

**MINUTES
NVTC AND PRTC JOINT MEETING
NOVEMBER 4, 2004
SPRINGFIELD HILTON – SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA**

The joint meeting of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission was called to order by NVTC Chairman Euille and PRTC Vice-Chairman Greenup at 7:45 P.M.

NVTC Members Present

Sharon Bulova
Adam Ebbin
William D. Euille
Paul Ferguson
Catherine Hudgins
Timothy Hugo
Dana Kauffman
Elaine McConnell
Karen Rae
Scott Silverthorne
Mary Margaret Whipple

NVTC Members Absent

David Albo
Gerald Connolly
Jeannemarie Devolites Davis
Jay Fisette
Ludwig Gaines
Gary A. Reese
David F. Snyder
Mick Staton
Christopher Zimmerman

NVTC Staff Present

Rhonda Gilchrest
Scott Kalkwarf
Jana Lynott
Adam McGavock
Kala Quintana
Richard K. Taube

NVTC Chairman Euille and PRTC Vice-Chairman Greenup welcomed everyone to the joint commission meeting. NVTC had a quorum.

Commuting in America III: Facts and Trends Influencing Public Transit's Future

Mr. Taube introduced two guest speakers, Alan Pisarski and Art Guzzetti. Mr. Pisarski is a consultant in transportation public policy, travel behavior analysis and statistics. He has measured transportation activities for almost 40 years and his creative use of Census and other data is second to none. His most famous work is the Commuting in America series. Mr. Guzzetti is a legislative director at APTA and has many years of experience working with APTA's President, Bill Millar, in helping the transit industry present its needs to Congress.

Mr. Pisarski gave his presentation on Census data and how it relates to this region's transportation infrastructure. In response to a question from Mrs. McConnell, Mr. Pisarski speculated that as jobs go out farther into the suburbs, these areas become viable places for commuting options. He stated that people are willing to go extraordinary distances for good paying jobs. Mrs. McConnell observed that Fairfax County is almost built out, but traffic will continue to keep on building as growth continues in the outer suburbs. Mr. Pisarski stated that the metropolitan Washington region is unique as the government is centrally located in D.C. and will not move out to the suburbs. People will continue to commute into D.C. and yet will have to go further out into the suburbs to find affordable housing.

Mr. Ferguson left the meeting and did not return.

Mr. Kauffman observed that in some areas, such as along Richmond Highway, Saturday mobility is as much a challenge as weekday rush hour mobility. Also, senior mobility is an issue. Mr. Pisarski stated that in regards to Saturday congestion, it is in many cases more severe than during rush hour. He stated that trends show that seniors have high levels of income and mobility, especially in this region.

Mr. Guzzetti highlighted a few themes, including that if people are given a good option, they will use public transportation. He stated that the region needs better data to make the best decisions. Transit often gets undercounted. He also reported on many successful transit funding referenda around the country in voting on November 2nd.

Transit Funding Needs in the Region—Sizing Them and Pursuing a Funding Solution

Al Harf, PRTC's Executive Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation on transit funding needs for the region. He stated that recent efforts to increase available funding for transit have failed, but there are clear signs that more transportation funding should be a priority of the General Assembly. Now is the time for the commissions to formulate legislative agendas to address transit needs and funding solutions.

Mrs. McConnell asked if every option listed as possible sources of funding (gas tax increase, regional sales tax, parking tax, regional income tax, etc.) were initiated, wouldn't the region still be short. Mr. Harf replied that if expenditures were stretched out over time, these sources of funding could cover funding needs to 2010.

Mrs. Bulova stated that it is important that the entire region has a united front when seeking General Assembly action. She suggested circulating the information in Mr. Harf's presentation among the jurisdictions.

Mr. Hugo asked practically what can be done this year in the General Assembly. He stated that he hopes that NVTC pursues legislation that would move insurance premium funds into the Transportation Trust Fund. Now is the time to strike while there is a surplus.

Senator Whipple announced that she will once again propose legislation that would increase the NVTC gas tax to four percent. The advantage is that it would bring 100 percent of the tax revenue back to the region for transit.

Senator Puller, a PRTC commissioner, stated that it's important to see all the proposals before making any endorsements.

VRE Items

Report from the VRE Operations Board. Mrs. Bulova commended the minutes of the October 15, 2004 VRE Operations Board meeting to commissioners.

Adjournment

Since the commission no longer had a quorum, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 P.M.

Approved this second day of December, 2004.

William Euille
Chairman

Gerald Connolly
Secretary-Treasurer