol, de Ferranti, Ebbin, Filler-Corn, Foust, Krizek, McKay, Meyer, Smedberg, Snyder, Storck and Walkinshaw. A roll call vote followed for those Commissioners participating electronically. Commissioners Garvey, Letourneau, Palchik and Reid cast affirmative votes. The motion passed.

### NVTC 2021 Year in Review

Chair Aguirre observed that it is always good to look back and see what NVTC has accomplished over the past year. He asked Ms. Mattice to give her 2021 Year in Review. Ms. Mattice stated that with the addition of Monique Blyther to NVTC's Communications team, NVTC has been able to broaden its visual communications. Monique is an award-winning video journalist and digital marketer. She has worked hard over the last month to put together a video looking back at 2021 and NVTC's accomplishments. Ms. Mattice explained that the video will be converted into a digital report following the Commission meeting and acknowledged Matt Friedman for his hard work on the digital report. The Commission then watched the video.

### Public Comment on NVTC's 2022 Work Plan

Chair Aguirre opened the meeting up for public comment on the Work Plan. He asked staff if anyone signed up to speak. Ms. Mattice stated that no one signed up to give comments and NVTC did not receive any comments via email, voice recording or written comment in advance of this meeting. Chair Aguirre noted that for those watching or listening to the meeting, NVTC accepts general comments from the public at each monthly Commission meeting.

### NVTC's FY2021 General and Administrative Budget and 2020 Work Plan

Chair Aguirre reminded Commissioners that at the December meeting the Commission was briefed on the proposed budget and NVTC Work Plan. The Executive Committee approved both documents to be provided to the full Commission for action. Since the last Commission meeting, staff added a new proposed budget option to add an executive assistant position that was discussed by the Executive Committee earlier this evening. The Executive Committee endorses the revised budget for Commission consideration. He asked Ms. Mattice to speak to the proposed and revised budget proposal and Work Plan.



Ms. Mattice stated that the proposed FY 2023 G&A Budget seeks to maintain near zero growth while building NVTC's policy research portfolio and providing training opportunities to retain NVTC's highly skilled staff. The budget also includes additional funding for executive training for staff as well as creating a NVTC research line to allow for quick response policy research as directed by the Commission. Since the last meeting, Governor Northam announced his biennial budget which includes funding allocated to our transit systems for payments to WMATA, VRE, and local bus systems. Ms. Mattice shared the good news that the projected budget for public transit funding for FY 2023 is considerably larger than what was anticipated. With the additional \$10 million earmarked to help NVTC jurisdictions cover their WMATA bills, which was championed by Speaker Filler-Corn, it is estimated that NVTC jurisdictions will see at least a 9% increase in transit funding this coming year, and perhaps more than that. These funds will support subsidy payments to WMATA, VRE and local bus systems – and are the primary funding source for NVTC's operational budget. The additional funds could be conservatively \$20 million and as much as \$110 million more to the localities in FY 2023 and could provide an opportunity to address a growing need within NVTC – additional administrative support.

Ms. Mattice stated that at the Executive Committee meeting she asked them to consider endorsing this revised budget proposal, the details of which were provided in the meeting materials distributed to Commissioners prior in late December. The revised budget option would provide an additional \$109,800 in funding for salary, benefits and additional administrative costs for a new position of executive assistant. This executive assistant would provide the necessary administrative support to allow the executive director to be more responsive to external requests, increase preparation for outside meetings, and handle administrative tasks. She noted that Scott Kalkwarf reviewed the budget option with jurisdictional staff and there were no comments or concerns.

Ms. Mattice stated that the budget with this option, the total increase in jurisdiction contributions would be \$414,200 over the FY 2022 approved budget, which would be provided off the top of state assistance to NVTC. The increase is comprised of \$94,400 (3.6%) in the base program, \$210,000 (8.0%) for Commission directed new research support line and professional development, and \$109,800 (4.2%) for the new position option. Ms. Mattice stated that staff is recommending Commission approval of the revised NVTC FY 2023 General and Administrative budget that includes the funding for an executive assistance to the executive director. Commission action is also being requested to approve the Work Plan, which was presented to the Commission at the last meeting.

Chair Aguirre reported that the Executive Committee discussed the budget option at its meeting and voted to endorse this revised budget recognizing the need for this important role at NVTC. Ms. Filler-Corn stated that it is timely for NVTC to be focused on outreach to educate the new administration and legislators and she fully supports this budget option that will help free up the executive director's schedule.

Ms. Filler-Corn moved, with a second by Mr. Smedberg, to approve the revised FY 2023 General and Administrative Budget, including the option for funding of an executive assistant, and the 2022-2023 Work Plan. The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Bagley, Cristol, de Ferranti, Ebbin, Filler-Corn, Foust, Krizek, McKay, Meyer, Smedberg, Snyder, Storck and

Walkinshaw. A roll call vote followed for those Commissioners participating electronically. Commissioners Garvey, Letourneau, Palchik and Reid cast affirmative votes. The motion passed.

#### Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

Report from the WMATA Board Members. Mr. Letourneau stated that the WMATA Board has not met since December and will hold its first meeting in 2022 next week. He reported that Maryland Secretary of Transportation Gregory Slater has announced his resignation so he will no longer be a member of the WMATA Board. This means that Paul Smedberg is now the senior member of the Board followed by himself (Letourneau) in seniority. Mr. Letourneau observed that this shows that there has been significant amount of turnover just in the last two years since he joined the WMATA Board.

Mr. Letourneau announced that the WMATA Board authorized the public hearings on the Proposed FY 2023 WMATA Budget, which assumes gradual ridership recovery, maintains current service levels and offers several permanent and temporary fare options. With the new COVID-19 variant, those workers expecting to go back to the office in January decided to keep teleworking, so ridership is still a concern. The good news is that even though Metro ridership is low, WMATA is running slightly above budget for this current fiscal year, which provides a little cushion. He explained that for FY 2023 the \$715 million budget gap is currently offset by the federal relief funding, which would leave \$151 million in federal aid for the FY 2024 budget. However, this would still leave an operating budget gap of \$519 million for FY 2024. Mr. Smedberg stated that Virginia's public hearing is scheduled for February 7, 2022.

Mr. Smedberg reported that last month WMATA approved the updated Metrorail and Metrobus Fleet Plan and Rail Service Standards.

Mr. Turner joined the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Mr. Snyder asked if the WMATA Board members could report on the 7000-series railcars. Mr. Smedberg answered that WMATA staff is working collaboratively with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission (WMSC). Unfortunately, since it is still an ongoing safety investigation, he cannot report much else. Currently there is no timeline for bringing the 7000-series railcars into service.

Mr. Snyder asked about the projected FY 2024 budget gap. Mr. Letourneau explained that the challenge is that the federal aid provided to WMATA included the assumption that WMATA would use the funds so there would not be layoffs. He stated that it is important for the WMATA Board to get through this budget cycle and then start looking at the FY 2024 budget. Ultimately, WMATA, as well as other transit systems, will need additional federal assistance. This is not just a problem for WMATA but a problem for all large transit systems across the country. They will all run out of federal funds about the same time in FY 2024. Mr. Letourneau stated that with the new administration in Richmond, it will also be important for them to understand these issues.

In response to a question from Mr. Snyder, Ms. Mattice stated that the WMATA Committee is scheduled to meet on January 20 to discuss comments to WMATA on the budget.

Ms. Garvey requested that when the “dust settles” and when they are able to, the WMATA Board members brief the Commission on what happened with the 7000-series railcars. She also asked for assurances that the Metrobus service that was suspended due to staffing shortages will be restored. She noted that these services are already budgeted and planned. Mr. Smedberg stated that WMATA is working through labor force issues due to the pandemic and is committed to bringing back as many routes as possible as soon as they can. These are just temporary suspensions and not service cuts. Ms. Garvey appreciated the reassurances.

Mr. Foust asked about the latest estimates for service dates for the Silver Line Phase 2. Mr. Smedberg stated that the major issues have been resolved and WMATA is now working through normal punch list items. Mr. Letourneau stated that there is not a specific service date but progress in testing and hiring has been steady. The discussions/negotiations of the risks WMATA will be inheriting may take some time. Mr. Smedberg reminded Commissioners that the WMATA Board has made it very clear that it will not accept a project that will place an undue financial burden on WMATA and the funding jurisdictions. Mr. Foust stated that he cannot understand why there cannot be a service date announced. Mr. Smedberg stated that the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) is the construction manager, and this is not a WMATA project. Mr. de Ferranti asked if the issues with the 7000-series railcars will impact the Silver Line Phase 2 opening. Mr. Smedberg stated that he cannot answer that right now.

Report from the WMATA Committee Chair. Chair Aguirre stated that as he is the outgoing chair of the WMATA Committee and Mr. Alcorn is not present, he announced that the committee will meet on January 20 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss comments on the WMATA budget. Since the Commission is not meeting in February, he suggested WMATA Committee Chair Alcorn work with staff to submit the comments by the deadline. There were no objections. Mr. Ebbin suggested staff distribute the letter to all Commissioners prior to submission to make sure the letter reflects the consensus of the Commission.

### Legislative Update

Chair Aguirre noted that the Legislative and Policy Committee is scheduled to meet on February 17 at 5:00 p.m. He asked Ms. Perron Siebert to give an update on what is happening at the General Assembly.

General Assembly Update. Ms. Perron Siebert stated that the General Assembly Session starts on Wednesday, January 12 and no bills have been filled yet that impact NVTC. However, bills are still in the drafting process. Some of the bills being monitored include Delegate Bennett-Parker’s electronic participation bill and her Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRRA) bill, as well as Senator Ebbin’s sponsoring a bill to resolve the bus procurement issue that DRPT Director Mitchell briefed the Commission on at the December meeting. She also observed that everyone

is still waiting for the announcement of who will be selected to serve as Secretary of Transportation and the deputies and agency heads.

Federal Update. Ms. Mattice stated that with the passage of the Infrastructure Bill, the funding will be contingent on getting an actual full year appropriations bill passed. Currently federal agencies are working under a continuing resolution. She stated that WMATA, VRE and OmniRide are looking at approximately a 30% funding increase in capital funding. She also noted that the Build Back Better Act is still going through the legislative process and staff will continue to monitor it.

Ms. Cristol observed that there is so much federal capital funding available but not for operations. She asked if it makes sense to focus on lobbying efforts to seek changes that would allow for flexibility of using funds for both operating and capital. Ms. Mattice responded that historically federal funding has only been for capital needs. Rural areas and small transit systems have some flexibility on the funding. She is not sure there is interest at the federal level in changing this for the larger urban areas.

In response to a question from Mr. Snyder, Ms. Mattice stated that some of NVTC's jurisdictions may be interested in the new discretionary programs, especially for the no or low-emissions bus program and transit demand management grant programs.

#### Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

VRE CEO Report. Mr. Dalton congratulated Chair Aguirre on his NVTC appointment, as well as Ms. Garvey and Ms. Bagley being appointed to the VRE Operations Board as Principal members. He also thanked Ms. Cristol for her many years on the Operations Board and for her leadership. She will be missed at VRE as she is stepping back to an Alternate member role.

Mr. Dalton reported that on-time performance for the month of December was 92% systemwide, with average daily ridership just over 2,500. This past week was challenging for all the local transit systems with the winter storm. VRE had to reduced service on Monday, canceled service on Tuesday and Wednesday, and returned to reduced service on Thursday. He acknowledged the herculean effort across the entire region from transit providers to keep the transit network working during the storm.

VRE's FY 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. Mr. Walkinshaw stated that the VRE Operations Board recommends Commission approval of Resolution #2469, which would accept the FY 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and associated information from the auditors and to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to distribute it.

Mr. Walkinshaw explained that the FY 2021 audit was conducted by the firm of PBMares, LLP, which is the same firm that conducted audits for NVTC and PRTC. The audit of VRE's FY 2021 financial statements has been completed and the auditors have issued an unmodified opinion. Their opinion letter states the VRE statements, in all material respects, fairly and accurately

present the financial position of the organization. This opinion is the best outcome of a financial audit.

Mr. Walkinshaw moved, with a second by Ms. Cristol, to approve Resolution #2469 (copy attached). The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Bagley, Cristol, de Ferranti, Ebbin, Filler-Corn, Foust, Krizek, McKay, Meyer, Smedberg, Snyder, Storck, Turner and Walkinshaw. A roll call vote followed for those Commissioners participating electronically. Commissioners Garvey, Letourneau, Palchik and Reid cast affirmative votes. The motion passed.

VRE's FY 2022 Revised and FY 2023 Recommended Budgets to the Jurisdictions. Mr. Walkinshaw stated that the VRE Operations Board recommends Commission approval of Resolution #2470, which would adopt the Amended FY 2022 VRE Operating and Capital Budget and the Recommended FY 2023 VRE Operating and Capital Budget and refer them to the jurisdictions for their formal review and adoption. The resolution would also authorize the executive directors of NVTC and PRTC to take the necessary actions to apply for federal and state grant funding.

Mr. Walkinshaw explained that at the December 17 Operations Board meeting, a floor amendment was approved that reduced the total FY 2023 jurisdictional subsidy amount to \$13,544,122 (from \$18,300,780). VRE staff updated the Recommended FY 2023 VRE Operating and Capital Budget to reflect these changes and the updated budget book was provided to Commissioners prior to this meeting.

Mr. Walkinshaw stated that despite the challenges presented by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the recommended budget is balanced, with no funding gap, and with all projected uses of funding in FY 2023 supported by reasonably expected sources of funding. The FY 2023 budget includes no changes to passenger fares as compared to FY 2022 and a total jurisdictional subsidy contribution of \$13.5 million.

Mr. Schofield provided more information about the budget. He stated that VRE is dealing with the same kind of budget challenges facing WMATA and other transit agencies. The FY 2023 VRE Budget projects ridership of 8,000 trips per day and hopefully an upward trend going into FY 2024. He also provided some details about the Revised Amended FY 2023 VRE Budget.

In response to a question from Mr. Foust, Mr. Schofield stated that VRE has multiple capital projects underway with funding already in place. There are some future projects, such as the expansion of rolling stock, which would be evaluated in the light of ridership trends. Mr. Dalton stated that VRE is continually evaluating the correct size of the organization and its service moving forward post-pandemic. Mr. Walkinshaw noted that these discussions are happening at the Operations Board meetings.

Mr. Walkinshaw moved, with a second by Mr. de Ferranti, to approve Resolution #2470 (copy attached). The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Bagley, Cristol, de Ferranti, Ebbin, Filler-Corn, Foust, Krizek, McKay, Meyer, Smedberg, Snyder, Storck, Turner and Walkinshaw. A roll call vote followed for those Commissioners participating electronically. Commissioners Garvey, Letourneau, Palchik and Reid cast affirmative votes. The motion passed.

2022 VRE Operations Board Officers. Mr. Walkinshaw reported that at its December 17 meeting, the VRE Operations Board approved the nominees for the 2022 VRE officers as recommended by the VRE Nominating Committee:

Chair: Margaret Franklin (PRTC)  
 Vice-Chair: James Walkinshaw (NVTC)  
 Treasurer: Preston Banks (PRTC)  
 Secretary: (still to be determined) (NVTC)

Mr. Walkinshaw stated that installation of the 2022 VRE officers will occur at the January 21, 2022 VRE Operations Board meeting. According to the VRE Bylaws, each of the Commissions (NVTC and PRTC) provide two officers from among its Operations Board members. The office of chair is rotated each year between the two Commissions, with the vice-chair representing the other Commission.

#### Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

DRPT Director Mitchell stated that DRPT will be requesting action by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to increase FY 2023 funding allocations, which will provide an additional \$17.8 million for operating assistance, \$7.8 million to VRE for operations, \$88 million to NVTC for WMATA operating assistance, and an additional \$10 million for the Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP) that can be used for zero-fare programs and can be rolled over into FY 2023.

Mr. Snyder thanked DRPT Director Mitchell and her staff for their extraordinary service to the public and the Commonwealth.

#### Executive Director Report

Ms. Mattice encouraged Commissioners to read her Executive Director Newsletter. She reported that early December was busy for NVTC with a successful joint NVTC-PRTC Legislative Briefing at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Springfield. Almost 100 people participated, representing local and state elected officials, both current and newly elected, as well as staff from U.S. congressional members, jurisdictions and other transit agencies and the public. Attendees heard from Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy at the U.S. Department of Transportation Carlos Monje and Virginia Deputy Secretary of Transportation Nick Donohue. Their remarks were followed by a transit leader panel discussion with WMATA Board Chairman Paul Smedberg, VRE Chief Executive Officer Rich Dalton and PRTC Executive Director Bob Schneider.

Ms. Mattice also reported that NVTC participated in the legislatively mandated joint public meeting with colleagues at VDOT, DRPT, NVTA and VRE later in December. The meeting was virtual and had several dozen public commenters including David Snyder. She also stated that

staff was able to safely hold an in-person NVTC staff holiday gathering with a cookie swap and white elephant exchange. It was also great to have Chair Cristol drop by.

Ms. Mattice reviewed upcoming NVTC meetings:

- WMATA Committee meeting on January 20 at 6:00 p.m.
- Legislative and Policy Committee meeting on February 17 at 5:00 p.m.
- Program Advisory Committee meeting on February 23 at 4:00 p.m.
- The next Commission meeting is on March 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.; Executive Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m.

Since a new calendar year is starting, Ms. Mattice reminded Commissioners about NVTC's Electronic Participation Policy. Each year, Commissioners can participate remotely, assuming there is an in-person quorum:

- Three times during the year for personal reasons for Commission meetings; two times during the year for each committee.
- Unlimited times for medical reasons for a Commissioner or a family member.

Ms. Mattice noted that the Financial Report for November 2021 was provided to Commissioners in their meeting materials. There were no questions from Commissioners.

### Adjournment

Without objection, Chair Aguirre adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Approved this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March 2022.

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Canek Aguirre  
Chair

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Matt de Ferranti  
Secretary-Treasurer



## RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION

**SUBJECT:** Commending the Honorable Elizabeth Bennett-Parker on Her Departure from NVTC

**WHEREAS:** The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) serves as the voice of public transit in Northern Virginia, promoting the region's transit network through effective and efficient public transit and ridesharing programs to foster economic vitality in the region and the Commonwealth;

**WHEREAS:** The Honorable Elizabeth Bennett-Parker was first elected to the Alexandria City Council as Vice-Mayor in November 2018 and is the youngest woman elected to the Council in Alexandria's history;

**WHEREAS:** Ms. Bennett-Parker was appointed to NVTC in January 2019;

**WHEREAS:** Ms. Bennett-Parker has represented NVTC and the City of Alexandria on several regional bodies including the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Operations Board, the Virginia Transit Association and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission;

**WHEREAS:** In 2021 Ms. Bennett-Parker championed for legislative changes to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, which has broadened the ability of elected officials to participate electronically in public meetings; and

**WHEREAS:** In 2021 during a challenging year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Bennett-Parker served as Chair of the VRE Operations Board and under her leadership VRE continued to provide safe and frequent service for its riders;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hereby congratulates the Honorable Elizabeth Bennett-Parker on her election to the Virginia House of Delegates and looks forward to continuing to work with her in her new role to advance transit for the citizens of Northern Virginia.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NVTC hereby commends the Honorable Elizabeth Bennett-Parker for her service to the citizens of Northern Virginia and to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NVTC prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Ms. Bennett-Parker as an expression of its gratitude and in appreciation for her work on the Commission in promoting and funding public transit and ridesharing in Northern Virginia.

Approved this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022.

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Canek Aguirre  
Chair





## RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION

**SUBJECT:** Commending the Honorable Katie Cristol for Her Service as Chair of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission for 2020 and 2021

**WHEREAS:** The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) serves as the voice of public transit in Northern Virginia, promoting the region's transit network through effective and efficient public transit and ridesharing programs to foster economic vitality in the region and the Commonwealth;

**WHEREAS:** The Honorable Katie Cristol was elected chair of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission for 2020 and 2021;

**WHEREAS:** Ms. Cristol has been an advocate of balanced transit investments in the region, transportation infrastructure enhancements, emergency preparedness, economic development, improved transit service, pedestrian-friendly initiatives, reduced-fare initiatives and transportation equity;

**WHEREAS:** In 2020, Ms. Cristol led NVTC during its 56th year of operations and, as chair, she led the Commission's rapid shift to a 100% virtual environment following the unprecedented shutdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, all while ensuring Commission business was conducted in a timely and effective manner;

**WHEREAS:** Ms. Cristol helped NVTC communicate the Commission's support and encouragement for WMATA as it managed pandemic-related budget and ridership challenges;

**WHEREAS:** Ms. Cristol championed WMATA and NVTC's efforts to coordinate effective transit options for riders while many Orange, Silver and Blue Line Metrorail stations were closed for major rehabilitation and upgrades;

**WHEREAS:** Ms. Cristol engaged with the NVTC WMATA Committee, local jurisdictional leaders, and regional stakeholders to develop and submit two major WMATA policy documents to the Virginia Legislature - *Report of Virginia's 3% Cap on the Growth in Operating Assistance Payments to WMATA*, as well as the *3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Reports on the Performance and Condition of WMATA*;

**WHEREAS:** Ms. Cristol supported a thoughtful and strategic approach to award limited I-66 Inside the Beltway toll revenue under the fourth round of I-66 Commuter Choice funding while facilitating policy adjustments to provide grantees with maximum flexibility to implement vital transit projects during the peak of the pandemic;

**WHEREAS:** Ms. Cristol advocated for improved investments in transit technology, resulting in a successful regional launch of the SmarTrip mobile app and a vital update to the Northern Virginia Regional Fare Collection Strategic Plan;

**WHEREAS:** Ms. Cristol supported NVTC's efforts to market transit to a diverse and growing Northern Virginia audience, resulting in NVTC receiving the Outstanding Public Transportation Marketing Award from the Virginia Transit Association for a regionwide marketing campaign;

**WHEREAS:** Due to the challenges of the pandemic and the Commission holding virtual and hybrid meetings, as well as welcoming 10 new NVTC Commissioners in 2020, the Commission elected Chair Cristol to continue as chair throughout 2021.

**WHEREAS:** In 2021, Ms. Cristol led NVTC during its 57th year of operations and, as chair, saw the region through many more milestones, including returning to in-person hybrid Commission and committee meetings, enhancing the collaboration and relationship-building for which NVTC is known;

**WHEREAS:** Ms. Cristol continued to support NVTC's cautious yet strategic approach to investing toll revenue, resulting in the approval of the supplemental fourth round of I-66 Commuter Choice funding and a second round of the I-395/95 Commuter Choice funding;

**WHEREAS:** Ms. Cristol continued to advocate for high-quality, high-capacity transit in Northern Virginia, resulting in NVTC receiving a DRPT grant to continue vital work on the Envision Route 7 Bus Rapid Transit project;

**WHEREAS:** Ms. Cristol supported NVTC's timely discussion of both zero- and reduced-fare transit programs resulting in a widely distributed policy White Paper and NVTC's effort to help the region be strategic in its transition to zero/low-emission bus fleets; and

**WHEREAS:** Ms. Cristol championed the Transforming Rail in Virginia initiative that aims to dramatically improve VRE and freight rail service in the region.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hereby commends the Honorable Katie Cristol for her leadership of NVTC for 2020 and 2021 and her service to the citizens of Northern Virginia and to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NVTC prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Ms. Cristol as an expression of its gratitude and in appreciation for her leadership and work on the Commission in promoting and funding public transit and ridesharing in Northern Virginia.

Approved this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022.




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Canek Aguirre  
Chair



## RESOLUTION #2466

**SUBJECT:** Selection of NVTC Representatives to Various Boards

**WHEREAS:** NVTC is empowered to make appointments to the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) and the Virginia Transit Association (VTA);

**WHEREAS:** Some of NVTC's jurisdictions may not formally appoint their NVTC members prior to NVTC's January meeting and some may not be ready with recommendations for appointment to various boards; and

**WHEREAS:** Secretary Shannon Valentine designated Paul C. Smedberg to be the Secretary's designee on NVTC and the WMATA Board, which became effective January 1, 2019 with the term expiring January 4, 2022, and has designated him again for a term starting on January 4, 2022 and expiring January 5, 2026;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hereby appoints and confirms the following persons to serve as principals and alternates to the WMATA Board of Directors, subject to possible subsequent action by NVTC's jurisdictions that alters their NVTC members for 2022 and their recommendations for members of the various boards:

### **WMATA Board of Directors:**

#### Principals

Paul C. Smedberg  
(Commonwealth Appointee)  
Term expires 01-05-2026

Matthew F. Letourneau  
(NVTC Appointee)  
Term expires 01-03-2023

#### Alternates

Canek Aguirre  
Term expires 01-07-2025

Walter Alcorn  
Term expires 01-04-2024

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NVTC hereby appoints the following persons to serve on the VRE Operations Board, subject to possible subsequent action by NVTC's jurisdictions that alters their NVTC members for 2022 and their recommendations for members of the various boards:

### **VRE Operations Board:**

#### Principals

Walter Alcorn  
Daniel G. Storck  
James Walkinshaw  
Libby Garvey  
Sarah Bagley

#### Alternates

Jeffrey C. McKay  
  
Katie Cristol  
Canek Aguirre

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NVTC hereby appoints the following persons to serve on the Virginia Transit Association Board, subject to possible subsequent action by NVTC's jurisdictions that alters their NVTC members for 2022 and their recommendations for members of the various boards:

**Virginia Transit Association Board:**

Principals

David F. Snyder

Katherine A. Mattice

Alternates

Katie Cristol

Canek Aguirre

Approved this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022.



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Canek Aguirre  
Chair



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Matt de Ferranti  
Secretary-Treasurer



## RESOLUTION #2467

**SUBJECT:** Designation of NVTC Signatories and Pension Trustees

**WHEREAS:** The Honorable Matt de Ferranti (nominated) has been elected secretary-treasurer of NVTC for 2022; and

**WHEREAS:** NVTC desires that the person holding the office of secretary-treasurer be designated as an official signatory as well as a pension trustee.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hereby selects the following persons to serve as NVTC signatories (who are eligible to sign individually for any transaction of less than \$5,000 and with one other signatory for transactions of \$5,000 or greater):

Hon. Matt de Ferranti  
Katherine A. Mattice  
Scott C. Kalkwarf

Secretary-Treasurer  
Executive Director  
Director of Finance and Administration

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the individuals listed above shall serve as NVTC employees' pension trustees, with the addition of NVTC's Comptroller Colethia Quarles.

Approved this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022.

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Canek Aguirre  
Chair

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Matt de Ferranti  
Secretary-Treasurer



## RESOLUTION #2468

- SUBJECT:** Approve the Amended and Restated Memorandum of Agreement Regarding the Annual Transit Investment from the 395 HOT Lanes
- WHEREAS:** In July 2012, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and 95 Express Lanes, LLC entered into a comprehensive agreement under which the latter developed and now operates high-occupancy toll lanes (“HOT Lanes”) in the median of Interstate 95 between the Route 610 interchange and Turkeycock Run;
- WHEREAS:** In June 2017, VDOT and 95 Express Lanes, LLC amended and restated the comprehensive agreement to add in the median of Interstate 395 approximately eight miles of HOT Lanes between Turkeycock Run and the Washington D.C. Line (the “395 HOT Lanes”), resulting in a continuous and unified HOT Lanes facility along I-395/95;
- WHEREAS:** The amended and restated comprehensive agreement between VDOT and 95 Express Lanes LLC secured an annual payment of \$15 million per year, escalating by 2.5% per year, to fund multimodal projects along the I-395/95 Corridor, with the initial payment made upon service commencement of the 395 HOT Lanes in November 2019;
- WHEREAS:** The Commonwealth delegated the responsibility for selecting and administering multimodal projects funded through the payments to the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC), as reflected in the *Memorandum of Agreement Regarding the Annual Transit Investment from the 395 HOT Lanes* executed in January 2019 and branded as Commuter Choice on the I-395/95 Corridor;
- WHEREAS:** Projects funded under Commuter Choice on the I-395/95 Corridor must support goals identified in this memorandum of agreement, which are to (1) maximize person throughput and (2) implement multimodal improvements to (i) improve mobility along the corridor, (ii) support new, diverse travel choices and (iii) enhance transportation safety and travel reliability;
- WHEREAS:** According to the subsequent *Agreement between NVTC and PRTC for Distribution and Allocation of I-395 Annual Transit Investment Funds*, NVTC is responsible for Commuter Choice project evaluation; financing and financial management; compliance, including evaluation, reporting, and quality assurance; and providing information to the public;
- WHEREAS:** NVTC desires to make investment policies as consistent as possible between Commuter Choice on the I-395/95 Corridor and its complementary toll revenue-funded Commuter Choice program on the I-66 Corridor, and allow program

applicants flexibility to propose multimodal transportation improvements that confer substantial benefits to I-395/95 toll payers; and

**WHEREAS:** NVTC thus seeks to make the 50% cap on I-395/95 Corridor program funds that can be spent on transit operations measured over nine consecutive fiscal years rather than five, for consistency with the I-66 Corridor program's memorandum of agreement and to allow program applicants more flexibility to pursue funding for transit service improvements that support the program goals.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hereby approves the attached *Amended and Restated Memorandum of Agreement Regarding the Annual Transit Investment from the 395 HOT Lanes* and authorizes the executive director to execute the agreement on behalf of the Commission, subject to the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission and Commonwealth Transportation Board also approving the amendment.

Approved this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022.



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Matt de Ferranti  
Secretary-Treasurer



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Canek Aguirre  
Chair



## RESOLUTION #2469

**SUBJECT:** Accept and Authorize Distribution of VRE's FY 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

**WHEREAS:** The VRE Operations Board has contracted with the firm of PBMares, LLP for the audit of its financial statements;

**WHEREAS:** The audit of the VRE FY 2021 financial statements has been completed;

**WHEREAS:** The auditors have issued an unmodified opinion that the VRE statements, in all material respects, fairly and accurately present the financial position of the commuter rail operation; and

**WHEREAS:** The VRE Operations Board recommends the following action.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hereby accepts the FY 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and associated information from the auditors and hereby authorizes the VRE Chief Executive Officer to forward this information to interested groups, firms and members of the public.

Approved this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Matthew de Ferranti".

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Matt de Ferranti  
Secretary-Treasurer

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Canek Aguirre".

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Canek Aguirre  
Chair





## **RESOLUTION #2470**

**SUBJECT:** Adopt and Refer VRE's FY 2022 Revised and FY 2023 Recommended Budgets to the Jurisdictions

**WHEREAS:** The VRE Master Agreement requires the Commissions be presented with a fiscal year budget for their consideration at their respective January meetings prior to the commencement of the subject fiscal year;

**WHEREAS:** The VRE Chief Executive Officer has provided the VRE Operations Board with the recommended FY 2023 Operating and Capital Budget within the guidelines developed in cooperation with the staff representatives of the local jurisdictions;

**WHEREAS:** The Amended FY 2022 and Recommended FY 2023 budgets reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which began in March 2020 and has substantially reduced VRE's ridership;

**WHEREAS:** The VRE Operations Board found that a Master Agreement survey for the purposes of collecting rider data for subsidy allocation would have been challenging to safely administer in the current environment and unlikely to produce reliable results, and so the planned October 2021 survey was cancelled;

**WHEREAS:** The VRE Operations Board finds that the availability of emergency federal funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) allows for VRE to supplement lost passenger revenues and achieve a balanced budget without requiring fare increases, service reductions or increases in jurisdictional subsidy;

**WHEREAS:** VRE staff recommends a budget based on a service level of 32 daily revenue trains and average daily ridership of 8,000 trips;

**WHEREAS:** The FY 2023 budget recommends no changes to current passenger fares, including the Amtrak Step-Up fare, which is currently suspended;

**WHEREAS:** The FY 2023 budget recommends a total jurisdictional subsidy contribution of \$13,544,122; and

**WHEREAS:** The VRE Operations Board recommends the following action.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hereby adopts the FY 2023 VRE Operating and Capital Budget in the following amounts and forward this budget to the local jurisdictions for inclusion in their budgets and appropriations in accordance with the Master Agreement:

Operating Budget	\$ 97,766,901
Capital Budget	\$ 87,710,687
Total Operating and Capital	\$185,477,588

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NVTC hereby adopts the amended FY 2022 Operating and Capital Budget in the following amounts:

Operating Budget	\$ 89,598,387
Capital Budget	\$ 97,515,922
Total Operating and Capital	\$187,114,309

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, having cancelled the October 2021 Master Agreement Survey, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission does hereby recommend the jurisdictional subsidy in the FY 2023 Operating and Capital Budget be allocated among the nine jurisdictions in the same proportions used in the FY 2021 budget.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, given the availability of federal pandemic relief funding to supplement lost passenger revenues, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission does hereby recommend that it is in the best interests of the Commissions and the riders of VRE the Amended FY 2022 and Recommended FY 2023 Operating Budgets do not achieve a 50% recovery of operating expenses from passenger fares.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, given the current difficulty of accurately projecting future ridership, tax revenues, and other key inputs, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission acknowledges the FY 2023 Operating and Capital Budget does not include a formal six-year financial forecast, and staff will resume presenting such financial forecasts in future budgets when there is less uncertainty over the pandemic recovery and potential changes to commuting behavior.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission does hereby authorize the Executive Directors of both PRTC and NVTC to submit to the Transportation Planning Board of the National Capital Region and to the Federal Transit Administration or other federal agencies, applications for Transit Improvement Program and grants for FY 2022 and FY 2023, the anticipated revenues from which have already been incorporated in the budgets.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission does hereby authorize the Executive Director of NVTC to submit to the Commonwealth the approved budget as part of the FY 2023 state aid grant applications.

Approved this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022.



Matt de Ferranti  
Secretary-Treasurer



Canek Aguirre  
Chair