

**MINUTES**  
**NVTC COMMISSION MEETING – NOVEMBER 3, 2005**  
**NVTC CONFERENCE ROOM – ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA**

The meeting of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission was called to order by Chairman Ferguson at 8:14 P.M.

**Members Present**

Sharon Bulova  
Gerald Connolly  
Adam Ebbin  
William D. Euille  
Paul Ferguson  
Jay Fiset  
Catherine M. Hudgins  
Dana Kauffman  
Elaine McConnell  
Karen Rae  
Scott Silverthorne  
David F. Snyder  
Mary Margaret Whipple  
Christopher Zimmerman

**Members Absent**

David Albo  
Eugene Delgaudio  
Jeannemarie Devolites Davis  
Ludwig Gaines  
Gary A. Reese

**Staff Present**

Rhonda Gilchrest  
Scott Kalkwarf  
Jana Lynott  
Stephen Maclsaac (VRE)  
Adam McGavock  
Kala Quintana  
Elizabeth Rodgers  
Jennifer Straub (VRE)  
Richard K. Taube  
Dale Zehner (VRE)

Minutes of NVTC Meeting of September 1, 2005

On a motion by Mr. Connolly and a second by Mr. Zimmerman, the commission unanimously approved the minutes. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Ebbin, Euille, Ferguson, Fisetto, Hudgins, Kauffman, McConnell, Rae, Silverthorne, Snyder and Zimmerman.

Northern Virginia Transportation Plan Update Survey

Ms. Lynott gave a presentation on the results of the telephone survey of 1,263 Northern Virginia adults. Respondents preferred road projects in some corridors but when asked in general about their preferred types of transportation improvements, 74 percent of all respondents picked transit as first (50 percent) or second (24 percent) most important, while roads and highways received much lower rankings (28 percent first and 23 percent second). These relative rankings held steady over all jurisdictions. While 66 percent of transit users ranked transit as their top priority, almost half (48 percent) of non-transit users also picked transit first.

Senator Whipple arrived at 8:18 P.M.

Ms. Lynott stated that for those survey respondents using the Route 7/Dulles Corridor, 71 percent said that extending Metrorail to Dulles was their highest priority or second highest priority (60 percent highest, 11 percent second highest). In response to a question from Mr. Connolly, Ms. Lynott stated that 358 Route 7/Dulles corridor users were questioned and by far the extension of Metrorail to Dulles project stood out in popularity compared to other projects in other corridors. She also reported that respondents reported their willingness to pay to construct the improvements they favored in the corridors in which they traveled. For those who chose extending Metrorail to Dulles as the highest priority project, 195 out of the 336 respondents said that they would be willing to pay on average \$2.10 per day for these improvements. Mr. Connolly observed that the survey shows that the Dulles project is very popular and people are actually willing to pay more for these improvements.

Ms. Lynott stated that the survey shows that transit is popular in all jurisdictions in the region. Mr. Connolly stated that this is important data to convey to the General Assembly. Chairman Ferguson suggested that staff compile a one-page summary for commissioners for use when they visit General Assembly members. Ms. Lynott stated that the full report has been sent to every General Assembly member. Chairman Ferguson stated that they might be more likely to read a one-page sheet. Ms. Lynott suggested reformatting the press release for this purpose. Mr. Fisetto cautioned that the press release shouldn't be misleading and suggested rewording the last sentence. Senator Whipple stated that she also provided copies of the report to the Senate Finance Committee.

Mr. Connolly observed that the results of the survey are a wonderful validation that the public supports transit. Chairman Ferguson suggested a press conference with an invitation to the Governor-elect to participate. Delegate Ebbin suggested timing it to the Governor's budget presentation or when news is slow, maybe between Christmas and New Years, to get better news coverage. Mr. Kauffman suggested providing the information to the START Senate Committee, as well as its House committee counterpart and the Northern Virginia General Assembly delegation. Mr. Connolly suggested that a small delegation of NVTC commissioners meet with editors of some of the newspapers, including the Washington Post, the Washington Times, and the Connection newspapers. Mr. Snyder suggested that the press conference combine this issue with dedicated funding for Metro.

Ms. Lynott then reviewed the NVTAlliance Survey of 500 Northern Virginia residents. The survey in some respects confirmed the findings of the NVT survey, but it also raised some questions with the way the survey questions were asked.

### VRE Items

Report from the VRE Operations Board. Ms. Bulova urged commissioners to read the minutes of the September 16<sup>th</sup> and October 21<sup>st</sup> Operations Board meetings. Mr. Zehner reported that VRE's cumulative ridership for FY 2006 is down 1.4 percent compared to FY 2005. VRE staff attributes this decline in ridership mainly to the lack of on-time performance on the Fredericksburg line. Completion of the recent CSXT tie replacement project and other track improvements should ultimately help with on-time performance along this corridor.

In response to a question from Mr. Connolly, Mr. Zehner stated it is estimated that the increased cost of diesel fuel will be \$1 million over what VRE had budgeted for the fiscal year. Ms. Bulova explained that the Operations Board had lengthy discussions of ways to cover these costs, including a fare increase, increased jurisdictional subsidies, and other cost savings. Mr. Zehner has proposed several cost savings measures, including cutting back on some maintenance at stations, eliminating service on the day after Thanksgiving, and eliminating the late morning train on the Manassas line that has very low ridership. Ms. McConnell observed that Mr. Zehner did a good job of cutting costs that did not affect the majority of VRE riders.

Draft Gainesville-Haymarket Implementation Plan. Ms. Bulova explained that the VRE Operations Board recommends commission approval of Resolution #1093, which would authorize submission of the report prepared by Parsons Brinckerhoff to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation. DRPT in turn must submit the final report to the General Assembly by December 1, 2005. Also, VRE staff would be authorized to seek state Rail Enhancement

funding for a feasibility study to identify right-of-way needs, provide more detailed cost projections and complete ridership forecasts.

Ms. Bulova explained that the Operations Board debated the extent to which it should endorse or support the plan. The upper limit of estimated costs is \$281 million and that does not include any right-of-way for possible track improvements or concessions to freight railroads that may be needed. Further, there are \$50-60 million annually of unfunded VRE core needs. Ultimately the Board agreed on the language contained in Resolution #1093.

Ms. Bulova moved, with a second by Ms. McConnell, to approve Resolution #1093.

In response to a question from Mr. Connolly, Ms. Bulova explained that the action doesn't commit the commission to doing the extension, but allows the application to be submitted to the Rail Enhancement Fund to receive funding to do a feasibility study. Mr. Connolly expressed his concern on the impact of current passengers from an extension of service. He is reluctant to extend the system if current passengers now have trouble accessing the system because the trains are filling up in the outer jurisdictions. He asked that the study look at what an extension would do to ridership. Chairman Ferguson suggested that the study also look at skip stop trains. Mr. Zehner stated that these issues could be studied during the feasibility study and he reminded commissioners that the VRE Operations Board has made no decision on an extension.

Ms. Rae asked for a friendly amendment that the study be submitted without the word "draft." There were no objections.

The commission then voted unanimously to approve the resolution (copy attached). The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Ebbin, Euille, Ferguson, Fiset, Hudgins, Kauffman, McConnell, Rae, Silverthorne, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman.

Option for Locomotive Fuel Supply at Crossroads Yard. Ms. Bulova stated that the VRE Operations Board recommends commission approval of Resolution #1094. This resolution would authorize VRE's Chief Executive Officer to exercise the first option year of a contract with Quarles Petroleum for an amount not to exceed \$2,020,000 for fuel delivery. This amount reflects VRE staff's estimate of future costs during the option year.

On a motion by Ms. Bulova and a second by Mr. Connolly, the commission unanimously approved Resolution #1095 (copy attached). The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Ebbin, Euille, Ferguson, Fiset, Hudgins, Kauffman, McConnell, Rae, Silverthorne, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman.

VRE Consent Agenda. Ms. Bulova moved, with a second by Mr. Connolly, the following consent agenda items:

- Resolution #1095: Contract for Mystery Shopper Services
- Resolution #1096: Option for Facilities Maintenance
- Resolution #1097: System Safety Program Planning
- Resolution #1098: Task Order for General and Administrative Services
- Resolution #1099: Task Order for Warehouse Management
- Resolution #2000: Renewal of VRE Line of Credit

The commission then voted on Resolutions #1095 - #2000 and they were approved. (Copies of the resolutions are attached.) The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Ebbin, Euille, Ferguson, Fisette, Hudgins, Kauffman, McConnell, Rae, Silverthorne, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman.

Enhancement Application for Preliminary Engineering of Third CSXT Track. Ms. Bulova reported that the VRE Operations Board recommends commission approval of Resolution #2001, which would authorize VRE's CEO to submit an application for \$2.5 million to the Rail Enhancement Program for preliminary engineering and environmental analysis of 11.4 miles of a third track on CSXT's line. A 30 percent match is required which VRE expects to receive from the private sector.

Ms. Bulova moved, with a second by Mr. Connolly, to approve Resolution #2001 (copy attached). The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Ebbin, Euille, Ferguson, Fisette, Hudgins, Kauffman, McConnell, Rae, Silverthorne, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman.

#### Award of Contract for GPS-Phone Automated Vehicle Locator System

Mr. Taube reported that NVTC has received \$199,500 from DRPT to develop a software program to automatically locate transit vehicles via GPS enabled cell phones mounted onboard. Customers would then have real time access to bus arrival information via an interactive voice response system. In response to NVTC's Request for Proposals, IBI Group provided a responsive and responsible proposal.

Mr. Connolly moved, with a second by Senator Whipple, to authorize staff to award a contract and give notice to proceed to IBI Group to develop and test the software program. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Ebbin, Euille, Ferguson, Fisette, Hudgins, Kauffman, McConnell, Rae, Silverthorne, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman.

Authorization to Execute Sub-Grant Agreements with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) and Sole Source Consulting Agreement Amendments

Mr. Taube explained that NVRC is administering on behalf of VDOT two grant awards for NVTC projects. One is Phase 2 of the Senior Mobility Project for \$150,000. The second is corridor analysis for NVTA's 2030 transportation plan update for \$40,000. The commission is asked to authorize its executive director to execute two sub-grant agreements with NVRC. These agreements specify the terms and conditions by which NVRC will pass through the grant funds to NVTC from VDOT. Further, the commission is asked to authorize its executive director to negotiate and execute contract amendments with the consulting teams currently working on these respective projects. For the senior mobility study the group is WB&A/KFH and for the corridor analysis it is BMI-SG.

In response to a question from Mr. Snyder concerning these sole source contracts, Mr. Taube stated that both of these projects involve extending the work that is ongoing and given the close integration of the respective new scopes of work with the ongoing projects and the very tight completion schedules (December, 2006 and February, 2006), awarding these additional tasks on a sole source basis to the firms currently under contract is, in the opinion of staff, the only practical and practicable alternative.

Senator Whipple moved, with a second by Mr. Connolly, to authorize NVTC's executive director to execute the sub-grant agreements with NVRC and to execute contract amendments with WB&A/KFH and BMI-SG.

Mr. Snyder asked that before the contracts are awarded, staff receive an opinion from legal counsel concerning these sole source procurements. There were no objections to this friendly amendment.

The commission then voted on the amended motion and it passed. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Ebbin, Euille, Ferguson, Fisette, Hudgins, Kauffman, McConnell, Rae, Silverthorne, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman.

NVTC Statement for the November 10<sup>th</sup> CTB Hearing

Chairman Ferguson reported that since he is unable to attend Mr. Connolly has agreed to present NVTC's testimony at the CTB hearing on November 10, 2005. Mr. Snyder requested that the testimony include the analysis of what a typical job in Northern Virginia throws off in terms of state sales and income taxes, to make the point that money invested in this region makes significant fiscal impacts in other parts of the state. Ms. Rae suggested including testimony concerning senior issues, including the Senior Mobility Study.

Mr. Snyder moved, with a second by Ms. Bulova, to authorize Mr. Connolly to present a statement on behalf of the commission at the CTB hearing. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Ebbin, Euille, Ferguson, Fiset, Hudgins, Kauffman, McConnell, Rae, Silverthorne, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman.

#### Request for Proposals for NVTC Copier Lease and Service

Mr. Taube stated that the five-year lease for NVTC's copier expires at the end of this calendar year. Staff requests commission authorization for staff to issue a RFP for lease of another copier together with a service contract and an option for color copying. After the proposals have been evaluated, staff will return to the commission at its December meeting for approval of the proposed contract.

Mr. Connolly moved to give the executive director the authority to evaluate the proposals and sign a contract so that this doesn't have to come back to the commission. Ms. McConnell seconded.

The commission then voted on the motion and it passed. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Ebbin, Euille, Ferguson, Fiset, Hudgins, Kauffman, McConnell, Rae, Silverthorne, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman.

#### WMATA Items

Dedicated Funding Campaign. On October 3, 2005, a regional summit on dedicated funding for WMATA was held. Through the summit, WMATA aims to work toward regional consensus about dedicated funding and build on the momentum begun last year to identify dedicated funding options for Metro.

In the meantime, NVTC and NVTVA have formed a joint committee to propose recommendations for action in Virginia. Mr. Connolly provided a summary of what was discussed at tonight's Executive Committee meeting with NVTVA representatives including Senator Mims and Margaret Vanderhye. It was decided that the initial position would be to endorse a half-cent sales tax, half of which would be dedicated to Metro and the other half for other transportation projects. Senator Mims has offered his help on this legislation for the next General Assembly session.

Mr. Euille moved, with a second by Mr. Connolly, to support the joint committee's recommendations. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Connolly, Ebbin, Euille, Ferguson, Fiset, Hudgins, Kauffman, McConnell, Rae, Silverthorne, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman.

Vienna Metrorail Station. Mr. Connolly commended Mr. Kauffman and the other NVTC Metro Board members on the success of the hearing on the transfer of land at the Vienna Metrorail station.

Metrorail Seating. Mr. Kauffman reported that Metro will be conducting a pilot test project where seating will be reconfigured on 16 railcars three different ways. WMATA will seek customer feedback on each configuration. In response to a question from Ms. Rae, Mr. Zimmerman explained that it is a capacity issue as well as a customer comfort issue that is driving this pilot test project.

### Legislative Items

Chairman Ferguson reviewed the success of the legislative tour of Northern Virginia sponsored by NVTC, VTA and PRTC. Several members of the General Assembly attended. Senator Whipple stated that Senator Hawkins, chairman of the START Committee, has expressed his willingness to come and do a similar tour and she suggested having a Senate Finance Committee transportation staff person come as well. Chairman Ferguson suggested doing it again in December. Mr. Connolly observed that there is no substitute for experiencing this region's traffic congestion firsthand.

Mr. Taube reported that NVTC's Legislative Committee, chaired by Mr. Connolly, is scheduled to meet on November 15<sup>th</sup> to develop NVTC's draft 2006 state and federal legislative agenda.

Mr. Taube also announced that Governor Warner has created the Commission on Transportation in Urbanized Areas to report by December 31, 2005 on recommendations for better integration of planning and transit options in Virginia's urbanized areas. Mr. Zimmerman is one on the 17 members of the committee. Mr. Connolly stated that he has been asked to join the committee. In response to a question from Ms. Hudgins, Mr. Zimmerman explained that the committee will look at the obstacles to good urban transportation, energy savings in relation to urban transportation, and land use.

Senator Whipple stated that she attended the VACO Transportation Committee where Secretary of Transportation Pierce Homer spoke about how in Virginia there has always been the commitment on the highway side that maintenance has to be funded first before new highway projects can be funded. Maintenance is eating up more and more funding. This commitment should also apply to transit, so that when buses need to be purchased, they are considered replacement and equate to maintenance on the highway side. She stated that this could be a helpful way to present it to the General Assembly.

## Regional Transportation Items

FY 2005 Transit Ridership in Northern Virginia. NVTC staff has compiled FY 2005 transit ridership with the help of transit system staffs. The results are very encouraging with transit ridership growing. For example, local systems (excluding WMATA) have topped the 20 million annual passenger mark for the first time.

HOV Enforcement Task Force. Mr. Taube reported that the State Police had a successful enforcement campaign back in April, 2005. It was found that a large percentage of those cars pulled over were unmarked law enforcement vehicles.

Telework Response. Mr. Taube stated that Secretary of Transportation Homer has responded to NVTC's suggestions for telework. Secretary Homer stated that NVTC should consider serving as a "telecommuting board" for Northern Virginia. Mr. Connolly observed that it is hoped that the new governor will make telework a higher priority for the next administration. Ms. Rae stated that DRPT is looking at ways to implement teleworking for state employees in the Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads areas.

Coordination of Local Transit Systems in Northern Virginia's Public Transit Network. NVTC staff prepared this document in response to a request from a member of the General Assembly relayed through VTA explaining how all the transit systems work together to make up the regional system. Mr. Snyder asked staff to call together the local operators to coordinate their systems and make sure that all duplication of service is eliminated. For example, there could be better coordination between the GEORGE bus system, the ART system and Metrobus. Ms. Rae stated that NVTC may want to provide more details on how the different transit systems coordinate and provide it to Delegate Wardrup.

Columbia Pike Transit Alternative Analysis. This is a cooperative project between Arlington and Fairfax counties. A modified streetcar is recommended. Next, a financial capacity analysis and engineering review will occur in preparation for preliminary engineering and environmental review. Mr. Snyder asked for a more detailed presentation on this item at a future meeting.

## NVTC Financial Reports for August and September 2005

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

NVTC Commissioner Resignation

Chairman Ferguson announced that Delegate Hugo has asked to be removed from NVTC in a letter to Speaker Howell dated June 16, 2005. No replacement has been appointed yet.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Silverthorne and a second by Mr. Connolly, the commission unanimously voted to adjourn. Chairman Ferguson adjourned the meeting at 9:40 P.M.

Approved this 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2005.

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Paul Ferguson  
Chairman

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David F. Snyder  
Secretary-Treasurer