

**MINUTES**  
**NVTC COMMISSION MEETING – JUNE 1, 2000**  
**NVTC CONFERENCE ROOM - ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA**

The meeting of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission was called to order by Chairman Snyder at 8:11 P.M.

**Members Present**

Richard H. Black  
William Bogard  
Sharon Bulova  
Gerald Connolly  
L. Karen Darner  
Kerry J. Donley  
Paul Ferguson  
Jay Fiset  
Katherine K. Hanley  
David F. Snyder  
Mary Margaret Whipple  
Christopher Zimmerman

**Members Absent**

Leo J. Bevon  
Dana Kauffman  
Elaine McConnell  
William C Mims  
Scott Silverthorne  
Marian Van Landingham  
Lois L. Walker

**Staff Present**

Rhonda W. Gilcrest  
Gyles Norwood  
Stephen MacIsaac (VRE)  
Sharmilia Samarasinghe  
Richard K. Taube

### Oath of Office for New NVTC Commissioner and Farewell to Departing Members

Chairman Snyder announced that Richard Black, from the Virginia House of Delegates, has been appointed to serve on NVTC. Chairman Snyder administered the oath of office to Mr. Black and commissioners welcomed him to NVTC.

Chairman Snyder also stated that Delegates Roger McClure and James Almand have been appointed to NVTC for two-year terms commencing July 1, 2000. They will replace Delegates Darner and Van Landingham. Lois Walker will also be leaving the Alexandria City Council and hence NVTC. On behalf of the commission, Chairman Snyder thanked these members for their service at NVTC. Commissioners commented on how these members worked together with other commissioners as a region to make a difference on transit issues.

### Minutes of NVTC's Meeting of May 4, 2000

On a motion by Mr. Donley and a second by Mr. Connolly, the commission unanimously approved the minutes. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Black, Bogard, Bulova, Connolly, Darner, Donley, Ferguson, Fiset, Hanley, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman.

### State Aid Contract for FY 2001 and Amendments to Earlier Contracts

Mr. Taube reported that early indications are that NVTC will receive more funds for its jurisdictions than in the recent past. This is in part due to the General Assembly providing significant new money for capital. More information will be provided at the July 6th meeting.

Mr. Taube also stated that NVTC and local staff have been working together carefully over the past several months to review opportunities to bill outstanding grant balances dating to FY 1996. VDR&PT is closing out these grants and unspent funds will revert to the transit capital program. In the past VDR&PT has been willing to allow NVTC to carry over as an unbilled balance local bus capital. However, this practice is ending. Accordingly, NVTC and local staff are recommending the return of about \$2.7 million in unbillable local bus expenses (about \$828,000 of state aid at matching ratios ranging from 30 to 42 percent for the various years). A letter to VDR&PT has been prepared that would request this.

Mrs. Whipple suggested that the letter include a statement that the region reserves the right to suggest other uses for these funds in the region. Mr. Donley agreed that the letter should prompt that the money be used for alternative uses in the region.

Mr. Donley moved, with a second by Mrs. Whipple, to authorize staff to send the letter to VDR&PT, incorporating the suggested changes.

In response to a question from Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Taube stated that the commission could wait until after the CTB approves the state aid contracts before authorizing staff to execute the grant contracts. Commissioners agreed to this approach.

The commission then voted on the motion and it passed. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Black, Bogard, Bulova, Connolly, Darner, Donley, Ferguson, Fisetite, Hanley, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman.

Mr. Donley urged jurisdictional staff to bill reimbursal expenses eligible for grant funds to NVTC as soon as possible in the future.

### Legislative Items

Mr. Taube reported that Chip Badger made a presentation to VTA on VDR&PT's proposal to change the transit formula assistance program using fiscal stress factors and NVTC had an opportunity to respond. VTA concluded that it could not support VDR&PT's proposal and that VTA would adhere to its current position that there needs to be more funds rather than a change in the allocation formula. VTA may go even further and oppose the VDR&PT proposal. It is expected that VTA's executive committee will be polled on what position to take.

Commissioners then discussed NVTC's written response to VDR&PT's proposal. Mrs. Hanley asked if there is a deadline for submitting comments and suggested that NVTC's comments be sent no sooner than Hampton Roads's comments.

Mr. Connolly moved to approve the statement and have Chairman Snyder transmit it to VDR&PT. The motion also directed staff to send a copy of the statement to the Northern Virginia General Assembly delegation. Mr. Zimmerman seconded. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Black, Bogard, Bulova, Connolly, Darner, Donley, Ferguson, Fisetite, Hanley, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman.

Mr. Connolly moved, with a second by Mr. Black, to formally request that VTA oppose VDR&PT's proposal. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Black, Bogard, Bulova, Connolly, Darner, Donley, Ferguson, Fisetite, Hanley, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman.

Mrs. Whipple stated that it is important that NVTC is represented at all VTA meetings. Mrs. Bulova is NVTC's other principal member and Chairman Snyder, Mrs. Walker and Mr. Taube are alternates. Chairman Snyder stated that any commissioners interested in serving on VTA should contact staff.

## WMATA Items

Policy for Capital and Operating Costs for New Start Projects. Commissioners were provided with a copy of a WMATA resolution establishing its policy regarding extensions to the Metro system. Mr. Zimmerman explained that the costs for extensions will be funded by the jurisdictions in which the extension is located with local, state, federal and other funds, without cost to the other jurisdictions. The operating deficit of an extension will be allocated among the jurisdictions in accordance with the formula.

Smartcard. Mrs. Hanley announced that WMATA is an industry leader in smartcard usage. Mr. Zimmerman stated that although it is relatively new, already 23 percent of Metro passengers are using smartcards.

Pentagon Bus Terminal. Mr. Zimmerman reported that the Pentagon has issued a preliminary design for a reconfigured bus terminal at the Pentagon. He stated that it would be helpful for commissioners to get a copy of the design. Mrs. Hanley observed that the walkway doesn't seem to protect pedestrians from the elements. Mr. Hamre explained that after Pentagon staff review the design, they will meet with jurisdictional staff.

ITS Improvements. The WMATA Board Development and Expansion Committee reviewed a staff proposal to amend the FY 2001 System Improvements and Expansion Budget to fund and implement \$1.5 million of ITS improvements. These include \$250,000 for a regional fare clearinghouse. The committee agreed that ITS projects are important and requested clear parameters for the projects and quarterly reports on progress.

Springfield Circulator Grant Approved. FTA has approved a \$650,000 grant for the service which began in October, 1999. TAGS will now purchase three, 20-passenger vehicles.

## Regional Transportation Items

ITS Virginia Annual Conference. ITSVA's 6<sup>th</sup> annual conference will be held June 7-8 at George Mason University's Johnson Center. Commissioners interested in attending should contact staff.

"Forcing Drivers Off the Road" Alan Pisarski's article appeared in the Virginia Newsletter of the Weldon Cooper Center at the University of Virginia. Mr. Pisarski does not consider the robust market shares of transit in the heaviest commuting corridor and fails to recognize that continued federal aid for highway construction depends on

meeting clean air mandates that may only be achievable with a balanced program including significant transit investments.

### Status of NVTC Projects

Falls Church Hybrid-Electric Bus. Mr. Taube reported that the pilot ELECTREK bus has arrived. It will appear on Capitol Hill on June 14<sup>th</sup> for an Electric Vehicle Association of America event. Bus stop signs are being installed along the route. Work is underway by WMATA's graphics staff to design the route guide. It is anticipated that start of service will be no sooner than mid-July as the remaining three buses are expected to arrive no sooner than the end of June.

Route 1 Bus Study. The final agreement with the consultant, SG Associates, was signed at the end of May. A meeting with the consultants and technical committee is scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the scope of work.

Regional Bus Shelters. The agreements have been signed by the participating jurisdictions allowing PRTC, Arlington County, the City of Alexandria and Fairfax County to bill to the grant.

Smartcard Fare Collection. NVTC has received funding from FTA as well as VDR&PT for the implementation of an advanced fare collection system among the local transit providers. NVTC started a cooperative process among its member jurisdictions and WMATA to establish the best technology that would provide an advanced fare collection system for the local transit systems in Northern Virginia using these grant funds. A concern of the local planning and transit staff has been interoperability among the local systems and WMATA. NVTC sent a letter to WMATA requesting that a staff person be officially assigned to assist the NVTC membership in selecting the most appropriate technology while using the grant funds effectively.

### NVTC Financial Items for April, 2000

The financial report was provided to commissioners. There were no questions.

### Commuter Rail Items

Report from the VRE Operations Board. Mrs. Bulova commended the minutes of the May 19, 2000 VRE Operations Board meeting to commissioners.

Manassas Park Parking. Mrs. Bulova reported that the VRE Operations Board recommends approval of Resolution #840, which would authorize VRE to incur costs of as much as \$245,503 (\$223,184 plus 10% contingency) to complete design work on both temporary and permanent parking expansion projects at the Manassas Park VRE

station. Parking at the Manassas Park VRE station is currently at capacity. This parking expansion project would add 300 spaces to the existing 300 spaces at a cost of approximately \$1,338 per space. The \$245,503 being requested is in addition to the \$155,819 incurred to date for project development and design work (for a total of \$401,322). These additional costs became necessary when the project was expanded from 150 spaces to 300 spaces and plans for temporary parking were added to the project scope. The design work will be completed by DeLeuw Cather and Company. Funds for this project are identified in VRE's approved CIP.

Mrs. Bulova moved, with a second by Mr. Donley, to approve the resolution (copy attached). The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Black, Bogard, Bulova, Connolly, Darner, Donley, Ferguson, Fiset, Hanley, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman.

Selection of VRE Director of Operations. Mrs. Bulova reported that the selection committee met on May 10, 2000 to review the applications and selected several highly qualified individuals for further consideration. The selection group interviewed several candidates on May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The three top-ranked individuals have been asked to return for a final interview with the full Operations Board immediately following the next VRE Operations Board meeting on June 16, 2000. A recommendation from the Operations Board for action at the commission's July 6<sup>th</sup> meeting is anticipated.

In response to a question from Mrs. Hanley, commissioners discussed possible reasons for the lower VRE ridership in April.

#### Other NVTC Business

Mr. Donley urged all commissioners to attend the July 6<sup>th</sup> meeting since important WMATA and TCC appointments need to be made.

Chairman Snyder suggested that a letter be sent to the Arlington County Fire Department thanking them for their prompt response to the fire on the floor above NVTC. They did an outstanding job of protecting NVTC's furniture and office equipment from water damage. Commissioners agreed.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Hanley and a second by Mr. Donley, the commission unanimously agreed to adjourn. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Black, Bogard, Bulova, Connolly, Darner, Donley, Ferguson, Fisette, Hanley, Snyder, Whipple and Zimmerman. Chairman Snyder adjourned the meeting at 9:15 P.M.

Approved this 6th day of July, 2000.

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David F. Snyder  
Chairman

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Christopher Zimmerman  
Secretary-Treasurer