

MINUTES
NVTC COMMISSION MEETING – APRIL 1, 2004
OLD TOWN HALL - FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

The meeting of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission was called to order by Chairman Euille at 7:38 P.M.

Members Present

David Albo
Sharon Bulova
Gerald Connolly
William D. Euille
Paul Ferguson
Jay Fiset
Ludwig Gaines
Catherine M. Hudgins
Dana Kauffman
Karen Rae (DRPT)
Scott Silverthorne
David F. Snyder
Mary Margaret Whipple

Members Absent

Elaine McConnell
William C. Mims
Gary A. Reese
Mick Staton
Christopher Zimmerman

Staff Present

Joanne Barr
Rhonda Gilchrest
Scott Kalkwarf
Jana Lynott
Adam McGavock
Mark Roeber (VRE)
Kala Quintana
Richard K. Taube
Colethia Turner
Dale Zehner (VRE)

Minutes of NVTC's Meeting of March 4, 2004

On a motion by Mr. Connolly and a second by Ms. Hudgins, the commission unanimously approved the minutes. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Albo, Bulova, Connolly, Euille, Gaines, Hudgins, Kauffman, Rae, Silverthorne and Snyder.

GEORGE Bus Operating Agreement

Mr. Taube stated that the GEORGE bus service operated by WMATA began in Falls Church in December, 2002. NVTC obtained the four buses and is paying the operating costs during the demonstration period using grant funds. The discussions about the operating agreement between NVTC, WMATA and Falls Church have been protracted but all parties now agree that the agreement should be approved for execution. Under the terms of the agreement, NVTC would continue to pay the operating costs until grant funds for that purpose are exhausted (anticipated by the end of this calendar year). Then NVTC would no longer be responsible for paying WMATA, even though the agreement with Falls Church and WMATA would automatically renew for four years. If WMATA no longer operates the service, the buses would be returned to NVTC.

Mr. Snyder moved, with a second by Mr. Gaines, to authorize NVTC's executive director to execute the agreement on behalf of the commission.

Mr. Snyder thanked the commission for its support for this project, which is an innovative project for the public. He reported that there were several minor changes to the agreement made today with WMATA staff, which don't change the substance of the agreement. He stated that his motion would include these changes.

The commission then voted on the motion and it unanimously passed. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Albo, Bulova, Connolly, Euille, Gaines, Hudgins, Kauffman, Rae, Silverthorne and Snyder.

Legislative Items

Mr. Taube reported that HB 1231 was amended in the House/Senate Rules Committee conference to add one member of the House of Delegates to NVTC. The bill in this form has passed both the House and Senate. As a result, NVTC's quorum would increase from 10 to 11. However, when the General Assembly is in session, NVTC need not count General Assembly members in determining a quorum. Accordingly, during General Assembly sessions, NVTC's quorum requirement would drop to eight. Mr. Taube also announced that during the General Assembly session, General Assembly members who are members

of transportation district commissions can participate in the meetings electronically.

Mr. Taube stated that HB 1231 also includes language that establishes a minimum number of votes required to take any action. For a commission to take an action, in addition to a quorum, it now needs a vote from those present of at least “a majority of the members necessary to constitute a quorum of all the members appointed to the commission.” For NVTC, this means a majority of 11, or six votes. The existing requirement remains that a majority of jurisdictions present must vote affirmatively.

Commissioners Fiset and Whipple joined the discussion at 7:42 P.M.

In response to a question from Mr. Connolly, Delegate Albo stated that there is no new transportation money included in the House continuing legislation and there may be less.

Mr. Ferguson arrived at 7:44 P.M.

WMATA Items

Historic Metrorail Station Counts by Jurisdiction. Mr. Taube reported that the information shows the progression of Metrorail station openings since 1976. Virginia now has 23 percent of the 86 stations, Maryland has 33 percent and the District of Columbia has 44 percent. In terms of mileage, Virginia has 29.5 of the 104 completed miles, Maryland has 36.3 and the District has 38.3. Staff will update the table to reflect that the Van Dorn station is equally paid for by both Fairfax County and the city of Alexandria.

Mr. Connolly stated that it is his understanding that at today’s WMATA Board meeting, the general manager gave a dire presentation about Metro’s future if there is not a new source of revenue for operating and maintenance. Mr. Connolly stated that it’s time for NVTC to look at options for dedicated revenue sources for the region. He estimated that if the region could impose a ¼-cent sales tax, it would generate \$100 million annually. Chairman Euille stated that the region cannot continue to rely on the federal government to come through with funds for the Metro system. Mr. Ferguson asked that staff also look at other revenue sources. Mr. Kauffman stated that the discussion at Metro was intense. Without federal funds, Metro is lost and the public doesn’t understand its multitude of needs. Mr. Snyder stated that there are also unmet safety and security issues that will need to be funded. Without objection, staff was directed to return with information about the projected yields of various regional revenue sources for transit.

Parking Policies. The WMATA Board has approved a resolution that will eliminate the use of cashiers at parking lots, expand hours of collection of parking lot fees and leverage the use of SmarTrip cards for parking.

NVTC Financial Reports for February, 2004

The financial reports were provided to commissioners and there were no comments.

VRE Items

Report from the VRE Operations Board. Ms. Bulova commended to commissioners the minutes of the March 19th VRE Operations Board meeting.

Status of VRE Chief Executive Officer Recruitment. Ms. Bulova reported that the deadline for applications was March 1, 2004. Screening by the Search Team of 250 expressions of interest has occurred and interviews of the top candidates have been held. The VRE Operations Board will interview the best of these candidates and a ranking of these candidates will be provided to the commissions as early as the May 6th commission meetings.

FY 2003 Auditors' Management Letters. Ms. Bulova stated that given the limited time available for discussion of this item at this meeting, staff recommends deferring this discussion until the May 6th commission meeting. There were no objections.

Agreement with Manassas for VRE Parking and Access Improvements. Ms. Bulova reported that Resolution #1010 would authorize VRE's Acting Chief Operating Officer to execute an agreement with the city of Manassas for parking and access improvements. The authorized amount of funding from state grants (Governor Warner's Congestion Relief Program) and local matching funds for this project included in VRE's approved CIP is not to exceed \$271,073, which includes a 10 percent contingency.

On a motion by Ms. Bulova and a second by Mr. Connolly, the commission unanimously approved the resolution (copy attached). The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Albo, Bulova, Connolly, Euille, Ferguson, Fiset, Gaines, Hudgins, Kauffman, Rae, Silverthorne, Snyder and Whipple.

Task Order to RailPlan International for Gallery Railcar Re-Qualification. Ms. Bulova reported that the VRE Operations Board recommends approval of Resolution #1011, which would authorize VRE's Acting Chief Operating Officer to issue a task order under VRE's existing Mechanical Engineering Contract (MEC II) to RailPlan International for project management services, contractor oversight

and warranty administration related to re-qualifying up to 30 VRE Gallery railcars. The amount is not to exceed \$618,000 of funding from the Virginia Transportation Act of 2000. This project is in VRE's approved CIP.

Ms. Bulova moved with a second by Mr. Connolly, to approve Resolution #1011. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Albo, Bulova, Connolly, Euille, Ferguson, Fisette, Gaines, Hudgins, Kauffman, Rae, Silverthorne, Snyder and Whipple. (A copy of the resolution is attached.)

Contract Award for Wayside Power and Drip Pans in VRE Yards. Ms. Bulova reported that the VRE Operations Board recommends approval of Resolution #1012. This resolution would authorize the VRE Acting Chief Operating Officer to award a contract to NV Enterprises, Inc. for the installation of additional wayside power and a drip pan system at the Broad Run and Crossroads Yards. NV Enterprises was selected in a competitive procurement. The contract value is not to exceed \$690,920, which includes a 10 percent contingency. Federal grant funds will be used and the project is included in VRE's approved CIP.

On a motion by Ms. Bulova and a second by Mr. Connolly, the commission unanimously approved the resolution (copy attached). The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Albo, Bulova, Connolly, Euille, Ferguson, Fisette, Gaines, Hudgins, Kauffman, Rae, Silverthorne, Snyder and Whipple.

Adjournment

Chairman Euille invited everyone to stay for NVTTC's 40th anniversary celebration. He adjourned the meeting at 7:50 P.M. There were no objections.

Approved this sixth day of May, 2004.

William D. Euille
Chairman

Gerald Connolly
Secretary-Treasurer