

**MINUTES**  
**NVTC COMMISSION MEETING – DECEMBER 4, 2025**  
**FIRST FLOOR LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM – 2300 WILSON BLVD.**  
**ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA**

The meeting of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission was called to order by Chair Snyder at 7:08 p.m.

Members Present

Canek Aguirre  
Walter Alcorn  
Sarah Bagley  
James Bierman, Jr.  
Juli Briskman (*via electronic participation*)  
Maureen Coffey  
Matt de Ferranti  
Adam Ebbin (*via electronic participation*)  
Andres Jimenez (Alternate, Fairfax County)  
Takis Karantonis  
Paul Krizek  
Matt Letourneau  
Alfonso Lopez  
Dalia Palchik  
Catherine Read  
David Reid  
Saddam Azlan Salim (*via electronic participation*)  
Mark Sickles  
David Snyder  
Daniel Storck

Members Absent

Paul Smedberg

Staff Present

Kate Mattice, Executive Director	Tenley O’Hara
Jason Adle	Aimee Perron Seibert ( <i>via electronic participation</i> )
Shannon Bacon	Vikram Sinha
Genoveva Cutrell	Sophie Spiliotopoulos
Andrew D’huyvetter	Colie Touzel
Matt Friedman	Melissa Walker
Rhonda Gilchrest	Henry Watkins ( <i>via electronic participation</i> )
Sarah Godfrey	Owen Williams
Adam Hager	MinhChau Corr (VRE)
Meg Johnston	Dallas Richards (VRE)
Scott Kalkwarf	Mark Schofield (VRE)
Hwajung Kim	Joe Swartz (VRE)
Daniel Knickelbein	Dwight Buraker (PBMares)
Ann McGrane	Hunter Simmons (PBMares)

### Opening Remarks

Chair Snyder welcomed everyone to the December 4, 2025 NVTC meeting and noted that the meeting is also being livestreamed on YouTube for the public. Board Administrator Rhonda Gilchrest confirmed an in-person quorum.

Chair Snyder stated that Ms. Briskman and Mr. Salim requested electronic participation for personal reasons as they are both out of state on travel. Mr. Ebbin requested electronic participation for a personal reason as he is in Richmond for legislative meetings. Ms. Palchik moved, with a second by Mr. Letourneau, to approve Commissioners Briskman, Ebbin and Salim's electronic participation requests. The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Alcorn, Bagley, Bierman, Coffey, de Ferranti, Jimenez, Karantonis, Krizek, Letourneau, Palchik, Read, Reid, Snyder and Storck. The motion passed.

Chair Snyder noted that as 2025 comes to a close, it's time to be thinking about next year's NVTC leadership team. Each January, NVTC approves a slate of officers, committee memberships and board appointments. He encouraged Commissioners to reach out to either him or the executive director if they wish to change their committee participation or wish to be considered for an officer or board appointment role. Proposed nominations for the 2026 slate of officers and appointments will be included in the January 8 meeting materials.

Chair Snyder announced that tonight's agenda includes a public hearing to solicit comments on NVTC's proposed Work Plan for the coming year. He encouraged those in the audience who would like to speak to add their name to the sign-up list. Each speaker will have three minutes to speak. NVTC will continue to accept public comments on the Work Plan through Friday, December 19.

Ms. Mattice reported that no general public comments were received this month. She did note that two comments were received on the Work Plan, which will be discussed later in the agenda.

### Minutes of the November 6, 2025 Meeting

Mr. de Ferranti moved, with a second by Ms. Bagley, to approve the Minutes of the November 6, 2025 meeting. The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Alcorn, Bagley, Bierman, Coffey, de Ferranti, Jimenez, Karantonis, Krizek, Palchik, Read, Reid, Snyder and Storck. Mr. Letourneau abstained. A roll call vote followed for those Commissioners participating electronically and Mr. Ebbin and Mr. Salim voted in the affirmative and Ms. Briskman abstained. The motion passed.

### Consent Agenda

Ms. Mattice stated that there is only one action on the Consent Agenda to authorize the executive director to execute the Zero-Emission Bus (ZEB) technical assistance contract with AECOM.

Mr. de Ferranti moved, with a second by Mr. Krizek, to approve the Consent Agenda. The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Alcorn, Bagley, Bierman, Coffey, de Ferranti, Jimenez, Karantonis, Krizek, Letourneau, Palchik, Read, Reid, Snyder and Storck. A roll call vote followed for those Commissioners participating electronically and Ms. Briskman, Mr. Ebbin and Mr. Salim voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

### NVTC's FY 2025 Audited Financial Statements and Compliance Reports

Chair Snyder reported that the auditors from PBMares met with the Executive Committee, serving as the Audit Committee, prior to this meeting to review the FY 2025 audit in more detail. Mr. Kalkwarf introduced Dwight Buraker and Hunter Simmons from PBMares to give their presentation.

Mr. Buraker reported that PBMares issued an unmodified opinion on NVTC audited financial statements. This means it is a clean audit, which is the best outcome possible. PBMares also issued a clean report on NVTC Internal Control and Compliance. He also noted that the federal government recently released the Compliance Supplement and PBMares was able to finalize the audit and issue the separate Single Audit and Compliance reports dated December 3, 2025. This audit is also an unmodified opinion. There were no questions from Commissioners.

Chair Snyder recognized the importance of a clean audit, which NVTC has continued to have clean audits throughout Director of Finance and Administration Scott Kalkwarf's 25-year tenure. NVTC's financial management is exceptional. On behalf of the Commission, the chair thanked Mr. Kalkwarf and his team – Colethia Quarles, Meg Johnston and Hwajung Kim – for all their hard work dealing with very complicated allocation models, grant management, and internal controls to keep NVTC's finances strong.

Ms. Bagley moved, with a second by Mr. Karantonis, to accept and authorize distribution of NVTC's FY 2025 Audited Financial Statements and Compliance Reports and the separately issued Single Audit and Compliance Reports. The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Alcorn, Bagley, Bierman, Coffey, de Ferranti, Jimenez, Karantonis, Krizek, Letourneau, Read, Reid, Snyder and Storck. A roll call vote followed for those Commissioners participating electronically and Ms. Briskman, Mr. Ebbin and Mr. Salim voted in the affirmative. The motion passed. (Ms. Palchik did not participate in the vote as she had stepped out of the room.)

## Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

Recognition of Matt Letourneau's Service on the WMATA Board of Directors. Chair Snyder noted that since Mr. Letourneau was not able to attend the last Commission meeting, NVTC will take some time at this meeting to recognize his past service on the WMATA Board. Chair Snyder observed that Mr. Letourneau's impact on the WMATA Board cannot be overstated. It takes a team effort, but Mr. Letourneau played a critical role in some major Metro projects like the Silver Line Phase II and the Potomac Yard Station. He represented Northern Virginia in crucial times for WMATA during the pandemic and searching for a new general manager. On behalf of the entire Commission, Chair Snyder thanked Mr. Letourneau for the way he advocated for all of Northern Virginia, not just Loudoun County, as he served on the WMATA Board. Beyond that, stepping down to allow another jurisdiction the chance to serve as principal director is telling of Mr. Letourneau's ability to serve regional interests. Chair Snyder thanked Mr. Letourneau for representing NVTC over the last six years on the WMATA Board and his commitment to ensuring the region has an efficient, safe and financially sound Metro system. As a reminder, a resolution of commendation for Mr. Letourneau was passed at a previous Commission meeting.

Mr. Alcorn thanked Mr. Letourneau for his length of service on the WMATA Board and his contribution to the region and the Commonwealth. Ms. Palchik recognized Mr. Letourneau's breadth of knowledge on WMATA issues and thanked him for being an incredible regional partner. Mr. de Ferranti observed that Mr. Letourneau has great judgement on when and where to press on issues and when to let go and he thanked him for his service. Ms. Briskman stated that even though she and Mr. Letourneau come from different political parties and do not always agree on issues, she knew she could trust Mr. Letourneau on anything related to WMATA. With deep respect, she thanked Mr. Letourneau for his many years of service on the WMATA Board and for representing Loudoun County and the region well.

Chair Snyder presented the resolution of commendation to Mr. Letourneau. Mr. Letourneau thanked the Commission for the kind words. He stated that he has complete and total confidence in Mr. Alcorn to represent NVTC and the region well on the WMATA Board. Mr. Letourneau observed that when he joined the Board, there was a shift at NVTC to change the mindset that a Board member was no longer only representing their jurisdiction, but making it where the member was representing all the NVTC jurisdictions where "your issues became mine." When he started on the WMATA Board, there was nowhere to go but up and WMATA has come a long way. He is proud of the system that Metro has become. Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Mr. Letourneau with a round of applause.

Report from the Virginia WMATA Board Members. Chair Snyder asked Virginia WMATA Board Member Walter Alcorn to give the report. Mr. Alcorn encouraged Commissioners to read the written report, which includes a FY 2027 budget preview, first quarter financial and performance results, and information on the rail modernization program.

Mr. Alcorn stated that the general manager/CEO proposed budget for FY 2027 will be released next week. In the final preview that came to the Board on November 20, staff shared several key initiatives that will be featured in the budget including rail and bus service improvements, initial steps toward rail modernization, and two capital program scenarios – one with DMVMoves funding and one without. In terms of service improvements, WMATA is assessing opportunities to improve weekday frequencies in the Blue/Orange/Silver corridor and some peak-period bus service in Virginia.

Mr. Alcorn stated that as the budget rolls out, there will be some key decision points, including rolling out rail modernization on the Red Line and the first option on the 8000-series railcar contract. As a reminder, Virginia’s legislative 3% cap returns from a temporary suspension and is back in force in FY 2027. As always, there will be a public comment period this winter before budget adoption in the spring. Related to the budget, Mr. Alcorn stated that the WMATA Board was scheduled to discuss the rail modernization program, but this item was deferred to a future meeting due to time constraints.

Mr. Alcorn also reminded Commissioners of the planned Yellow and Blue Line track work between Pentagon City and National Airport that will support construction of the new east entrance at Crystal City. There will be 10 weekend shutdowns in total between February and June, three of which will extend to Potomac Yard. WMATA is finalizing shuttle bus plans and information for the public. He asked Commissioners to help get the word out to their constituents prior to February.

Mr. Sickles arrived at 7:27 p.m. and joined the discussion.

#### Report from the Chairs of the WMATA Committee / Legislative and Policy Committee

Chair Snyder asked WMATA Committee Chair Matt de Ferranti and Legislative and Policy Committee Chair Canek Aguirre to give their report.

NVTC’s 2025 Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA to the Governor and the General Assembly. Mr. de Ferranti stated that action is being requested on the 2025 Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA. Following the briefing last month, staff received minor feedback from partners and incorporated several technical and administrative edits into the report. As a reminder, this year’s report satisfies state Code requirements and details the Commission’s support for a long-term, sustainable funding solution for WMATA. The report documents the DMVMoves and SJ 28 initiatives and continues to advance other Commission priorities including managing labor cost growth, a coordinated jurisdictional audit, and establishing a reserve fund at Metro, among others. Working with the WMATA Committee, NVTC staff will continue to examine these items in 2026 and look to include findings and recommendations in next year’s report.

Mr. de Ferranti moved, with a second by Ms. Bagley, to authorize the executive director to send NVTC’s 2025 Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA to the governor and the General Assembly. The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Alcorn, Bagley,

Bierman, Coffey, de Ferranti, Jimenez, Karantonis, Krizek, Letourneau, Palchik, Read, Reid, Sickles, Snyder and Storck. A roll call vote followed for those Commissioners participating electronically and Ms. Briskman, Mr. Ebbin and Mr. Salim voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

NVTC and Regional Work Toward Long-Term Sustainable Transit Funding. Mr. Aguirre stated that last month the Commission endorsed the DMVMoves Task Force resolution and the SJ 28 Joint Subcommittee recommendations. Since then, the WMATA Board of Directors and the Metropolitan Council of Governments Board of Directors held a joint meeting on November 17 to approve a resolution endorsing the entire DMVMoves Plan. With these endorsements, the legislative phase begins in an effort to obtain long-term sustainable transit funding for the region.

NVTC 2026 Legislative and Policy Agenda. Mr. Aguirre stated that the NVTC 2026 Legislative and Policy Agenda is largely the same as the version reviewed by the Commission last month, with a couple of additions referencing NVTC's support for the DMVMoves Task Force resolution and the final recommendations of the SJ 28 Joint Subcommittee as endorsed by the Commission at its November meeting. Similar to previous years, the Legislative and Policy Agenda is divided into state priorities and federal priorities.

Mr. Aguirre also noted that the NVTC Legislative Agenda parallels and incorporates many of the same issues that are included in VRE's Legislative Agenda. Once adopted, the Legislative and Policy Agenda will guide NVTC's advocacy work at both the state and federal levels, ensuring staff can provide timely feedback to legislators, stakeholders and partners as legislation is filed.

Mr. Aguirre moved, with a second by Ms. Coffey, to approve the NVTC 2026 Legislative and Policy Agenda. The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Alcorn, Bagley, Bierman, Coffey, de Ferranti, Jimenez, Karantonis, Krizek, Letourneau, Palchik, Read, Reid, Sickles, Snyder and Storck. A roll call vote followed for those Commissioners participating electronically and Ms. Briskman, Mr. Ebbin and Mr. Salim voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

General Assembly State of Play. Mr. Aguirre invited Legislative Liaison Aimee Perron Siebert to give an update on the General Assembly state of play. Ms. Perron Siebert reported that Governor-Elect Spanberger's team is busy selecting cabinet positions and transition teams, as well as getting policy items in place. Ms. Perron Siebert stated that she was appointed to the transportation policy committee. The General Assembly Session runs from January 14 through March 14. Currently there are four bills being drafted regarding transit funding. Senator Ebbin and Delegate Sickles are working hard on drafting this legislation (two House versions and two Senate versions).

Mr. Sickles gave some insights on getting transit funding legislation passed and noted that it will be a "hard sell" but hopefully something can get passed. In response to a question from Mr. de Ferranti about timing, Mr. Sickles stated that it is important to start way before the Session starts and begin having discussions about the proposed legislation. They have

already started having those conversations. It is important for people to understand that this is one of the most important issues in Northern Virginia. He noted that Loudoun County has endorsed the DMVMoves recommendations. All the jurisdictions are being asked to endorse it. Every little bit adds up and helps to educate the public about the big picture. Chair Snyder stated that an endorsement will be included in Falls Church's legislative package. Mr. Karantonis expressed his appreciation for all the work. He noted that funding transit keeps the economy growing.

Chair Snyder stated that it is impossible to meet housing goals, climate goals and service goals for constituents, without a good effective transit system. There is also the impact on the economy. He thanked all those who have worked on this effort, especially Senator Ebbin and Delegate Sickles. He asked them to let Commissioners know what they can do to help. Commissioners spent some time discussing the benefits of transit to the region. Ms. Mattice reminded everyone that two million people take transit in this region every week. Transit is being used for many other reasons, and not just a way to get to work. NVTC has great stories and data, including analysis on transit and the economic value it brings to the Commonwealth. Mr. Sickles suggested NVTC produce a postcard-size fact sheet with these types of transit "nuggets."

Mr. Aguirre announced that both WMATA and DASH were recently awarded Federal Transit Administration bus grants, a program funded under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). He then asked Ms. Mattice to speak on the remaining legislative items.

Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee (TSDAC). Ms. Mattice reported that at last week's TSDAC meeting, the committee voted to defer any action on changing the MERIT operating and capital grant programs until no later than June 2026 to allow time for additional public feedback and explanation of the proposed changes. There is a MERIT update at the next Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) meeting in December but it's not clear how CTB will proceed.

Ms. Mattice explained that the TSDAC action reflected more than a dozen public comments received by DRPT prior to the close of the public comment period on November 21, 2025. NVTC signed on to a letter submitted by the Virginia Transit Association (VTA) and the Community Transportation Association of Virginia (CTAV).

Federal Update. Ms. Mattice encouraged Commissioners to read the written report.

Mr. Lopez arrived at 7:43 p.m.

Joint NVTC/PRTC/VRE Legislative Forum. Ms. Mattice reminded everyone of the Legislative Forum on Monday, December 15 at the George Mason University Arlington Campus. Tyson's Community Alliance Executive Director (and former NVTC Commissioner) Katie Cristol will be a featured guest, speaking to the important intersection of transit, industry and community. There will be two panels: Transit Leaders on What's Next for Northern Virginia and Virginia's Path to Sustainable Transit Funding.

NVTC Legislative Reception. Ms. Mattice announced that there will be no February Commission meeting, but NVTC will be holding a Legislative Reception in Richmond on Thursday, February 5 at the Commonwealth Strategy Group offices.

NVTC Budget and Work Plan

Chair Snyder stated that staff are presenting the preliminary FY 2027 General and Administrative Budget and 2026-2027 Work Plan, which both will come back for action at the January meeting. NVTC will continue to receive public comments on the Work Plan through December 19. All the comments will be compiled and included in the meeting materials for the January meeting.

Proposed FY 2027 General and Administrative Budget. Ms. Mattice explained that the proposed FY 2027 General and Administrative Budget includes resources to accomplish the NVTC Work Plan, including financial management of NVTC's Jurisdiction Trust Fund and other accounts, the administration of the I-66 and the I-395/95 Commuter Choice programs, oversight of WMATA, the management of the Envision Route 7 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), and the administration of the Commission and committees along with managing internal affairs. The proposed budget focuses on the resources necessary to meet the needs of the Commission priorities and address key cost drivers. This proposed budget supports the work NVTC is currently doing, but if something changes in the General Assembly, the budget could be modified at a future meeting.

Mr. Kalkwarf stated that the proposed budget totals \$5,074,850 including \$639,300 for the administration of the Commuter Choice program, which is funded entirely with toll related revenue, and the management of the Envision Route 7 BRT project, which includes \$60,300 in revenue from the related project budget. The balance of the general and administrative budget is funded primarily by the member jurisdictions through direct contributions and state aid received by NVTC. In FY 2026, NVTC expects to manage \$314 million in state aid on behalf of the jurisdictions. Other revenue sources include interest earnings, project chargebacks, grant billings, and a carryover of prior period favorable net budget variances in excess of minimum operating requirements. Total expenses are proposed to increase by \$141,050, or 2.9% over the FY 2026 Budget, which is the second consecutive year with a less than 3% increase. Staff levels are held constant from the prior year, and a provision for cost-of-living (COLA) and performance-based increases are included for existing staff.

Proposed 2026-2027 Work Plan. Ms. Mattice stated that the proposed NVTC 2026-2027 Work Plan provides an overview of the programmatic and operational work conducted by staff to support the goals and objectives of the Commission. The proposed Work Plan covers the period from January 2026 to June 2027. The Work Plan has been updated to include a new section which outlines organizational priorities and initiatives and separates programs and cross-cutting technical assistance support into separate categories. Ms. Mattice stated that the FY 2027 Budget and Work Plan will come back at the January meeting for Commission action.

### Public Hearing on the Work Plan

Chair Snyder opened the public hearing and stated that each year NVTC provides the public with the opportunity to submit comments via an online form, video recording, email, audio recording or in person.

Ms. Mattice reported that two written comments on the Work Plan were received before 3:00 p.m. today and they were provided to Commissioners prior to the meeting. One comment was related to VRE service and the other comment suggested providing more information in the Work Plan about NVTC in general. She stated that all comments will be compiled together and provided prior to the Commission taking action on the Work Plan at the January meeting.

As there were no members of the public wishing to comment, Chair Snyder closed the public hearing. He noted that NVTC will continue to receive comments through December 19.

### Report from the Chair of the Program Advisory Committee

Chair Snyder encouraged Commissioners to read the written report, which includes updates on the Envision Route 7 BRT project and the I-66 Commuter Choice Call for Projects. In response to Chair Snyder, Ms. Mattice provided brief highlights of each project. Mr. D'huyvetter gave a quick status of the I-66 Needs Assessment, which will be discussed at the February Program Advisory Committee meeting.

### Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

Chair Snyder asked Acting VRE CEO Dallas Richards to give his report, followed by VRE Operations Board Chair Sarah Bagley to introduce the action items. He suggested doing a block vote on the four VRE actions after they are presented. There were no objections.

VRE CEO Report. Mr. Richards reported that on-time performance reached 88% for the month of November, which is close to the 90% target. For comparison, it was 75% last year at the same time. Half of the delays are related to train congestion. Ridership continues to increase compared to last year's numbers; however, ridership was impacted by the federal government shutdown.

Mr. Richards announced that a new train started on the Manassas Line. Also, the Seminary Road Yard is now open. This is transformational in how VRE will run service and mid-day storage. Mr. Richards also noted that VRE will be participating in the Alexandria Scottish Walk Christmas Parade this coming Saturday and will also be running Santa Trains on December 13.

Contract with Keolis Rail Services (KRSV), LLC for Train Operations and Maintenance Services. Ms. Bagley reported that Resolution #2586 will authorize the Acting VRE CEO to execute a contract with Keolis Rail Services Virginia, LLC of Manassas, Virginia, for Train Operations and Maintenance Services in an amount not to exceed \$179,179,190 for the Base Period of the contract. Contract extensions and options will be brought back to the Operations Board for referral to the Commissions for approval. She stated that both VRE's two current Train Operations and Maintenance contracts are set to expire at the conclusion of the current fiscal year on June 30, 2026. This action will consolidate Train Operations and Maintenance Services into a single, comprehensive agreement.

VRE 2026 Legislative Agenda. Ms. Bagley stated that Resolution #2587 will approve the VRE 2026 Legislative Agenda and authorize the VRE CEO to actively pursue the elements set forth in the document. There were no significant changes made to the version presented at last month's Commission meeting.

VRE Application for Design of the Broad Run Lead to the I-66 Commuter Choice FY 2027-2028 Funding Program. Ms. Bagley reported that Resolution #2588 will authorize the Acting VRE CEO to submit, on behalf of the Commissions, a VRE application for Design of the Broad Run Lead to the I-66 Commuter Choice FY 2027-2028 funding program. VRE staff have identified the VRE Broad Run Lead Design Phase project for a \$5 million capital funding request to the Commuter Choice Program that supports and implements planned service enhancements consistent with VRE's System Plan as well as the Transforming Rail in Virginia initiative.

VRE's FY 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. Ms. Bagley reported that Resolution #2589 will accept VRE's FY 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and associated information from the auditors and authorize the VRE CEO to distribute the report. PBMares completed the audit of VRE's FY 2025 financial statements and has issued an unmodified opinion. The opinion letter states that the VRE financial 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. The auditors met with the VRE Audit Committee on November 21, 2025 to review the statements and their opinion, which was followed by a presentation at the full Operations Board meeting.

Ms. Bagley moved, with a second by Mr. Karantonis, to approve the following four actions:

- Resolution #2586: Authorize the Acting VRE CEO to Execute a Contract with Keolis Rail Services for Train Operations and Maintenance Services
- Resolution #2587: Approve the VRE 2026 Legislative Agenda
- Resolution #2588: Authorize the Acting VRE CEO to Submit, on Behalf of the Commissions, a VRE Application for Design of the Broad Run Lead to the I-66 Commuter Choice FY 2027-2028 Funding Program
- Resolution #2589: Accept and Authorize Distribution of VRE's FY 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

Mr. Karantonis noted that this Keolis contract is a big deal. VRE has a remarkable culture of safety. VRE conducted a long and thorough procurement process which has resulted in this contract. He noted that good infrastructure is so important and he thanked VRE for their hard work. Mr. Storck agreed and observed that the Keolis contract is competitive in terms of cost and VRE already has a good relationship with Keolis. VRE will continue to grow and become more than just a commuter rail system. In response to a question from Ms. Briskman, Mr. Richards explained that Keolis labor employees are unionized and management is not.

The Commission then voted on the motion. The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Alcorn, Bagley, Bierman, Coffey, de Ferranti, Jimenez, Karantonis, Krizek, Letourneau, Lopez, Palchik, Read, Reid, Sickles, Snyder and Storck. Chair Snyder conducted a roll call for those Commissioners participating electronically and Ms. Briskman, Mr. Ebbin and Mr. Salim voted in the affirmative. The motion passed. (Copies of the resolutions are attached.)

VRE FY 2027 Budget. Ms. Bagley introduced VRE Chief Financial Officer Mark Schofield to give a presentation on the budget.

Mr. Schofield stated that a final balanced FY 2027 Budget will be submitted in December for the Operations Board's consideration and referral to the Commissions for approval at their January 2026 meetings. He stated that VRE's preliminary FY 2027 Operating Budget totals \$115.3 million, which includes operations, maintenance and existing debt service. This is an increase of \$100,000 over the current budget. The preliminary budget includes a total jurisdictional subsidy of \$19.8 million (no change from FY 2026) and a proposed 5.0% increase to passenger fares. VRE is currently in the public comment phase regarding the proposed fare increase. Mr. Schofield reported that VRE did not conduct the annual Master Agreement Survey due to the federal government shutdown. VRE will use last year's survey results to calculate jurisdictional subsidies.

Ms. Bagley reiterated that the budget is only increasing by \$100,000 compared to last year's budget and she stated that the work VRE staff have done to keep the budget basically flat is impressive.

VRE CEO Search Committee Update. Ms. Bagley reported the search process has been completed and a candidate recommendation will be presented during Closed Session for Commission consideration.

Mr. Sickles asked about outreach to PRTC jurisdictions concerning the transit funding legislation. It will be important to beef up outreach in the outer jurisdictions. Ms. Mattice stated that she is working closely with PRTC Executive Director Bob Schneider. She also noted that one of the questions being asked to the transit leaders at the Legislative Forum is what it will mean to their systems, including OmniRide, if transit funding legislation is passed. Mr. Sickles stated that it is important to convey to the riders how their lives will be improved. Mr. Richards stated that the VRE System Plan spells out a lot of this in what service improvements VRE is planning. Chair Snyder stated that, as discussed earlier, producing a postcard will be helpful.

In response to a question from Mr. Alcorn, Mr. Schofield stated that the remaining \$30 million in pandemic relief funding will run out in FY 2028.

Ms. Bagley stated that one of the goals of communicating beyond transit riders and educating the public on how they are also benefitting from transit even if they don't use it. Mr. Richards updated the Commission about some of the outreach VRE is doing. Mr. Karantonis stated that it cannot be overstated that the transit funding will be a game changer. The story needs to be told over and over again.

#### Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Chair Snyder noted that DRPT Director Tiffany Robinson could not attend and he encouraged Commissioners to read the written DRPT Report.

#### Executive Director Report

Chair Snyder announced that on December 2 Executive Director Kate Mattice was awarded the WTS-DC Woman of the Year. This award honors a woman who is an outstanding role model and has contributed to the advancement of women and minorities in transportation. WTS-DC is the largest chapter of WTS – an international organization that promotes the advancement of women in the transportation sector. Commissioners congratulated her with a round of applause. Ms. Mattice stated that she was humbled to receive this award.

Ms. Mattice encouraged Commissioners to read the newsletter. She recognized Director of Finance and Administration Scott Kalkwarf's 25 years of service at NVTC. Commissioners congratulated Mr. Kalkwarf with a round of applause.

Ms. Mattice reviewed upcoming meetings:

- Next Commission meeting is January 8 at 7:00 p.m. (Executive Committee at 6:00 p.m.)
- Joint WMATA Committee/Legislative and Policy Committee meeting on January 29 at 6:00 p.m.
- No February Commission meeting, but there will be a Legislative Reception will be in Richmond on Thursday, February 5 (4:45-7:00 p.m.) at Commonwealth Strategy Group.
- Program Advisory Committee will meet in late February.

Ms. Mattice also informed Commissioners about the Virginia Transit Association (VTA) Transit Day on Monday, January 26 in Richmond. It is a great opportunity to engage with legislators.

Ms. Mattice stated that the October 2025 Financial Reports are provided in the meeting materials. There were no comments or questions.

#### Closed Session

Chair Snyder stated that the Commission needs a Closed Session to discuss two personnel matters. He explained that for the benefit of the listening public, the Commission will return to Open Session. The meeting will continue its livestream when NVTC returns to Open Session.

Ms. Bagley moved, with a second by Mr. Lopez, the following motion:

“Pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Section 2.2-3711.A.1 of the Code of Virginia), the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission moves to convene a Closed Session to discuss two personnel matters concerning an appointee of the Commissions and the executive director’s annual performance evaluation.”

The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Alcorn, Bagley, Bierman, Coffey, de Ferranti, Jimenez, Karantonis, Krizek, Letourneau, Lopez, Palchik, Read, Reid, Sickles, Snyder and Storck. A roll call was conducted for those Commissioners participating electronically and Ms. Briskman, Mr. Ebbin and Mr. Salim voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

The Commission entered into Closed Session at 8:40 p.m. and returned to Open Session at 9:05 p.m. (Mr. Ebbin left the meeting during the Closed Session.) There were technical difficulties in restoring the live stream feed. NVTC legal counsel advised that the Commission could continue the public meeting.

Ms. Palchik moved, with a second by Mr. Aguirre, the following certification:

The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge and with no individual member dissenting, at the just concluded Closed Session:

- 1) Only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Freedom of Information Act were discussed; and
- 2) Only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened were heard, discussed or considered.

The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Alcorn, Bagley, Bierman, Coffey, de Ferranti, Jimenez, Karantonis, Krizek, Letourneau, Lopez, Palchik, Read, Reid, Sickles, Snyder and Storck. A roll call was conducted for those Commissioners participating electronically and Ms. Briskman and Mr. Salim voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

Mr. Alcorn moved, with a second by Ms. Bagley, to approve the amendment to the executive director's contract as discussed in Closed Session. The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Alcorn, Bagley, Bierman, Coffey, de Ferranti, Jimenez, Karantonis, Krizek, Letourneau, Lopez, Palchik, Read, Reid, Sickles, Snyder and Storck. A roll call was conducted for those Commissioners participating electronically and Ms. Briskman and Mr. Salim voted in the affirmative. The motion passed.

Ms. Bagley moved, with a second by Mr. Storck, to approve Resolution #2590 to appoint Katie Choe as the new VRE Chief Executive Officer. The resolution also approves her employment agreement and authorizes the chair to execute it on behalf of the Commission.

Ms. Bagley introduced Katie Choe, who was in the audience. Ms. Bagley stated as current chair of the VRE Operations Board and the leader of the search committee, she expressed how excited they are to welcome Ms. Choe to the organization. It was a national search with an impressive array of resumes. She is very excited for Ms. Choe's appointment.

The Commission then voted on the motion and it passed. The vote in favor was cast by Commissioners Aguirre, Alcorn, Bagley, Bierman, Coffey, de Ferranti, Jimenez, Karantonis, Krizek, Letourneau, Lopez, Palchik, Read, Reid, Sickles, Snyder and Storck. A roll call was conducted for those Commissioners participating electronically and Ms. Briskman and Mr. Salim voted in the affirmative. (A copy of the resolution is attached.)

On behalf of the Commission, Chair Snyder welcomed Ms. Choe.

### Adjournment

Mr. de Ferranti moved, with a second by Ms. Bagley, to adjourn the meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous and Chair Snyder adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Approved this 8<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.

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Maureen Coffey  
Secretary-Treasurer

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Sarah Bagley  
Chair



## RESOLUTION #2586

**SUBJECT:** Authorize the Acting VRE CEO to Execute a Contract with Keolis Rail Services, LLC (KRSV) for Train Operations and Maintenance Services

**WHEREAS:** The Virginia Railway Express (VRE) currently maintains two separate contracts: one for Train Operations, which provides train and engine crews, and another for Maintenance Services, which encompasses rolling stock maintenance and repair, as well as the operation and maintenance of VRE's yard facilities;

**WHEREAS:** These contracts will expire at the end of the current fiscal year on June 30, 2026;

**WHEREAS:** The VRE Operations Board, in January 2025, authorized the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to competitively procure a single, consolidated contract for Train Operations and Maintenance Services;

**WHEREAS:** The RFP was publicly advertised on April 4, 2025, and two proposals were received by the submission deadline of July 23, 2025;

**WHEREAS:** Following comprehensive technical evaluations, interviews, negotiations and receipt of a Best and Final Offer from each offeror, Keolis Rail Services Virginia, LLC (KRSV) was determined to provide the proposal representing the best value to VRE;

**WHEREAS:** VRE staff has determined that the price offered by KRSV is fair and reasonable based on comparison to its independent cost estimate;

**WHEREAS:** The Operations Board's approval of this procurement does not represent its independent assessment of the candidates' responses to the solicitation or of each step in the procurement process followed by staff; rather, the Operations Board's action is premised upon its conclusion, after review of the information before it, that the process used by staff was in accordance with law and that the staff recommendation appears to be reasonable; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hereby authorizes the VRE Acting Chief Executive Officer to execute a contract with Keolis Rail Services Virginia, LLC of Manassas, Virginia for Train Operations and Maintenance Services in an amount not to exceed \$179,179,190 for the Base Period of the contract. The term of the contract,

exclusive of the Mobilization Period, shall be for a Base Period of five years, commencing July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031, with the option to extend for two additional five-year periods, not to exceed 15 years. At the completion of the Base Period, recommendation to exercise the first five-year option period will be brought back to the Operations Board for referral to the Commissions for approval.

Approved this 4th day of December, 2025.

  
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David F. Snyder  
Chair

  
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Matthew F. Letourneau  
Secretary-Treasurer



**RESOLUTION #2587**

**SUBJECT:** Approve the 2026 VRE Legislative Agenda

**WHEREAS:** VRE is an essential part of the regional transportation network for Northern Virginia and the Washington, DC Metropolitan region;

**WHEREAS:** VRE serves residents throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia to provide a meaningful public transportation option;

**WHEREAS:** It is essential for VRE to educate and advocate for desired legislative and regulatory outcomes with members of Congress and their staff, with staff of federal entities, in the Virginia General Assembly, and with the Governor and the Administration; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hereby approves the 2026 VRE Legislative Agenda and authorize the VRE Chief Executive Officer to actively pursue the elements set forth in the document.

Approved this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Snyder", is written above a horizontal line.

David F. Snyder  
Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Letourneau", is written above a horizontal line.

Matthew F. Letourneau  
Secretary-Treasurer



## RESOLUTION #2588

**SUBJECT:** Authorize the Acting VRE CEO to Submit a Grant Application for the Broad Run Lead Design Phase to the NVTC I-66 Commuter Choice FY 2027-2028 Funding Program

**WHEREAS:** On October 6, 2025 the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission opened a Call for Projects for the I-66 Commuter Choice FY 2027-2028 funding program;

**WHEREAS:** VRE staff have identified a project, the VRE Broad Run Lead Design Phase, for a \$5,000,000 capital funding request to the Commuter Choice Program that supports and implements planned service enhancements consistent with the System Plan 2050's 2030 and 2050 service plans as well as the Transforming Rail in Virginia initiative;

**WHEREAS:** VRE staff considers the proposed capital project a strong candidate for Commuter Choice funding due to the ability to move more people more efficiently through the I-66 corridor and expand commuters' travel options; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hereby authorizes the Acting VRE Chief Executive Officer to submit, on behalf of the Commissions, an application to the I-66 Commuter Choice FY 2027-2028 Funding Program, to make any necessary corrections to the project amount or descriptions in the application, and to execute all project funding agreements that may result from consideration of VRE's application.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission's action does not constitute approval of any VRE applications or eliminate the need for the VRE applications to qualify for funding based on an objective evaluation using criteria established for the adopted I-66 Commuter Choice project selection process.

Approved this 4th day of December, 2025.

  
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Matthew F. Letourneau  
Secretary-Treasurer

  
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David F. Snyder  
Chair



**RESOLUTION #2589**

**SUBJECT:** Accept and Authorize Distribution of VRE's FY 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

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

**WHEREAS:** The audit of the VRE Fiscal Year 2025 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 Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and associated information from the auditors and hereby authorize the Acting Chief Executive Officer to forward this information to the Commissions for their consideration.

Approved this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025.

  
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David F. Snyder  
Chair

  
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Matthew F. Letourneau  
Secretary-Treasurer



## RESOLUTION #2590

**SUBJECT:** Appointment of VRE Chief Executive Officer

**WHEREAS:** Richard Dalton, the previous VRE CEO, retired from his position and tendered his resignation, effective October 3, 2025;

**WHEREAS:** The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (the "Commissions") delegated to the Virginia Railway Express Operations Board responsibility to recruit and recommend to the Commissions candidates for appointment to the position at its September 4, 2025 meeting;

**WHEREAS:** The Virginia Railway Express Operations Board established a nationwide VRE CEO recruitment and selection process utilizing the services of a recruitment contractor, and appointed a VRE CEO selection committee to manage the process;

**WHEREAS:** Sixty-one candidates submitted applications for the position, and three finalists were selected by the selection committee for interview; and

**WHEREAS:** Having concluded its recruitment and selection process, the Virginia Railway Express Operations Board recommends the appointment of Katie Choe as the VRE CEO in accordance with the terms of the employment agreement agreed upon by the Operations Board and Ms. Choe and presented to the Commission (the "Employment Agreement").

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hereby appoints Katie Choe as the VRE Chief Executive Officer effective upon action by each of the Commissions and execution of the aforesaid Employment Agreement by the Commissions and Ms. Choe.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hereby approves the Employment Agreement and authorizes the chair to execute it on behalf of the Commission.

Approved this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025.

  
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Matthew F. Letourneau  
Secretary-Treasurer

  
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David F. Snyder  
Chair