

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**NVTC JOINT WMATA COMMITTEE / LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

**NVTC Suite #230 Conference Room  
2300 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Virginia  
Public Livestreaming via YouTube  
July 11, 2024**

**NVTC WMATA Committee Members Present:**

Walter Alcorn, Chair  
Caneq Aguirre  
Matt de Ferranti  
Paul Smedberg  
David Snyder

**Legislative and Policy Committee Members Present:**

Caneq Aguirre, Chair  
Adam Ebbin (*non-voting member*)  
Libby Garvey  
Catherine Read  
David Snyder  
James Walkinshaw

**NVTC WMATA Committee Members Absent:**

Matt Letourneau

**Legislative and Policy Committee Members Absent:**

Matt Letourneau

**Other NVTC Commissioners Present:**

Takis Karantonis  
Mark Sickles

**Staff and Others Present:**

Kate Mattice, Executive Director  
Genoveva Cutrell  
Andrew D’huyvetter  
Adam Hager  
Rhonda Gilchrest  
Scott Kalkwarf  
Ann McGrane  
Tenley O’Hara  
Aimee Perron Seibert (*virtual participation*)  
Vikram Sinha  
Melissa Walker

Kirk Dand (Arlington County)  
Peter Cafiero (WMATA)  
Allison Davis (WMATA)  
Noelle Dominguez (Fairfax County)  
Jordan Exantus (City of Alexandria)  
Al Himes (WMATA)  
Greg Potts (WMATA)  
Luke Priddy (Senator Ebbin’s office)

Legislative and Policy Committee Chair Aguirre called the joint meeting of the WMATA Committee/Legislative and Policy Committee to order at 4:32 p.m. He stated that the meeting is being livestreamed for the public and that he is co-chairing the meeting with WMATA Committee Chair Alcorn. Legislative and Policy Committee Chair Aguirre confirmed an in-person quorum was present.

WMATA Committee Chair Alcorn asked if there were any changes to the Meeting Summary of the May 16, 2024 Joint WMATA Committee/Legislative and Policy Committee meeting. The committees accepted the meeting summary with no changes.

### WMATA Staff Presentation on the Better Bus Network Redesign

WMATA Senior Vice President of Planning and Sustainability Allison Davis and Vice President of Service Planning and Scheduling Peter Cafiero provided an overview of WMATA's Better Bus Network Redesign effort.

Legislative and Policy Committee Chair Aguirre stated that he would follow up with WMATA staff regarding some specific questions he has about proposed service in the City of Alexandria.

Mr. Walkinshaw commended WMATA staff for their Better Bus communication and outreach efforts. He asked what assumptions were made in estimating the number of new potential riders as a result of the service changes. Ms. Davis stated that WMATA staff estimated these figures at a system level, not by individual proposed route. She also stated that several existing commuter routes were refocused since demand looks different now than it did several years. Mr. Walkinshaw followed up and asked about impacts to MetroAccess services. Mr. Cafiero stated that there are not significant impacts to MetroAccess since the MetroAccess service area is not determined just by Metrobus, but all service providers in the region. Mr. Smedberg stated that WMATA does not envision any changes to MetroAccess services and that the service area for MetroAccess is a policy decision for the WMATA Board.

Ms. Garvey asked about communication with riders regarding the proposed changes. Ms. Davis stated that WMATA is using a series of best practices from other providers who have implemented similar changes. She added that there will be a heavy communications push next spring well ahead of implementation.

Mr. Snyder asked about any changes to the existing Metrobus 28A route. Ms. Davis and Mr. Cafiero stated that 28A is one of the most successful routes in Virginia and that the only current change planned is a shorter route around the West Falls Church Metrorail Station. Mr. Snyder added that he would suggest NVTC be able to review any final Better Bus Network Redesign plans before they are adopted by the WMATA Board.

Mr. Smedberg left the meeting at 5:15 p.m. and did not return.

### NVTC Work Towards Long-Term Sustainable Dedicated Funding

WMATA Committee Chair Alcorn asked staff to proceed with the next three presentation items all related to long-term, dedicated funding.

DMVMoves. Mr. Fye provided an overview of the various fiscal cliffs facing transit agencies in the region, noting that each has their own special set of circumstances but that each

would soon be facing significant deficits. He highlighted NVTC's role in the efforts underway to address a long-term funding solution for public transit in Northern Virginia and shared information related to a forthcoming, staff-level Transit Funding Working Group to keep jurisdictional partners informed and able to keep their respective elected officials briefed on each process underway.

SJ 28: Northern Virginia Public Transit Joint Subcommittee. Mr. Fye updated the Joint Committee on the SJ 28 Subcommittee, indicating that the first meeting is scheduled for July 15 in Richmond.

NVTC 2024 Annual Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA. Mr. Hager provided a preview of NVTC's 2024 Annual Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA, focusing primarily on a preliminary list of recommendations for feedback from the Joint Committee.

Mr. Snyder stated that he wants to make sure NVTC has a sufficient voice in WMATA's Better Bus Network Redesign before it is finalized.

Legislative and Policy Committee Chair Aguirre asked how Virginia's 3% cap suspension would affect Maryland. Mr. Fye stated that discussions are underway, and it will be important to continue regional conversations related to the 3% cap. Ms. Garvey asked if it would be necessary to have a joint meeting with Maryland and the District of Columbia at some point. Legislative and Policy Committee Chair Aguirre and Mr. Ebbin replied there would be plenty of opportunities to advance this discussion, whether at DMVMoves or elsewhere.

#### Current WMATA Subsidy Allocation Formulas

Mr. D'huyvetter presented an overview of the current, Board-approved WMATA subsidy allocation formulas. He stated that the formulas are not part of the WMATA Compact but are rather Board policy. He summarized how each formula works and shared some of the unintended consequences of how the 3% cap interplays and interferes with the current WMATA formulas.

Mr. Sickles asked whether there is consensus around it being the right time to discuss the Metrorail subsidy allocation formula. WMATA Committee Chair Alcorn stated there is indeed an openness to discussing both the Metrorail and Metrobus formulas this year.

Mr. de Ferranti stated that he had been under the impression that there was a set of predetermined percentages for subsidy allocations. Mr. D'huyvetter stated that this is not the case, neither in the WMATA Compact nor elsewhere, but that some funding partners in the region have expressed an interest in a predetermined percentage share. WMATA Committee Chair Alcorn stated that it is not envisioned that there will be substantial changes to the current subsidy breakdowns, but there are several reasons why it makes good sense to revise the subsidy allocation formulas at this point, namely the fact that existing formulas are difficult to work with and it is difficult to tell how changes in service affect subsidy.

Mr. Snyder asked what the next steps are regarding formulas and how NVTC would be involved before new formulas are finalized. WMATA Committee Chair Alcorn stated that jurisdictional staff are engaged in the process this summer and that WMATA Finance and Capital Committee Chair Letourneau could provide updates to NVTC on the matter.

WMATA Committee Chair Alcorn and Legislative and Policy Committee Chair Aguirre adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.