

MINUTES
NVTC COMMISSION MEETING – MAY 16, 2005
NVTC CONFERENCE ROOM – ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

The meeting of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission was called to order by Chairman Ferguson at 12:50 P.M.

Members Present

Sharon Bulova
Jeannemarie Devolites Davis
Adam Ebbin
William D. Euille
Paul Ferguson
Ludwig Gaines
Robin Gardner (Alternate, City of Falls Church)
Dana Kauffman
Sharmila Samarsinghe (DRPT)
Scott Silverthorne
Mary Margaret Whipple
Christopher Zimmerman

Members Absent

David Albo
Gerald Connolly
Eugene Delgaudio
Jay Fiset
Catherine M. Hudgins
Timothy Hugo
Elaine McConnell
Karen Rae
Gary A. Reese
David F. Snyder

Staff Present

Jana Lynott
Stephen Maclsaac (VRE)
Jennifer Straub (VRE)
Richard K. Taube
Dale Zehner (VRE)

Oath of Office for New Alternate Commissioner

Chairman Ferguson administered the oath of office to Robin Gardner, who was selected as an alternate for David F. Snyder by the Falls Church City Council.

Contract Award for New VRE Railcars

Sharon Bulova explained that the VRE Operations Board recommends approval of Resolution #1071 (copy attached). This resolution provides a contract award to Sumitomo Corporation of America at a price not to exceed \$22.9 million plus a \$500,000 contingency. Sumitomo was the only firm to respond to VRE's request for proposals. These are stainless steel, two-level gallery type railcars with 125-seats per car, similar to VRE's existing gallery cars from Metra in Chicago. With notice to proceed in May, 2005, the new cars could be in service in 2006.

Bill Euille asked about the source of funding. Dale Zehner replied that the lease finance payments will be covered primarily by federal formula funds.

Commissioner Bulova moved approval with a second from Chris Zimmerman. The vote in favor was unanimous: Sharon Bulova, Jeannemarie Devolites Davis, Adam Ebbin, William Euille, Paul Ferguson, Robin Gardner, Dana Kauffman, Sharmila Samarsinghe, Scott Silverthorne, Mary Margaret Whipple and Christopher Zimmerman.

Contract Award for VRE Railcar Financing

Commissioner Bulova stated that the VRE Operations Board recommends approval of Resolution #1072 (copy attached). The resolution provides lease financing for the purchase of 11 two-level railcars from Sumitomo Corporation. The winning bidder for the lease is BTM Capital Corporation. Grant funds will be used to cover the lease payments, which are secured by a lien on the 11 railcars.

The amount financed will not exceed \$25,100,000 for a term not exceeding 21 years at an annual interest rate not to exceed six percent.

In response to a question from Bill Euille, Dale Zehner explained that the amount financed exceeds the cost of the railcars to include administrative costs associated with the lease finance transaction.

Commissioner Bulova moved approval, with a second from Senator Whipple. The vote in favor was unanimous: Sharon Bulova, Jeannemarie Devolites Davis, Adam Ebbin, William Euille, Paul Ferguson, Robin Gardner, Dana Kauffman, Sharmila Samarsinghe, Scott Silverthorne, Mary Margaret Whipple and Christopher Zimmerman.

Authorization to Modify VRE's Fare Structure

Commissioner Bulova stated that the VRE Operations Board recommends approval of Resolution #1073 (copy attached). Consistent with the approved FY 2006 VRE Budget and following six public hearings, this resolution authorizes several changes in VRE's fare structure effective June 27, 2005 to:

- 1) Increase the base fare and zone increment by 2.75%;
- 2) Increase the monthly and TLC ticket discount to 34%;
- 3) Decrease the 10-trip ticket discount to 8%;
- 4) Create a \$2 step-up ticket for VRE passengers using Amtrak.

Commissioner Bulova moved approval with a second from Senator Whipple. The vote in favor was unanimous: Sharon Bulova, Jeannemarie Devolites Davis, Adam Ebbin, William Eulle, Paul Ferguson, Ludwig Gaines, Robin Gardner, Dana Kauffman, Sharmila Samarsinghe, Scott Silverthorne, Mary Margaret Whipple and Christopher Zimmerman.

June 2nd Commission Meeting

Dana Kauffman told the commission that he had spoken with senior WMATA staff about attendance at the next NVTC meeting. Transportation Secretary Pierce Homer will be present at 7:30 P.M. and Rudy Penner--who chaired the Blue Ribbon Panel--will also be present. He mentioned that it will be important to learn when the D.C. City Council intends to act on Jack Evans's proposal for dedicated funding. WMATA is preparing estimates of the yields of various funding options.

Adjournment

Without objection, Chairman Ferguson adjourned the meeting at 1:05 P.M.

Approved this 2nd day of June, 2005.

Paul Ferguson
Chairman

David F. Snyder
Secretary-Treasurer