

MINUTES
JOINT NVTA AND NVTC MEETING – FEBRUARY 3, 2011
GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

The joint meeting of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission was called to order by NVTA Chairman Nohe and NVTC Chairman Euille at 5:30 P.M.

NVTC Members Present

Sharon Bulova
John Cook
Thelma Drake
Adam Ebbin
William D. Euille
Jay Fiset
Mark R. Herring
Catherine Hudgins
Mary Hynes
Jeffrey McKay
Paul Smedberg
David F. Snyder
Mary Margaret Whipple
Christopher Zimmerman

NVTC Members Absent

Kelly Burk
Barbara Comstock
John Foust
Jeffrey Greenfield
Joe T. May
Thomas D. Rust

Staff Present

Monica Bachmon
Tom Biesiadny (Fairfax County DOT)
Noelle Dominguez (Fairfax County DOT)
Steve MacIsaac (VRE)
Kala Quintana (NVTC)
Rick Taube (NVTC)
Dale Zehner (VRE)

NVTA Members Present

David Awbrey
Sharon Bulova
Kerry Donley
William D. Euille
F. Gary Garczynski
Garrett Moore
Martin Nohe
Harry J. "Hal" Parrish, II
Bryan Polk
Jane Seaman
David F. Snyder
Scott York
Mary Margaret Whipple
Christopher Zimmerman

NVTA Members Absent

Robert F. Lederer
Joe T. May
Thomas D. Rust
Jane Seaman
Mark Wolfe

NVTC Chairman Euille noted that a quorum was present for both NVTC and NVTA. He suggested that NVTC conduct its business first followed by NVTA and then the meeting would conclude with a joint legislative discussion. There were no objections.

NVTC Business

Minutes of the January 6, 2011 NVTC Meeting

Mrs. Bulova moved, with a second by Mr. Smedberg, to approve the minutes. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Cook, Drake, Ebbin, Euille, Fisetite, Herring, Hudgins, Hynes, McKay, Smedberg, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman.

VRE Items

Mrs. Bulova stated that there are no VRE action items, but she asked Mr. Zehner to provide a brief status report on VRE. Mr. Zehner reported that overall on-time performance was 90 percent systemwide for the month of January. Delays due to mechanical issues have been reduced to four percent compared to 30 percent prior to January. Most of the delays in January were due to bottlenecks around Union Station and bad weather.

In response to a question from NVTC Chairman Euille, Mr. Zehner reported that the first three new locomotives are already in service and the fourth locomotive is scheduled to be delivered in the next few days. The schedule is for one locomotive to be delivered every two weeks, but they are getting delayed in transit due to extreme winter weather.

NVTC's FY 2012 Application for State Transit Assistance

Mr. Taube stated that NVTC is being asked to authorize staff to apply for state transit assistance on behalf of NVTC's member jurisdictions. Resolution #2167 would accomplish this. NVTC and jurisdiction staff have reviewed the proposed application for FY 2012.

Mr. Zimmerman moved, with a second by Mrs. Bulova, to adopt the resolution (copy attached). The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bulova, Cook, Drake, Ebbin, Euille, Fisetite, Herring, Hudgins, Hynes, McKay, Smedberg, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman.

NVTC's Financial Reports for December 2010

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

NVTC Chairman Euille announced that this concludes NVTC's portion of the meeting and handed the gavel over to NVTA Chairman Nohe.

NVTA Business

Approval of the Minutes of the January 13, 2011 NVTA Meeting

Mr. York moved, with a second by Mr. Zimmerman, to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

CMAQ/RSTP Program Discussions, Changes and New Requirements

NVTA Chairman Nohe reminded board members that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) initially declined a request for CMAQ funding for a Herndon Hybrid clean air project. This led to a discussion at CTB about the process. Some CTB members suggested taking the allocation of CMAQ funding away from the MPO's. A subcommittee was formed to look at this issue, which concluded that it was important for the local region, through the MPO, to still provide the allocation recommendations but also to have CTB members more involved in the process. Hence, a CTB resolution has been drafted on which action will be requested at the February 16th CTB meeting.

Mr. Garczynski further explained that CTB members felt that they have a responsibility for the funds and therefore instead of "rubber stamping" allocation requests, they want to have more interaction between the CTB and the MPO's. He stated that CTB's current membership is fairly strong in regionalism and wants to make sure that the Commonwealth gets the "biggest bang for the buck" as far as relieving congestion and doing the most for the citizens of Virginia.

Mrs. Drake stated that there was also concern that not all of the federal funds were being obligated. NVTA Chairman Nohe noted that some of the issues discussed by the CTB were not necessarily Northern Virginia issues; in fact CTB recognized the existing connections between CTB and NVTA since a CTB member serves on NVTA.

NVTA Chairman Nohe explained that several MPO's (including NVTA) only allocate CMAQ funding on an annual basis. However, VDOT now requires that all CMAQ and RSTP allocation requests be submitted in a six-year program. FY 2012-2017 regional submissions are due by March 15, 2011. Mr. Biesiadny reported that

staff has been diligently working to meet this March 15th deadline. In the past, staff has brought the submission request to NVTA for approval prior to the submission date. However, since NVTA will not meet again before the deadline, there are several options to address this issue. NVTA could schedule a special meeting to take action on this or staff could submit the application with the understanding that NVTA can ratify the submission at its April meeting.

Mr. York moved, with a second by Mrs. Bulova, to authorize staff to submit the application by the March 15th deadline. The motion carried unanimously.

Update on the TransAction 2040 Plan

A report will be provided at the April meeting.

Update of I-66 Projects and Studies

There was no discussion.

Update on the TIP/CLRP

Mr. Biesiadny provided a brief update, including that Governor McDonnell has issued a new proposal for a revised I-95/395 HOT Lanes project, which will result in changes to the project lists for the TIP/CLRP.

NVTA Chairman Nohe noted that this concludes NVTA's business and returned to a joint meeting with NVTC.

Joint NVTC/NVTA Legislative Discussion

Mr. Biesiadny gave a presentation on the various legislative initiatives occurring during the General Assembly session. Of particular interest to NVTA and NVTC, HB 2016 (which would consolidate NVTA, NVTC and PRTC) was recommended by the House Transportation Committee Subcommittee to be passed on to the Joint Commission on Transportation Accountability.

Ms. Dominguez reviewed the elements of the Governor's Transportation Plan, which totals \$4 billion in funding. Mr. Zimmerman questioned whether Northern Virginia's local governments (with Triple AAA or AA bond ratings) would do better by issuing their own bonds compared to applying for loans from the proposed Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (VTIB). Mrs. Drake explained that local governments, regional transportation agencies and the private sector would be eligible

to apply for grants or loans from the VTIB. Mr. Biesiadny noted that the grants would probably not be available to Northern Virginia jurisdictions, but they would be eligible for the loans. The grants will only be available to those jurisdictions that could not reasonably finance a project another way. In response to a question from Delegate Ebbin, Ms. Dominguez stated that repayment of loans would start five years after the project was completed and would continue over a 20-25 year period until the loan was repaid.

Mr. Zimmerman asked if there is a list of all the projects to be funded under the governor's plan and if it includes how much is being allocated to the HOT Lanes project. Mr. Biesiadny stated that there is a list of the 900 projects and allocated amounts that staff can provide to Board members.

Mr. McKay asked about the status of HB1892 which would raise revenue in Northern Virginia for transportation. Mr. Biesiadny replied that it has not been heard in committee and it is unlikely to advance given the schedule. Mr. McKay asked if there is a way to know if GARVEE bonds are available at the federal level. Mr. Biesiadny stated that they could be a part of the reauthorization bill, which is currently two years behind schedule. Currently, they are a tool available to the states. Virginia receives about \$1 billion in transportation funding from the federal government on an annual basis. The McDonnell Administration has indicated that \$125 million annually would be used to repay GARVEE bonds, which is approximately 12-15 percent of the Commonwealth's allocation.

In response to a question from Mrs. Bulova, Mrs. Drake explained that the toll road credits (\$400 million) in the transportation plan are used as a match for the GARVEE bonds. Mrs. Bulova stated that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors requests that toll credits are used for the area in which they are generated.

Mrs. Bulova stated that she was pleased to see that the intent of the governor's plan is not meant to be a "be all, end all" solution but a beginning, which provides some transportation funding for this year. Mrs. Drake agreed. Mr. Snyder asked if there is any analysis that compares what Northern Virginia is currently receiving versus what is being proposed. Mr. Biesiadny answered that of the list of approximately 900 projects, 21 percent are in Northern Virginia. Depending on how all the pieces of the governor's transportation plan get passed through the General Assembly, the list of projects most likely will be reduced. Senator Whipple stated that the project list is not included in any legislation. NVTA Chairman Nohe stated that in real terms projects will be funded faster, but in relative terms it is not clear how Northern Virginia will fair in comparison to the rest of the Commonwealth.

Senator Whipple stated that she voted against the transportation bill in committee (vote was 13-2). She had several concerns, including the acceleration of the bonds. If \$600 million is sold in bonds each year for the next three years, for the following three years only \$50 million would be available in each of those years, which is just enough for the Metro payment. There would be no additional bonding authority after that.

NVTA Chairman Nohe stated that Northern Virginia wants new sustainable funding. This plan does not provide that. That does not mean that it is all bad, but it is not what the region has consistently requested—new sustainable funding. He stated that the question becomes how do we translate what is being proposed into what the region needs for the next year and beyond. Board members did agree that one benefit to the governor's plan is that jobs are being created.

Mr. Cook stated that when advocating for statewide funding, the region is paying 40 percent in and only getting 21 percent back. This makes the point that the region may be better off if the region was raising the revenue and keeping it all.

Mr. Snyder stated that it is important to be clear that this transportation plan does not solve the problems for Northern Virginia. Mrs. Drake replied that Governor McDonnell knows this, but this is what can be done this year. Mrs. Hudgins stated that the missing piece is what will be proposed for the future. NVTC Chairman Euille stated that the governor has said that it is part of a three-year funding plan. Mrs. Hynes questioned if the transportation plan is approved, what incentive will there be for the General Assembly to act next year.

Adjournment

NVTC Chairman Euille and NVTA Chairman Nohe adjourned the joint meeting at 6:22 P.M. There were no objections.

Approved this sixth day of March, 2011.

William D. Euille
NVTC Chairman

Jeffrey McKay
NVTC Secretary-Treasurer