

**MINUTES**  
**NVTC COMMISSION MEETING – MAY 4, 2000**  
**SPRINGFIELD HILTON - SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA**

The joint meeting of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission was called to order by Chairman Snyder at 8:55 P.M.

**Members Present**

William Bogard  
Sharon Bulova  
Gerald Connolly  
L. Karen Darner  
Kerry J. Donley  
Jay Fisette  
Katherine K. Hanley  
Dana Kauffman  
Elaine McConnell  
William C. Mims  
Scott Silverthorne  
David F. Snyder  
Marian Van Landingham

**Members Absent**

Leo J. Bevon  
Paul Ferguson  
Lois L. Walker  
Mary Margaret Whipple  
Christopher Zimmerman

**Staff Present**

Rhonda W. Gilcrest  
DeLania Hardy  
Gyles Norwood  
Stephen T. Roberts (VRE)  
Shamilia Samarasinghe  
Jennifer Straub  
Richard K. Taube

### Oath of Office

Chairman Snyder administered the oath of office to Senator William Mims, a newly appointed member of NVTC. Commissioners welcomed Senator Mims to NVTC.

### Minutes of NVTC's Meeting of April 6, 2000

On a motion by Mr. Connolly and a second by Mrs. Hanley, the commission unanimously approved the minutes. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bogard, Bulova, Connolly, Donley, Fiset, Hanley, Kauffman, McConnell, Mims, Silverthorne, Snyder and Van Landingham.

### Response to VDR&PT's House Document 52 Proposal to Apply Fiscal Stress Factors to the Transit Formula Assistance Program

Chairman Snyder thanked staff for their work on the draft response, especially in light of the water and smoke damage to the office over the past week as a result of a fire in the offices above NVTC. In response to a question by Mr. Connolly, Mr. Taube stated that there is not a deadline to respond to this proposal, but it would be timely to move it forward given the upcoming Virginia Transit Association meeting in late May.

Mrs. Hanley emphasized fiscal stress and the ability to pay are not interchangeable. She asked that page five be rewritten. She also stated that the chart of top of page six demonstrates the reverse of what NVTC wants to convey and should be removed. Mrs. Bulova agreed that the chart should be removed because some people just look at the charts and do not read the text. Mr. Connolly agreed that the chart could be used out of context.

Mr. Connolly stated that staff did a good job on this draft. He stated that it would be helpful to include that the Washington D.C. region is the second most congested area in the nation and Hampton Roads is not. Mr. Donley stated that local expenditures are already high and this should be explained in the beginning of the response. The response should point to the problems first.

Chairman Snyder directed staff to rewrite page five and remove the chart on page six. The sections should also be reordered to discuss issues and problems at the beginning of the document. The document should also state that this region is the second most congested in the nation and then draw some comparisons to the Hampton Roads area. Comparisons could also be made with the Richmond area.

Mr. Connolly moved, with a second by Mrs. Hanley, to approve the response, subject to commission review of the redraft, and send it to VDR&PT. The content of the draft should also be provided to the Virginia Transit Association for discussion at its May 22<sup>nd</sup> Spring Conference. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bogard, Bulova,

Connolly, Donley, Fiset, Hanley, Kauffman, McConnell, Mims, Silverthorne, Snyder and Van Landingham.

Mrs. Hanley asked what the commission wants VTA to do with this response. Mr. Taube explained that VDR&PT will be making a presentation on its House Document 52 proposal at the VTA conference. NVTC would present its response at that time. NVTC would encourage VTA to continue its position that more funds are needed and the formula should not be changed. Mrs. Hanley expressed her concern that VTA should not be pushed into taking action on VDR&PT's proposal that is not favorable to NVTC.

Delegate Darner arrived at 9:15 P.M.

Senator Mims stated that it will be very important that this proposal does not see light of day in the General Assembly. He suggested having a delegation meet with Secretary Ybarra and the Commonwealth Transportation Board. He also suggested that a delegation, led by Delegate Van Landingham, meet with Delegates Callahan and Dillard and Senators Chichester and Colgan, among others.

Chairman Snyder asked if NVTC should involve the media in this issue. Commissioners agreed not to do so at this time since it would draw more attention to the issue and might make it more difficult to achieve a favorable outcome.

#### Award of Contract for NVTC's Route 1 Bus Study

Mr. Taube reported that staff from WMATA, VDOT, Fairfax County, Prince William County and PRTC met twice with NVTC staff to review three excellent proposals submitted by consulting teams to perform the Route 1 Bus Study. Staff recommends award of contract to the team of SG Associates, Inc. of Annandale, TransManagement, Inc. of Washington, D.C. and DMJM with an Arlington office. The cost of the study is not to exceed \$125,000 with funds provided by VDOT through MWCOG. Notice to proceed will be given on July 1, 2000 with the study due for completion by the end of December, 2000. The results will be provided to VDOT to be incorporated into its ongoing center line study of the Route 1 Corridor.

Mr. Kauffman moved, with a second by Mr. Donley to authorize NVTC's executive director to negotiate and execute a contract with the team of SG Associates, TransManagement, and DMJM. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bogard, Bulova, Connolly, Darner, Donley, Fiset, Hanley, Kauffman, McConnell, Mims, Silverthorne, Snyder and Van Landingham.

## WMATA Items

Comments on WMATA Budget. Commission staff reported that NVTC and local governments have been invited to comment on WMATA's operating and other budgets. Concerns have been expressed by local jurisdiction staff about a proposed bus route that parallels the Orange Line and would reach Tysons Corner and the Dulles Corridor; the need for further level of service reductions on WMATA's Bethesda –Tysons Smart Mover bus services; expensive escalator canopies; and the need for improved communications by WMATA staff with local staff on budget issues.

Regional Bus Study. NVTC is managing the on-board survey of bus passengers for Northern Virginia's local bus systems. NVTC's consultants are using a survey form that is identical to that being used by WMATA's contractors, so that the results should be fully compatible. The surveys will occur in May and June, 2000.

Alternate Fuels. WMATA intends to evaluate whether to modify a contract with a bus manufacturer to incorporate clean diesel hybrid electric buses in the 2001 order.

SmarTrip Sales. A total of 7,500 cards were sold in March, 2000. Since the SmarTrip program was launched in May, 1999, 63,800 cards have been sold penetrating over 20 percent of ridership on the rail system.

## Regional Items

Electric Bus Events. Chairman Snyder reported that on April 22, 2000, the Falls Church hybrid-electric bus was displayed on the National Mall for Earth Day. He thanked staff for making it possible to show the bus at the Earth Day celebration and prior to the joint NVTC/PRTC meeting.

I-66 Scoping Meeting. On April 13, 2000, a scoping meeting was held with VDOT and jurisdictional/agency staff to identify issues and concerns before beginning the I-66 location and environmental study. In response to a question from Mrs. Hanley, Ms. Straub explained that staffs are pulling together information and documents for an RFP for the two-year environmental study.

## NVTC Financial Report for March, 2000

The financial reports were provided and there were no questions.

Adjournment

Mrs. Hanley moved, with a second by Mrs. Bulova, to adjourn. The vote in favor was cast by commissioners Bogard, Bulova, Connolly, Darner, Donley, Fiset, Hanley, Kauffman, McConnell, Mims, Silverthorne, Snyder and Van Landingham. Chairman Snyder adjourned the meeting at 9:29 P.M.

Approved this 2nd day of June, 2000.

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David F. Snyder  
Chairman

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Christopher Zimmerman  
Secretary-Treasurer